Behold!

Book of Reports
Holston Annual Conference
June 11–14, 2017 • Lake Junaluska, NC
REGISTRATION

Lay and Clergy Members of the Conference are asked to pre-register online at AC.Holston.org no later than May 24, 2017. After May 24, 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:

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<td>Sunday, June 11</td>
<td>Reynolds Conference Center</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Foundation for Evangelism</td>
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<td>Monday, June 12</td>
<td>Harrell Center, Susan Todd Lounge</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Tuesday, June 13</td>
<td>Harrell Center, Susan Todd Lounge</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.</td>
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Hotel and Cottage Rental Check-in ~ 3:00 p.m., Sunday, June 11

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

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

CONFERENCE SERVICES

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

Pre-register by May 24 – mail form directly to Lake Junaluska:
http://holston.org/ACchildcareform

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

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

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

Prayer Room hours: Room of Memory (adjacent to Memorial Chapel) .... 7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.
Shop the World Gifts .............................................................................................. Harrell Center, Room 202

CONFERENCE OFFICES

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

Contact numbers at Lake Junaluska
Phone: (828) 452-2881; Fax: (828) 452-2225; Emergency: 911
Bring your Bible, your Book of Reports, and your Worship Booklet to all sessions.

Bring your Change for Children offering Tuesday morning, and the Mission offering Tuesday night.

Water will be available, so bring your reusable water bottle, too!
THE COVER PICTURE KEY:
Thank you to the districts and churches that provided photos of church doors around the conference. Many of these were used in the development of our cover art for this year’s Annual Conference. The view outside the open doors is from the Elk Creek Circuit, Wytheville District. The list below identifies the churches whose doors are pictured:

1. MA Peck’s Memorial  
2. MA Green Meadow  
3. BI Pennington Gap  
4. BI Norton  
5. MO First Morristown  
6. AB Abingdon  
7. TA Cedar Bluff  
8. WY Asbury  
9. WY St Paul  
10. TA Pisgah  
11. AB Shady Grove  
12. OA Miller’s Chapel  
13. KN Church Street  
14. OA First Farragut  
15. WY Glenwood  
16. W Dublin  
17. CH Brainerd  
18. AB Laurel Springs  
19. JC Centenary  
20. CL Wesley Memorial  
21. JC First Johnson City  
22. CL Chestuee  
23. CH Wesley Memorial  
24. MA First Maryville  
25. JO West Market Street  
26. TA Richlands First  
27. MO Strawberry Plains  
28. KI Hermon  
29. MA St. Mark’s  
30. OA Beaver Ridge  
31. OA First Oneida  
32. CL Keith Memorial  
33. WY Flat Rock  
34. WY Mt. Vale  
35. BI Legion  
36. MO Centenary
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Behold! The doors before us are many. Invitations to new ministry opportunities, challenges to see and love our neighbors more fully, moments of self-assessment as we seek to follow God’s calling into the future—all of these doors stand before us as a conference, as a denomination, as congregations, and as individual followers of Jesus Christ.

Into these times of discernment and change come the wonderful promises of scripture:

- Behold, I stand at the door and knock - Revelation 3:20
- Behold, I will do a new thing - Isaiah 43:19
- Behold, I make all things new - Revelation 21:5
- Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go - Genesis 28:15

This year as we gather at Lake Junaluska for Annual Conference, we will consider the doors before us. We will also remember the promises of grace that sustain us. We will hear recommendations for our future and we will build on the faithful steps of the past. We will give thanks for those who have served faithfully and those who have entered God’s eternal presence. We will rejoice in those who are newly responding to God’s call and we will continue to share our time and offerings to love others in Jesus’ name.

Behold! God is at work in our world and God is at work in Holston Conference. May God grant us the courage to step through the doors that enable us to be all that God would have us to be and do all that God would have us to do so that the world may behold the presence of God through us.

Grace and peace,
Dindy Taylor
WELCOME TO LAKE JUNALUSKA

Dear Holston Annual Conference Members and Guests:

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

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

We sincerely want you to have a wonderful time with us at the 2017 Holston Annual Conference. We are here to serve you.

Peace and Grace,

Jack Ewing, Executive Director and CEO
Lake Junaluska Assembly, Inc.
HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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 sets the place.

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

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

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

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

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

9. Is There Follow-up?
Reporting Guides are available to help with reporting back to the local church. These guides will be distributed at the laity orientation session and appear in the back of this Book of Reports (page 223) 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 ac.holston.org no later than May 24, 2017. After May 24, 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: Behold

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There is a form in the back of this Annual Conference Book of Reports (page 226) 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 ?, and must be turned in to the Conference Secretary on the stage after making your motion, even if not passed or seconded.)

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

25. How to Get an Issue Before the Conference

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

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

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

26. Buzz Words and What They Mean

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


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

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

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

Discipline – (The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church – 2016) “The Discipline is the book of law of The United Methodist Church. It is the product of the many General Conferences of historic religious bodies which now form The United Methodist Church.” It is published every four years, after each General Conference.

DS – District Superintendent

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lay Servants – Laypersons who complete lay servant training courses to serve the local church or charge in any way in which their witness or leadership and service inspires the laity to deeper commitment to Christ and more effective discipleship. Local Church Lay Servant has completed the basic training course; Certified Lay Servant has completed the basic and one advanced training courses for lay servant.
INTRODUCTIONS AND ORIENTATION

• 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 - this link goes directly to the childcare form, http://holston.org/ACchildcareform_

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 2017
June 11-14, 2017
Mary Virginia Taylor
Resident Bishop, Presiding

SCHEDULE AND AGENDA

BEHOLD

“BEHOLD, I STAND AT THE DOOR AND KNOCK” REV 3:30 (ESV)

SUNDAY – JUNE 11, 2017

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

“BEHOLD, I AM DOING A NEW THING” ISAIH 43:19 (ESV)

MONDAY – JUNE 12, 2017

8:30 a.m. Morning Worship with Teaching & Holy Communion
          Reverend Dr. Samuel R. Roberts, III
          Music by El Ministerio del Espiritu Santo, Maryville District
          Break
9:45 a.m. Hymn
         Welcome from Lake Junaluska

Organizing Motions
         Adoption of Agenda
         Setting Bar of Conference
         Election of Ushers and Tellers
MONDAY – JUNE 12, 2017 (cont.)

Report from Committee on Rules and Order
Blessing of Hands-On Mission Kits
State of the Church – Bishop’s Report
Conference Lay Leader Report
Council on Finance and Administration Initial Budget Presentation
Cabinet Report
Conference Strategy Team Report
Closing Prayer for the Session

Lunch Break

12:30 p.m. Chat Room with Conference Strategy Team –
Terrace Auditorium

2:00 p.m. Memorial Service -
Reverend Randall B. Martin, preaching
   Music by the Annual Conference Choir

Break

3:45 p.m. Hymn
Discipleship Team
Holston Conference Foundation
Discipleship Team – Witness Team
Discipleship Team – Denman Awards
Committee on Petitions and Resolutions
Holston Home for Children
Conference Strategy Team
United Methodist Endorsing Agency
Closing prayer for Session

Dinner Break
MONDAY – JUNE 12, 2017 (cont.)
7:00 p.m. A Night of Inspiration – Africana Live: Reflect, Reclaim, and Rejoice
After session Rehearsal for Tuesday morning Communion servers – Stuart Auditorium

“BEHOLD, I AM MAKING ALL THINGS NEW” REVELATION 21:5 (ESV)

TUESDAY – JUNE 13, 2017
7:15 a.m. 5K Run/1 Mile Walk – Outside of Stuart Auditorium
8:30 a.m. Morning Worship with Teaching & Holy Communion
Reverend Dr. Samuel R. Roberts, III
Music by The Lin Sisters, Concord UMC, Oak Ridge District

Stand-Up Break
9:35 a.m Leadership Holston
Board of Trustees
Discipleship Team – African American Ministries Task Force
Committee on Congregational Development
Personnel Resources Committee
Committee on Nominations
Discipleship Team – Nurture Team
United Methodist Women
Board of Pensions

Break
11:00 a.m. Retirement Recognition
12:00 p.m. Explanation of On-Site Mission Project
Closing Prayer for the Session

Lunch Break
12:30 p.m. On-Site Mission Project – Rise Against Hunger – Kern Youth Center
TUESDAY – JUNE 13, 2017 (cont.)
2:00 p.m.  Hymn

Holston Conference Higher Education and Ministry
Francis Asbury Award Presentation

Emory & Henry College
Hiwassee College
Tennessee Wesleyan University
Recognition of Wesley Foundations

Representative from the Commission on a Way Forward
Board of Ordained Ministry
Presentation of Local Pastors’ Licenses

Discipleship Team – Hispanic Ministries
Commission on Equitable Compensation
Discipleship Team – Outreach/Advocacy

Break
Task Force on Lay Abuse of Clergy
Discipleship Team – Stewardship Team
CFA Budget Presentation for Approval
Constitutional Amendments
Cabinet Report Part 2
Greetings from the National Council of Churches
Minute Question #85 “Where Shall Annual Conference Be Held?”
Interim Business Resolution
Omnibus Motion
Thank You and Acknowledgements
Closing Prayer for the Session
TUESDAY – JUNE 13, 2017 (cont.)

Dinner Break

7:00 p.m.  Pre-Service Music – Lauren Talley

7:30 p.m.  A Night of Inspiration – Mission Celebration

After

session  Commissioning & Recognition Service Rehearsal

“Behold, I am with you wherever you go” Genesis 28:15 (ESV)

WEDNESDAY – JUNE 14, 2017

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

and line-up for Commissioning & Recognition Service

8:45 a.m.  Sponsors and Cabinet line-up for Commissioning & Recognition

Service

~~~~~~~~

8:30 a.m.  Pre-Service Music – The Lake Junaluska Singers

9:00 a.m.  Service of Commissioning & Recognition and Sending Forth -

Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor, preaching and presiding

Music by The Lake Junaluska Singers

Fixing of Appointments

Adjournment

Recessional
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 2017 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 2017 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 2017 Conference Journal.

NOMINATIONS FOR USHERS/TELLERS
I move the election of the following Lay and Clergy members as Ushers/Tellers for the 2017 Annual Conference:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TELLERS</th>
<th>Clergy</th>
<th>Laity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Abingdon</strong></td>
<td>Cynthia Frye</td>
<td>Hunter Hawthorne</td>
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<td>John M. Graves</td>
<td>Lynn Johnson</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Caroline Hawthorne</td>
<td>Millie Saunders</td>
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<td>Robert Kariuki Nyaga</td>
<td>Linda Stone</td>
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<td>Rebecca A. Reed</td>
<td>Andrew Wilson</td>
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<td>John P. Roe</td>
<td>Scott Wilson</td>
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<td><strong>Big Stone Gap</strong></td>
<td>Leon B. O’Quinn</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chattanooga</strong></td>
<td>Herbert Carlton Blackburn</td>
<td>DeAnna Prather</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jacqueline Davis-Gines</td>
<td>Rick Williams</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cleveland</strong></td>
<td>Corey Douglas Miller</td>
<td>Arthur Bingham</td>
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<td>J. Glenn Moseley</td>
<td>Tepa Bigham</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thomas M. Reed</td>
<td>Sonny Hicks</td>
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<td></td>
<td>William R Shelton</td>
<td>Becky Jaquish</td>
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</table>
**Johnson City**  
**Clergy**  
Gregory P Davis  

**Laity**  
Lynice Broyles  
Betty Yeomans-Barton  
Deborah Yeomans-Barton

**Kingsport**  
Susan Arnold  
Lisa Bryant  
Robert Hults  
Lewis Kizer  
Adam T. Love  
Grover Starnes  

Vicki Britton  
Victor Dingus  
Nellie Hickman  
Melissa Malcolm  
Barbara Ruth  
Katie Tester

**Knoxville**  
Martha Scott Atkins  
Teresa Atkins McClure  
Kevin Blue  
Amanda Bell Madson  
Joe R. Phillips  
Monty Walton  

Jack Barry  
Isaac Harding  
Glenna Hutchison  
Donna McKinney  
Robin Miller  
Bobby Stair

**Maryville**  
Betty M Furches  
Catherine Clark Nance  
Robert Sutton  

James David Gass  
Cynthia Hulse  
Roxanna Jones  
Carole Myers

**Morristown**  
Martha M. Beamer  
Wayne Allen Bromberg  

Carolynn Kinser  
Susie Phillips

**Oak Ridge**  
Cedric D. Jackson  
Sue Lynn Johnson  
Barkley Mencer  
Brenda A. Poole  

Lisa Black  
Charlotte DeLozier  
Colon McCarty  
Sharon Price

**Tazewell**  
Mary C Chapiewski  
Lynn M. Garrison  
R. Neal Hammons  
Vincent K. Krauss  

Jack A Brewster  
Pam A Brewster  
Deborah Neal  
Jane Waddell

**Wytheville**  
Brandon Berg  
Elain Ruth  
Robert Ruth  
Rebecca Wheeler  

Gail Catron  
Peggy Chappell  
Fielden Sanders  
Lee Snider

**Coordinator:** Rev. Tony Collins  

~ Rev. Daniel H. Taylor, Jr., Conference Secretary
SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2017
2:00 p.m. Registration begins Reynolds Conference Center, Foundation for Evangelism

MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2017
7:00 a.m. Cabinet Breakfast Terrace, Room 316
12:00 p.m. Candler Alumni Luncheon Foundation for Evangelism
12:00 p.m. Ministers’ Spouses Luncheon Long’s Chapel UMC, Waynesville
12:00 p.m. Peace with Justice/Outreach/Advocacy Luncheon Terrace, Room 316
12:30 p.m. Order of Deacon and Diaconal Ministries Luncheon Terrace, Room 319
5:00 p.m. Council on Finance and Administration - Q&A Terrace, Room 316
5:00 p.m. Black Methodists for Church Renewal Lambuth International
5:15 p.m. Missions Dinner Terrace Auditorium
8:30 p.m. CCYM/Youth Night

TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2017
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 Breakfast Lambuth Inn Saville
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. Board of Higher Education Luncheon Foundation for Evangelism
12:00 p.m. Holston Retirees Luncheon Terrace Auditorium
12:30 p.m. On-site Mission - Rise Against Hunger Kern Youth Center
6:30 p.m. Duke Divinity Alumni Fellowship Harrell Center, 2nd level porch
COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ORDER

The Committee on Rules and Order has changed the rules of the annual conference with reference to updating paragraphs from the Book of Discipline to comply with the 2016 edition.

The committee affirmed a change implemented by the extended cabinet in October concerning the makeup of the Committee on Investigation, bringing that committee’s composition within compliance to the 2016 Book of Discipline.

The name of the Pastoral Counseling Center has been changed to the Center for Wellness, and that has been updated in our structure.

Under “Procedures” in rule 11, we gave the Discipline paragraph and edited what had been listed as “home missionaries” to “home missioners.” We also updated Lay Speaking to Lay Servant Ministries.

In Rule 19 we changed “clerical” to “clergy” and struck out the words “in writing” in reference to informing superintendents of one’s absence from the seat of annual conference.

In rule 20, the time of retirement has been changed from the end of the annual conference to July 1, which brings the Rules into conformity with the practice the conference is using.

In Rule 31 the term Incapacity has been replaced with “medical” describing a type of leave of absence.

At the request of the Conference Chancellor, the committee has authorized the appointment of a committee to develop bylaws for the annual conference and report back to this committee.

~ Brad Scott, Chair
~ Dan Taylor, 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.” (2016 Book of Discipline, ¶601).

Composition and Character is defined by (2016 Book of Discipline, ¶¶602).
Organization is defined by (2016 Book of Discipline, ¶603).
Function is defined by the (2016 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; Conference Secretary/ Director of Clergy Services; Director of Connectional Ministries; Conference Treasurer/ Director of Administrative Services; Director of Congregational Development; Executive Director, Holston Conference Foundation. The Conference Lay Leader shall be invited to attend meetings of the Extended Cabinet.

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

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

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

V. BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY (Related directly to Annual Conference)
a. The Conference Lay Leader is the elected leader of conference laity (Discipline ¶607.1).
b. Total membership 25: 12 District Lay Leaders; presidents of United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Youth; Resident Bishop, Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries; 2 cabinet representatives; 5 members- at-large; Conference Lay Leader. The Board may elect up to three associate Conference Lay Leaders from its membership, who may represent the Lay Leader with full voting rights in any group of which the Lay Leader is a member. (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 = 14: 12 elected members, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries, Cabinet Representative (Discipline ¶633). Sub-groups to be determined by Missions Team in consultation with Discipleship Team.

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

1. Religion and Race Ministry Area (Chair): Total Membership = 13: 12 elected members, Cabinet Representative (Discipline ¶643).

2. Church and Society Ministry Area (Chair) (Discipline ¶629).

3. Status and Role of Women Ministry Area (Chair) (Discipline ¶644).

4. Christian Unity and Inter-Religious Relationships Ministry Area (Chair) (Discipline ¶642).

5. Disability Concerns (Chair) (Discipline ¶653).

6. Strength for the Journey Team: Total membership = 12: 9 elected, Cabinet Representative, staff, Director emeritus.

7. Conference Representative to Holston Home for Children

8. Native American Ministries (Chair) Total Membership = 7: 6 elected members, Cabinet Representative (Discipline ¶654).
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). Director of Clergy Services/Administrative Registrar (both without vote); Chair, Order of Deacons; Chair, Order of Elders [nominated by the Board of Ordained Ministry and elected by Clergy Session]; Co-Chairs, Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members; Vocational Discernment Coordinator, 2 District Superintendents appointed by Resident Bishop. The Board shall select its own officers. (Discipline ¶635, ¶306-309)

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

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

b. **Committee on Investigation** = 16:4 clergy members in Full Connection, 3 Professing Members, 3 alternate Clergy Members, 6 alternate Lay Members. Nominated by the Resident Bishop in consultation with the Board of Ordained Ministry (clergy) and the Board of Laity (professing members). Elected quadrennially by the annual conference (Discipline ¶2703.2).

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

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

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

X. **ADMINISTRATION**

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

b. **Board of Trustees** Total Membership = 13:12 elected members, Cabinet Representative; Ex-Officio, non-voting CFA representative, 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 = 17: 12 elected (4 clergy, 4 laymen, 4 laywomen), 1 clergy, 1 layman and 1 laywoman appointed by the Resident Bishop, Ex-Officio Members are the lay and clergy members of Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy. The Conference Lay Leaders 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 or designee, Resident Bishop (Ex-Officio).

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

**XI. SUPPORT GROUPS**

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

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

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

Purpose: to assist in identifying Conference priorities and coordinating Conference ministries and emphasis.

XIII. TASK FORCES

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

PROCEDURES

I. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

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

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

- Members of the Board of Pensions are elected for a term of eight years and are arranged in panels: one-third laywomen, one-third laymen, and one-third clergy (Discipline ¶639.2). Members of the Board of Pensions shall not serve consecutive terms.

- Conference leadership groups shall be organized into the following descriptive categories: advocacy groups, agencies, boards, commissions, committees, councils, ministry areas, and teams. No person shall serve as an elective member of two or more conference leadership groups within the same category; provided, however, that the limitation on joint membership shall not apply to agencies, committees, United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, the Religion and Race Ministry Area, the Board of Directors of the Holston Conference Foundation, Inc., and the Board of Directors of Asbury, Inc.
In the event a person is elected during a quadrennium as defined above, the person’s election shall be for the balance of the pending quadrennium. A person who is ineligible for re-election to the same conference office because of the term-limit provisions of this Rule may be elected to serve in another conference office. A person who is ineligible for re-election to the same conference office because of the term-limit provisions of this Rule becomes eligible for election to that office again after the passage of a full quadrennium.

Members who fail to participate in the meetings and activities of a conference board, council, committee, or team may be removed and a successor named in the next report of the Committee on Nominations to the Annual Conference, unless the by-laws of the agency provide otherwise.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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 and home missioners 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 Servant Ministries, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries (if lay), and the remaining lay members that will be needed to achieve equalization are to be apportioned to the Districts on the basis of district lay membership, provided that the total number of lay members shall include youth delegates required by The Discipline, District lay leaders, District presidents of United 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, ¶32 Article I)

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.

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 clergy member of the Annual Conference shall leave the seat of the Conference without notifying that member’s district superintendent, who will, in turn, report to the conference secretary.

20. The effective date for all clergy members of the Holston Annual Conference entering into voluntary retirement shall be July 1 after the close of the Annual Conference at which their retirement is approved. No retirements may be voted for a projected date during the ensuing appointive year except by the joint recommendation of the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Board of Pensions in response to extraordinary and compelling circumstances.

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 ¶611-619)
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 Boards and Agencies. (Discipline ¶619)

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. (¶640, ¶2512.1-8)

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

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

30. The Committee on Rules and Order and the Conference Secretary and Staff shall establish the policy for the publication of the Journal. Publication may include both print and digital publishing. The Journal shall be published under the direction of the Conference Secretary, who shall serve as editor. The Conference Secretary shall, with the approval of the Council on Finance and Administration, enter into a contract to publish the Journal. All materials to be published shall be in the hands of the Editor within fifteen (15) days after the adjournment of the Conference.

31. The Conference Secretary shall be responsible for the distribution of the Journal. The District Superintendents shall obtain the orders for the Journals from the pastoral charges, through pre-paid orders. Retirees may receive, upon request and without charge, a copy of the Journal for the year of their retirement. A clergy person, whose spouse has died, and Surviving Spouses may receive, upon request and without charge, a copy of the Journal that contains the memorial. Clergy and
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 conferences, 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. Clergy 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. Because of the vital need of the Annual Conference to carry out its mission in a timely manner, if any conference leadership group duly elected by the Annual Conference determines an action is needed to properly carry out the mission of the Conference, especially when business of the Annual Conference was unavoidably overlooked during the conference session, or an issue is deemed vital and time is of the essence, such action is authorized to be taken by the elected leadership group after due consultation and/or necessary action of the extended cabinet acting on behalf of the conference and the resident bishop. Any action so taken will be recorded in the minutes of the cabinet and in the subsequent Journal, reported in an expeditious manner to the members of the Annual Conference, and further reported to the next annual conference session.
Holston Conference Week of Prayer
September 24-30, 2017

The second phase of the "Praying Our Way Forward" initiative was launched New Year’s Day 2017 and is composed of 75 weeks of focused prayer for The United Methodist Church. The effort began January 1 in the North Carolina Conference and will wrap up in the West Angola Episcopal area in June 2018.

During phase 1 of the new initiative, 84 bishops of the church spent 15 minutes each day for four months in prayer for the selection and initial work of the Commission on A Way Forward.

"The aim of 'Praying Our Way Forward' is to ask and listen for God’s leadership at this critical time in the life of our church,” said Bishop Al Gwinn, who co-chairs the initiative.

Co-chair Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett adds, “In addition to participating in a designated week of prayer, individuals are invited to join the initiative by praying daily and fasting weekly for our church, mission and future.”

“Praying Our Way Forward” was created by the Council of Bishops as a part of their larger commitment to “lead the church in every part of the world in times of worship, study, discernment, confession, and prayer for God’s guidance.” To achieve this mission, they invited The Upper Room to help engage every annual conference around the world. United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, and United Methodist Communications have recently joined the partnership.

Each annual conference will take one week to have intentional prayer for the mission of The United Methodist Church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world and for the work of the Commission on a Way Forward, which began meeting in January.
The Cabinet Report of The District Superintendents

Behold! Is the theme for this year’s annual conference. This idea is drawn from several places throughout the scriptures. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. (Revelation 3:20) Behold, I will do a new thing. (Isaiah 43:19) Behold, I make all things new. (Revelation 21:5) Jesus stands at the door and knocks, inviting us to answer, to follow him, to do new things.

Many doors open before us. Jesus’ invitations are many and filled with new and wonderful opportunities. Jesus invites us through those doors out into our neighborhoods, out into our region, out into the world.

Last year General and Jurisdictional Conferences worked on many issues. The United Methodist Church continues to struggle with how we live out our ministry. However, our mission remains the same – To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World. We also have reaffirmed the Four Areas of Focus which were first identified at the 2008 General Conference. They are:

1. Developing principled Christian leaders for the church & the world;
2. Creating new places for new people and renewing existing congregations;
3. Engaging in ministry with the poor;
4. Stamping out the killer diseases of poverty by improving health globally.

These areas of focus inform and direct our work as an annual conference. The Conference Strategy Team has brought recommendations and suggestions for strategy and organization on annual conference and district levels. We still believe the center of ministry with Christ (within our conference and The United Methodist Church) is in the local church. Relationships are established and grown in the local church. The local church is fertile ground where we make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

This past year we beheld new things throughout the conference.

In Morristown District

- Local churches engaging in an intentional process, Next Steps Ministry Now, to discern how to become “more of who they already are”
- Four specifically reaching out to surrounding communities
- Emerging conversations to offer worship to persons who are mentally & physically challenged
- Emerging possibility to yoke with Cuban Methodists and start new Hispanic/Latino ministry in Greene County in an abandoned UMC local church building
- Growing a work camp ministry at Jubilee Project with the hire of a new outreach coordinator
In Chattanooga District

- Last fall at charge conferences churches spending time looking at hospitality and this Spring participating in a workshop to learn how to be more invitational.
- Harrison forming a new partnership with Fostering Hope Kids Closet, which provides clothing to Foster Parents when they receive a new child.
- Brainerd and Eastdale churches partnering to get to know each other and to do some badly needed repairs at Eastdale.
- East Ridge partnering with Mustard Tree Ministries and with Chattanooga Food Bank to address hunger and food insecurity in their community.

In Abingdon District

- FUMC, Mountain City hosting a group called J.A.M. on Thursday nights. J.A.M. is a program that teaches children to play an instrument prevalent to Appalachian music and focuses on teaching the heritage as well. Currently there are around 100 children meeting to learn guitar, banjo, mandolin, and fiddle.
- Benham’s Circuit, First Bristol, Beech Grove, and South Bristol hosting Youth Night at the YMCA. It provides a place for youth from small membership UMCs to meet and interact with other Christian youth without having to migrate out of our churches to do so. There are simply not enough local events where our youth and their unchurched friends can meet and have fun. As many as 60 persons have participated in this outreach.
- Virginia Avenue-Anderson Street starting “Blessings Boxes”. The concept: Stock a container with nonperishable food items, toiletries, or other basic household needs that can withstand storage outdoors. Ask people to take what they need and/or give what they can.

In Knoxville District

- Asbury UMC offering a new approach to Vacation Bible School. It was called “Mondays at Asbury” and, as the name implies, was a series across the summer offering classes and activities on every Monday.
- A group from Church Street beginning an ecumenical series focusing on “Conversations on Race.”
- Ebenezer breaking ground on a new sanctuary with the capacity to seat 450, more than doubling their current capacity.
- New Life beginning a once-a-month series called “Lunch and Learn” for senior adults, providing a quality meal and speakers offering instruction on a subject of their interest.
In Oak Ridge District

- New Century Church inviting adults, youth, children and friends of the Harriman community to come together for Bible trivia, food, and games at Saturday Night Live.

- New Century also starting Super Sunday school. This is a combined Sunday school class with all members of the church, young and the not so young. There is breakfast before the class begins and one central theme is taught. Super Sunday school is designed to attract those who are not traditional Sunday school participants.

- Kingston UMC reaching out to a community three blocks from the church called Lakewood Village. It is a community of lower income housing primarily for senior adults many of whom are handicapped. The church is going to that facility taking meals, playing bingo, sharing gifts and fellowship. Recently a minibus with a wheelchair lift was purchased in hopes of providing transportation for this community.

In Maryville District

- Spring of Living Water, a congregation of South Sudanese worshiping in Arabic, their native language in the same building with Green Meadow UMC. Rev. Boutrous Tutu received his local pastor’s license at the last annual conference.

- Oakland UMC conducting two “Dock” services each Sunday from May to October at two local marinas on Tellico Lake.

BEHOLD! These are only a very few ministries in a few of the districts of Holston. BEHOLD! Many, many more local churches are opening the door as Jesus knocks. These churches are not inviting Jesus in but are exiting to follow Jesus into the community, in the neighborhood, into the world where Jesus is in ministry.

In an attempt to Behold what Jesus is calling us to do as superintendents, we considered our individual workloads and the financial needs of the conference and agreed to cover the responsibilities of the twelve districts with nine superintendents. In recent years, the cabinet has requested not to receive salary increases as a means of supporting the financial health of the conference. As we look to the future and the commitment to support the ministries of the conference and local churches, our determination is to reduce the number of superintendents. We see this as a workable solution which will still allow the necessary and important contacts with the pastors and local congregations of the conference.

We understand this is a significant change from the way we have operated from over six decades. However, we see new possibilities for mission to meet the new challenges that are before us.
We are grateful for our conference staff which diligently assists local churches in Christ’s work. This year we note that Randy Pasqua after 23 years of service as the Conference Director of Camping Ministries is retiring. We appreciate his work with the children, youth, and young adults of Holston.

We note five members of the cabinet who have served a total of thirty-one years as district superintendents who will be receiving new appointments. We appreciate Adam McKee, David Tabor, Walter Weikel, and Nathan Malone in their hard work as Chief Missional Strategists and Pastors within their districts and for their efforts on the behalf of the Kingdom and The United Methodist Church.

Personally I have enjoyed these six years as the superintendent and am grateful for the chance to work with the pastors, congregations, and people of the Maryville District. I am also grateful for colleagues and a bishop who work hard and pray even harder.

One last BEHOLD to remember. **Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go.** (Genesis 28:15)

~ Charles W. Maynard, Dean of the Cabinet
**Resolution for Closure of Boyd’s Chapel United Methodist Church**

**Bandy, Virginia**

**Tazewell District of The United Methodist Church**

**WHEREAS,** Boyd’s Chapel United Methodist Church located at 265 Johnson’s Branch Road, Bandy, VA, of the Bishop Circuit in the Tazewell District, has held no worship services since September 4, 2016, and

**WHEREAS,** there is no plan to have any subsequent worship service, and

**WHEREAS,** most of the members have transferred or withdrawn their membership, and

**WHEREAS,** there is no source of income to maintain the building, increasing liability, and

**WHEREAS,** the grounds have not been cared for since September 2016, also increasing liability, and

**WHEREAS,** the church no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized, and

**WHEREAS,** the local church property is no longer used, kept, or maintained by its membership as a place of divine worship of The United Methodist Church, *(The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016, paragraph 2549.1b)*, and

**WHEREAS,** consent to close has been granted by the Tazewell District Board of Church Location and Building, and

**WHEREAS,** exigent circumstances exist that require immediate protection of the local church’s property for the benefit of the denomination *(The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016, paragraph 2549.3.b)*, and

**WHEREAS,** the Presiding Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor and the majority of the superintendents consent to the closure of the Boyd’s Chapel United Methodist Church,

**Therefore be it resolved** that the Holston Annual Conference, celebrating the ministry of this church, does hereby authorize the closure of the Boyd’s Chapel United Methodist Church effective June 12, 2017, and

**Be it further resolved** that the remaining members be transferred to Alexander United Methodist Church or a church of their own choosing, and

**Be it further resolved** that all deeds, records, and other official and legal papers shall be collected by the district superintendent, and

**Be it further resolved** that the furnishings and fixtures be distributed to churches within the Tazewell District, and

**Be it further resolved** that any remaining assets by transferred to the Holston Conference trustees, and

**Be it further resolved** that the Trustees of the Holston Annual Conference be requested to dispose of the Boyd’s Chapel United Methodist Church building and land according to the terms of the deed.
RESOLUTION FOR CLOSURE OF FAIRVIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
THORN HILL, TENNESSEE
MORRISTOWN DISTRICT

HOLSTON CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WHEREAS, Fairview United Methodist Church located at 3988 Mountain Valley Road, Highway 131, Thorn Hill, Tennessee, of the Clinch Valley Circuit in the Morristown District, has held no worship services since December 2014, and
WHEREAS, there is no plan to have any subsequent worship service, and
WHEREAS, the church no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized, and
WHEREAS, the local church property is no longer used, kept, or maintained by its membership as a place of divine worship of The United Methodist Church (The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016, paragraph 2549.1.b), and
WHEREAS, there is no source of income to maintain the building, increasing liability, and
WHEREAS, consent to close has been granted by the Morristown District Board of Church Location and Building, and
WHEREAS, exigent circumstances exist that require immediate protection of the local church’s property for the benefit of the denomination (The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016, paragraph 2549.3.b), and
WHEREAS, the Presiding Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor and the majority of the superintendents consent to the closure of Fairview United Methodist Church,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Holston Annual Conference, celebrating the ministry of this church, does hereby authorize the closure of the Fairview United Methodist Church effective June 12, 2017, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the remaining members be transferred to Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church in Thorn Hill, Tennessee, or a church of their own choosing, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all deeds, records, and other official and legal papers shall be collected by the district superintendent, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the furnishings and fixtures be distributed to the Holston Conference Board of Trustees, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any remaining assets be transferred to the Holston Conference Board of Trustees, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Holston Annual Conference be requested to dispose of the Fairview United Methodist Church property, real and personal, tangible and intangible, in its sole discretion.
Resolution for Abandonment
Bungalow United Methodist Church
Maryville, Tennessee
Maryville District of The Holston Conference

Whereas, the Bungalow United Methodist Church, located in the Maryville District of The United Methodist Church has served the Maryville community and the Holston Conference offering grace and the salvation of Jesus Christ since 1919, and

Whereas, the congregation of Bungalow United Methodist Church has not held worship services in the building located at 1009 Middlesettlements Road, Maryville, Tennessee 37801 since 2014, and

Whereas, members of the congregation have died, moved away, or become unable to attend to the ministry of the church in the present location, and

Whereas, the Maryville District Board of Church Location and Building and the Maryville District Board of Trustees have agreed to use the building and property at Bungalow for mission purposes, and

Whereas, the presiding bishop, and a majority of the district superintendents consent to the abandonment of Bungalow United Methodist Church,

Therefore be it resolved that the Holston Annual Conference, celebrating the ministry of this church, does hereby authorize the closure of the Bungalow United Methodist Church effective June 12, 2017, and

Therefore further be it resolved that the District Superintendent be directed to collect all deeds, records, and official documents from the abandoned church as is required by paragraph 2549.4 of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2012, and

Therefore further be it resolved that the furnishings and fixtures of the Bungalow United Methodist Church be distributed by the Maryville District and the Holston Conference for use in future divine worship and the mission of The United Methodist Church, and

Therefore further be it resolved that the Maryville District Board of Trustees will manage the property as a mission center for the Maryville District to further the work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Report of Mergers for the Historical Record

At the request of the congregations, Slaughter’s Chapel United Methodist Church and Randolph Avenue United Methodist Church, both of the Wytheville District, merged on December 6, 2016 to become the Randolph Avenue United Methodist Church.

At the request of the congregations, Faith United Methodist Church and Inskip United Methodist Church, both of the Knoxville District, merged on October 1, 2016 to become Inskip United Methodist Church. Effective March 9, 2017, this congregation changed its name to Cedar Lane United Methodist Church.

At the request of the congregations, Keen Mountain and Garden, both of the Tazewell District, merged on May 7, 2017 to become Garden United Methodist Church.
In the early days of the Christian Church, Paul encouraged fledgling churches to be mindful of their unified role in revealing God’s vast wisdom through the Gospel of Jesus Christ:

“Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in Him.”

Ephesians 3:7-12

Our faithful commitment to this role compels us to examine the health of the Church today as it fulfills its mission through the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church. This examination leads us to believe we can revitalize and fortify our mission to bring people into a transformative relationship with Jesus Christ.

These recommendations from the Holston Conference Strategy Team provide more effective and contemporary means for carrying out the mission of the Church in a dynamic and challenging world. At the core of this Proposal is a periodic ‘health check’ to maintain a high level of fruitfulness in carrying out its mission for generations to come for the Holston Conference.

I. THE PROCESS

“The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Local churches and extension ministries of the church provide the most significant arenas through which disciple-making occurs.”

The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016, §120

The work of the Holston Conference Strategy Team, (‘HCST’), builds upon the foundation for change begun well before the HCST was established. The conversation has evolved during the tenures of previous episcopal leadership in Holston Conference. It has included the insight of church consultants, dedicated lay and clergy of Holston Conference and various teams and task forces created to examine how Holston Conference can enhance its effectiveness in making disciples of Christ in a changing world. The history and findings of previous
iterations of these efforts provided the groundwork upon which the HCST has worked to discern God’s vision for the people and ministries of Holston Conference.

More recently, we were privileged to hear the wisdom and experience of Bishop Robert Schnase of the Missouri Conference of The United Methodist Church. Bishop Schnase is author of *Seven Levers: Missional Strategies for Conferences*, a guide for strategic development in a Conference setting. We also received guidance from renowned church consultant, Dr. Tom Bandy, in examining the structure of our Conference to maximize our resources and tools for mission.

As an outgrowth of these conversations, a committee was established in September of 2015 with the initial objective of re-designing district boundaries to enhance our ability to do ministry and to best utilize our resources more efficiently for the advancement of our mission. It was assumed that many of the objectives for mission and ministry could be achieved by simply consolidating and strengthening our districts.

However, as we began to meet with and discuss these objectives with groups and members of Holston Conference, it became evident that the needs and issues raised in feedback required a much more comprehensive approach. It became necessary to address the elements of change that would accomplish a new vision for vital mission and ministry in Holston Conference. At this point, the committee (originally set up as a ‘re-districting’ effort) emerged as the Holston Conference Strategy Team.

In navigating its mission, the HCST has been conscientiously attuned to the ideas and concerns of the people and groups who make up Holston Conference. During our initial consultations, we received hundreds of comments and suggestions from clergy and laypersons. All of these comments and suggestions were thoroughly reviewed and discussed. In the course of processing this feedback, we were able to discern several recurring issues along a broad spectrum of ideas that gave credence to their importance. While these recurring issues formed a core for examination and discussion, we were also open to various insights and ideas of individuals who were perceptive to needs that may not have been universally recognized, but were seen as significant issues that deserved attention.

In addition to processing feedback from within our Conference, we also examined the strategies of other Conferences and church-related groups (who were undertaking similar initiatives) to help guide our decision-making. During our thoughtful examination of the ‘life’ of Holston Conference, we were guided by recent developments in our region and denomination. One development of note was the 2012 General Conference designation that District Superintendents are to be ‘Chief Missional Strategists’. Another emphasis of The United Methodist Church is to help lay and clergy in their development as leaders and to seek out and identify new leadership for the Church. Also, we have considered the painful struggle within our denomination with social
issues that passionately divide and weaken us. In our region we recognize the monumental changes in population, economic growth and contraction, socioeconomic diversity, transportation routes, and shifting municipalities within the boundaries of Holston Conference – and yet the external structure of the Conference has largely remained unchanged since the 1950s.

We recognized that while re-aligning the district boundaries to more closely reflect the areas of mission and ministry of our Conference was still integral to a new vision, other structural changes were necessary to accomplish making the Church more fruitful. Our vision grew as the value of the ‘Connection’ was revealed in the various ministry and mission needs we were attempting to meet. These collective goals required that changes needed to be made in tandem to be effective; that a Comprehensive Conference Strategy was necessary.

What emerged after a year of thorough examination, discussion, and prayerful consideration was a Strategic Plan comprised of seven (7) elements that we feel will comprehensively impact the effectiveness of Holston Conference to fulfill its role as the church in mission and ministry in today’s world. But there’s more. The Strategic Plan being proposed is not just a set of recommendations to help Holston Conference synchronize its mission to today’s mission field, but is a mechanism for future leaders of Holston Conference to utilize periodically to easily and effectively adapt and modify its structure to meet emerging needs in a changing world as we journey together as a Conference into God’s future.

II. WHY CHANGE?

The catalyst for change was the recognition that today’s Church faces unprecedented challenges in how we communicate the message of the Gospel, the ways we engage new generations of persons disconnected with the institutional Church, and a breakdown in unity of spirit and grace in a world of conflicting perspectives and ideas.

We are moved by the foresight that things are changing. Social issues, division, distrust, globalization, and anxiety about the future have encroached upon our daily lives. We had grown accustomed to a life cycle in the church where children grew up in the church, went to college or new jobs as young adults, often strayed from the church, yet returned when they settled down and began raising a family. That life cycle no longer applies and many young families do not return to the church. Children and young adults are no longer routinely being raised in the church family. Many are struggling with questions but not looking to the church for answers. The mainstream Church of the 1950s that occupied a central role in society has given way to a Church in the 21st century that must govern itself more wisely and efficiently to accomplish the same goals.

We are increasingly cynical about institutions and also distrustful of leadership. We lack confidence in the ability of our organizations to meet our needs. The church is clearly among those institutions suffering from these perceptions. Some perceptions are valid, others the consequence of dysfunctional public leadership in general.
But the Church is not just another institution. The Church is the body of Christ incarnate in the world today. We are all members of this body and properly see ourselves as brothers and sisters, the children of God who are called to see the world differently. We each have a role in creating space for the Kingdom of God to break through—here on Earth—by helping bring each other into a transformative relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

We are different.

God reveals to each of us the special ways in which we are called. We are compelled to share the amazingly transformational experience that a relationship with Jesus Christ brings. In addition to our individual transformation, we seek the transformation of the World, where kindness, mercy, justice, compassion, and love fulfill our desire to fully be what God created us to be.

Out of this realization that the church needs to be more agile and responsive to the changing needs of God’s beloved children, we created ‘new’ wineskins to live into this new vision of what the Church needs to be in our time – and in the future.

III. WHAT

The Comprehensive Conference Strategy has seven (7) components, each of which is realized by recommended changes to structure and emphasis, systematic use of evaluative tools, and completely new designs for mission and ministry:

1. Re-Connecting the Connection:

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 13:34-35

“There is but one ministry in Christ, but there are diverse gifts and evidences of God’s grace in the body of Christ. The ministry of all Christians is complementary. No ministry is subservient to another. All United Methodists are summoned and sent by Christ to live and work together in mutual interdependence and to be guided by the Spirit into the truth that frees and the love that reconciles.”

The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016, §131

Because as one Body of Christ, we recognize that we are stronger working together, we commit ourselves to nurturing a trusting relationship. One way we do this is by intentionally communicating the stories that reveal the value of our connectional relationship and by strengthening this vital relationship as we:

- shift the source and focus of ministry programming and leadership from a centralized Conference level to the local church level
- seek and share stories of missional and ministry achievements at the local church and district level as a means of instruction to others as well as collective rejoicing in God’s work
• unite clergy persons, lay persons, and congregations in their ministry with their local church and throughout the Holston Conference by resourcing and empowering people through the connectional system

This element of the Strategy is first in recognition of its importance. However, it is also admittedly the least defined, because its success is derived from the success of the overall Comprehensive Conference Strategy. If innovative and effective ministry is accomplished by implementing other elements of the Comprehensive Strategy, the strengthening of our Connection is also necessarily achieved. The purpose here is to inform, equip, and enable churches, lay, clergy, and districts. All of these will realize greater success for the Kingdom of God by working collaboratively and by sharing our burdens and resources, our successes and failures with those who support each other as the One Body of Christ.

2. Supporting Our Clergy and Churches:

A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken. 

Ecclesiastes 4:12

At the very core of our Methodist heritage, John Wesley exhorted followers of Christ in the Methodist way to commit to accountability with each other. Wesley understood the importance of support, encouragement, and discipline. The clergy must meet regularly to learn, share each other’s burdens, and equip each other for the challenging call to be ministers in the Church.

Many clergy already participate in informal accountability groups in addition to district meetings and other opportunities for fellowship. We encourage the evaluation of mandatory meetings and fellowship opportunities on a district level, while insisting that those who do not presently participate in a Clergy Small Group create one or seek one to join. The District Superintendent will help shepherd clergy into Clergy Small Group participation by either: 1-helping them find a group, 2-creating a group, or 3-encouraging an existing group to receive additional members.

Additionally, Missional Hubs will be created in each district. A Missional Hub is a region within a district determined by a strategic, geographic grouping of four to ten congregations within that region. The purpose of each Missional Hub is to coordinate, encourage, and facilitate mutual support among clergy and laity in making a transformative impact on the people in their region. The objectives include, but are not limited to: 1) developing cooperative support among clergy and congregations; 2) identifying the assets, strengths, and opportunities available to meet the needs within their shared mission field, and; 3) collaborating and partnering in fruitful mission and ministry. The general spirit of these gatherings should take shape around the questions: “What can we accomplish together, working cooperatively and collaboratively, that we cannot accomplish, either as well or at all, by ourselves?”
Laity and clergy involvement is essential for the Missional Hub to work. The lay leaders best suited to take the lead in this effort may not be the currently elected officers of the congregation. Instead, key participants should be identified by asking, “Who has a passion for the mission of the church in this way and a proven track record of leadership in or outside of the church?” These Missional Hubs will create opportunities to share struggles and rejoice in successes, learn from each other, and exchange resources to better meet the ministry needs of the mission fields in which we live.

**Because** we want to encourage and support fruitful leadership among clergy and laity, nurture healthy professional relationships, and reach compliance with *Discipline* standards for periodic clergy evaluation, we offer the following measures:

- All clergy shall actively participate in at least one Clergy Small Group. The goal of the Clergy Small Group is to include spiritual and emotional support and accountability to their calling. Each clergy member will be asked to report to his or her District Superintendent confirming he or she is participating in a Clergy Small Group, describing the frequency with which the Clergy Small Group meets, and identifying the names of other members of the Clergy Small Group. Best practices in how to start, end, and grow Clergy Small Groups will be made available to District Superintendents.

- The Conference Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) will implement the action of the 2016 United Methodist General Conference found in paragraph 349, section 3 of the *2016 Book of Discipline* that requires a formal 6-month clergy evaluation to take place every eight (8) years to ensure that each clergy person is continuing to discern and progress in his or her call to ministry. NOTE: BOM will decide and recommend how to use volunteers and staff to accomplish this goal.

- Each district shall create its own form of ‘Missional Hub’ structure so that clergy and congregations cultivate shared ministry. Various examples from within our Conference and the General Church will be made available to District Superintendents.

- The Appointment Cabinet will continue to give prayerful discernment regarding the mission field of congregations and the distinct gifts and graces of clergy when making clergy appointments.
3. **Right-Sizing the Districts:**

“And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. The he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest’.”

*Matthew 9:35-38*

Because right-sizing Holston Conference’s districts offers a new opportunity to allocate financial and human resources and bring fresh energy to our mission, we propose the following evaluative mechanism. This formula enhances the agility to respond to cultural changes and shifts in population within Holston Conference and to discern the appropriate size and location of the districts that comprise Holston Conference:

- The Conference Strategy Team, in consultation with the Bishop and the Cabinet, shall propose the boundaries and size of each new district by evaluating the following criteria throughout Holston Conference:
  1. Mission Field
  2. Population
  3. Urbanization
  4. Number of Clergy and Churches Supervised
  5. Financial Resources
  6. Geography

Because it is necessary to reduce the number of districts in Holston Conference to accomplish the goal of realizing the appropriate size and the boundaries of the districts:

- The Conference Strategy Team proposes that the number of districts in Holston Conference be reduced from 12 districts to 9 districts.

The purpose for evaluating the size and location of Holston’s districts is to provide the means by which the rest of the Comprehensive Conference Strategy can be effectively accomplished. The present location and boundaries of Holston’s 12 districts are based upon population data, transportation routes, and church locations that existed in the 1950s. Although the 12 districts with which we are familiar have served valuable ministries for the advancement of the Kingdom of God for years — something for which we give God great glory — the reality in 2017 is that people don’t live where they used to, churches don’t exist where they used to, the diverse make-up of the people who live in our mission field is different than it used to be, and the resources available for mission and ministry are not what they used to be.
We are consistently called by God to wisely use the resources God has graciously provided: human, physical property, and financial – for efficient and effective use to make disciples of Christ. By evaluating the boundaries and size of the districts in 2017, we are simply acting to ensure that Holston Conference is optimally structured to be more effective in carrying out its mission. This evaluative process will determine the exact size and boundaries of districts that makes sense to achieve these goals.

The primary goal is to equalize – to the greatest extent possible – each of the preceding metrics so there is relative equity in the distribution of resources among all of the districts of Holston Annual Conference. Recognizing that a completely even distribution is not achievable due to geography and other factors, the intent is to diminish the disproportionate range that presently exists among districts due to shifts in population, church locations, and economic fluctuations in certain geographic regions.

In addition to the obvious consideration of population and financial resources, urbanization is a key metric in deciding upon the boundaries of each district. There was a recognition that key ‘anchor’ churches – providing leadership and collaborative energy to neighboring churches – are often located in metropolitan areas.

The Team also recognized that the current number of clergy supervised by District Superintendents ranges from 38 to 66. A reduction in the number of districts will increase the number of clergy supervised, but the intent is to not exceed a manageable number. Creating new internal structures, such as ‘Missional Hubs’, can relieve District Superintendents from administrative overload and create space for District Superintendents to more effectively and creatively be Chief Missional Strategists.

Additional scrutiny must be given to the actual geographic area – the unique attributes of topography, transportation, cultural alliances, etc., to see if the boundaries ‘make sense’ from a practical standpoint.

Finally, specific missional priorities and realities will be examined to ensure that the financial, population, clergy, district, and local church resources are situated to provide the support necessary to address the specific missional needs of that area.

Our assessment reveals that the reducing the number of districts in Holston Conference from twelve (12) districts to nine (9) districts accomplishes this goal. Although the exact boundaries and size of those districts will need to be determined through the comprehensive process outlined above, as a preliminary step, we are asking the Conference to approve this structural change to allow the comprehensive assessment of district size and boundaries to move forward.

Data reflecting the impetus for action and a map projecting the approximate location of these 9 districts are attached as Appendices to this report. The rendering of the districts in this map necessarily show only general estimated
locations because, in accordance with Paragraph 415.4 of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016, it is the Bishop in consultation with the District Superintendents who has authority to set the actual boundaries of the districts. Approval of the evaluative procedure described above will insure that the deliberative process setting the boundaries incorporates these key elements of healthier and more resourceful districts.

4. Revitalizing The Conference Life: Evaluating The Health of Our Boards, Committees & Agencies:

There are different spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; and there are different ministries and the same Lord; and there are different activities but the same God who produces all of them in everyone.  

I Corinthians 12:4-6

Because it is healthy to evaluate the way we do things and to cultivate a broader and deeper circle of leadership in the Conference:

- The Holston Conference Strategy Team will convene a Task Force to evaluate the purpose, effectiveness, and role of each Conference committee, agency, board, and team to ensure that it is accomplishing its purpose in alignment with the Conference missional objectives based on the Four Areas of Focus identified by The United Methodist Church.

The task force will be responsible for the following:

i. Where it is found that a Conference committee, agency, board, or team no longer fulfills its role in Conference missional objectives, it will either be modified, merged, or eliminated, understanding that no committee required by the Discipline will be eliminated or modified beyond its prescribed function.

ii. Where it is found that a Conference missional objective or ministry is not presently being met by an existing committee, board, team, or agency, such a committee, board, team, or agency will be proposed for creation.

iii. All persons serving on any committee, board, team, and/or agency will be trained for the purpose of educating, clarifying, and defining the purpose of the group and the requirements of the Discipline as it applies to that group.

iv. The Conference Nominating Committee will continue to identify and cultivate new leadership among the laity and clergy of Holston Conference. Recognizing that many talented and uniquely skilled persons do not presently participate in Conference leadership positions, the Conference will enhance leadership opportunities by:

1. Where appropriate, the Conference will create ‘short-term/

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1 See ‘Glossary of Terms’ at conclusion of Report for details of the Four Areas of Focus
defined purpose’ project-based teams to address specific needs and concerns that arise

2. Evaluating meeting times and locations as well as technological and communication tools to create more opportunities for persons in other fields and professions to participate more easily from a logistical standpoint

5. Exercising Our Financial Stewardship:

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven…” Ecclesiastes 3:1

Because it is necessary to prioritize the allocation of our resources to prioritize our mission of saving souls over saving structures:

a. The Cabinet and the Conference and District entities responsible for congregational development will collaboratively conduct a ‘Wellness Check’ of local church charges and ministry programs to discern if resources flowing to a local church charge or ministry program would be more fruitfully re-directed to other church charges or ministry programs;

b. The ‘Wellness Check’ will be conducted at each ‘health check’ period, by evaluating the following criteria:

i. The amount of financial resources being directed to the local church charge or ministry program

ii. Review of church statistics and Vital Signs

iii. Assessment of the ministry/community and mission field in view of the overall missional objectives of Holston Conference

Our Christian faith and teaching informs our sense of vitality and vanquishes the fear of death – even to the outward manifestations of ministry reflected in our churches and ministries.

There are times when our churches and church facilities are no longer capable of serving their roles as vital congregations growing the Kingdom of God. Arriving at such a determination is a painful conclusion, because each church, congregation, and ministry was born out of a vision, hope, and desire to serve God fruitfully. But when it becomes apparent that a church is about to close, we are called to celebrate its life, its meaning – and allow it to experience a dignified closure – so that the resources used to extend its existence can be re-directed for the re-birth of ministry or a new congregation in a more fertile manner.

The expression ‘saving souls over saving structures’ serves to express the priority of our call to make disciples over covering the costs of a local church that can no longer sustain itself. This is how we respond to God’s call to use God’s gifts wisely and with discernment.

However, we also recognize that there are some churches and ministries
that – while not self-sustaining and in need of external resources to survive – are nonetheless of such critical importance to our missional objectives, that additional resources are required to sustain them. The availability of additional resources that are re-directed from closed churches and ministries may make these critical churches and ministries viable. And in doing so, we experience the beautiful life-cycle of God’s creation revealed in death and rebirth.

Finally, this formal analysis will benefit the Conference in strategically discerning the wellness of churches and ministries on a periodic and uniform basis of analysis. In doing so, it maintains our focus on the stewardship of our resources and ensuring that inefficient drains of resources are quickly identified and resolved.

6. **Staffing the Conference for Districts and Local Churches:**

*I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, then you will produce much fruit. Without me, you can’t do anything.*  
**John 15:5**

Because a revised model for staffing in Holston Conference will help districts and local churches better discern their mission fields, connect them with resources to fulfill their missions, and align them with the 4 major areas of focus established by our denomination, we propose the following:

**An evaluative mechanism will be used to determine if the deployment of Holston Conference personnel is configured to maximize the fruitful development of mission and ministry in Holston Conference:**

- The Conference Strategy Team will convene a task force in consultation with the Conference Personnel Resources Committee to conduct a ‘vision-based’ assessment of Conference personnel to determine:
  
i. If there are logistical impediments to access Conference expertise and resources needed to conduct ministry at the local church and district level
  
ii. If Conference personnel are deployed so that they are easily accessible, either physically and/or via video technology to interact with local churches and districts to ensure coordinated efforts in ministry throughout the Conference

- The Conference Personnel Resources Committee shall make recommendations to the Bishop and the Executive Team for the deployment of Conference staff, including the number of staff and positions necessary to carry out the fruitful ministry of districts and local churches throughout the Conference, in addition to where staff will be physically located, and positioned to meet the following objectives:
i. develop a closer relationship with and among local church and district staff through Missional Hubs to share a greater understanding of mission and ministry in those geographical areas and to promote these ministries throughout the Conference

ii. promote resources and assistance to local church and district staff through Missional Hubs in either providing or locating expertise in specific areas of ministry

iii. provide liaison assistance and professional services to local churches and districts in matters relating to denominational responsibilities, finance administration, budgeting and other areas as required by the Book of Discipline

- The Director of Connectional Ministries, along with the District Superintendent, will connect with each district missional hub to maximize capabilities. The objective of this collaboration shall be to help and encourage districts and local churches to use programs such as MissionInsight to determine the makeup of the mission field in their area(s).

7. Communication:

But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? Romans 10:14

Because we recognize that the manner in which we communicate has evolved dramatically in just a few years, we evolved as well. Because we know the critical importance of communication to achieve unity in mission and understanding, we recognize that the Conference requires a dedicated focus to achieve a reliable and accessible means of communication. We can do this in the following ways:

- The Holston Conference Strategy Team shall convene a Task Force which includes professionals in the field of mass communications, in consultation with the Communications Advisory Council, to evaluate the current technological capabilities of Holston Conference and, in response, to determine how to most efficiently communicate with – and nurture communication among – local churches and districts

- Invest in the technology and professional staff or contractors to develop the communication capabilities of Holston Conference by incorporating new and innovative technology that redefines the manner in which various teams, members, clergy, and lay persons interact and communicate with each other to conduct the mission of the church.

- Develop a web presence that is not only a website where information can be broadcast, but a means for engagement with individuals utilizing content generated by the Church – and which also serves as the preferred site for locating resources and equipping people
IV. EMBRACING CHANGE

Because we understand that our call to bring people into a transformative relationship with Jesus Christ requires us to continually monitor, evaluate, and adopt new, relevant, and contemporary means to engage the world in mission and ministry:

1. In the year following the meeting of The United Methodist Church’s General Conference, the Resident Bishop of Holston Conference will convene the Conference Strategy Team to examine the life of the Conference by using the evaluative tools set forth above to recommend changes to the Conference structure, if any.

2. At the gathering of the Holston Annual Conference subsequent to the Conference Strategy Team examination, referred to as a ‘Health Check’, the Conference Strategy Team will present a Report to the Annual Conference assessing the health of the Conference and offering recommendations for modifications to the Conference structure to ensure maximum fruitfulness of its mission, and ministry. The Team shall oversee the implementation of changes, if any, adopted by the Annual Conference.

3. The Conference Strategy Team will be a standing team of the Holston Annual Conference and will be set up in three panels that will rotate. The Resident Bishop will name the members of the team.

4. The Conference Strategy Team will consist of no less than nine (9) and no more than fifteen (15) members. No more than three (3) Conference Strategy Team members can serve consecutive terms on the Conference Strategy Team.

V. WHEN

The Comprehensive Conference Strategy set forth in this proposal is the fruit of many hours and days over the course of several years of dialogue, discussion, feedback, debate, evaluation, and revision.

The end-product is a Strategic Plan for change.

The Comprehensive Conference Strategy Proposal for consideration set forth here is a two-phase initiative that begins with the agreement as to ‘how’ the elements of Holston Conference will be evaluated for structural change and then concludes with implementation of the changes produced by the evaluative process.

Some elements of the Comprehensive Conference Strategy can immediately begin to be implemented upon approval of the Annual Conference; other more extensive elements, such as the size and boundaries of the districts will be determined by the data collection and analytical process under consideration in
this proposal. Consequently, not all of the elements of this Strategic Plan will be fully operational until the completion of the second phase which we hope to celebrate at the 2018 Holston Annual Conference.

Stated another way, if the Holston Annual Conference blesses this vision for fruitful mission and ministry by means of the evaluation stratagem articulated here, the necessary tools of change will then be activated to make these proposed changes a reality.

Moreover, the Comprehensive Conference Strategy is purposefully engineered for dynamic change and adaptation to our mission field on a periodic basis.

The wisdom of this feature is that it keeps the Church nimble and responsive to the evolving and emerging needs that Holston Conference will encounter in the years ahead.

As described in Section IV of this Proposal, the process being proposed for adoption at this 2017 meeting of the Holston Annual Conference is the same process that our future church leaders will utilize each year following the meeting of General Conference. The outcome may be different – because the mission field may well be different – but the course of evaluation and discernment will continue to ensure that Holston Conference will be positioned to respond creatively, flexibly, and fruitfully to the challenges that will surely come our way in the years to come.

VI. CONCLUSION

This Comprehensive Conference Strategy is in a mechanism to synchronize the mission with the mission field – and the means for future church leaders to periodically assess the health of the Conference to maintain vitality.

We – the Church – move as one unified Body of Christ for the sake of sharing the Gospel of Christ with a broken, hurting, and confused world. The adoption of a Comprehensive Conference Strategy is not the response to God’s call; our individual and collective unified commitment to serve, share, love, and walk humbly with our God and God’s Children is how we respond to God’s call. The Comprehensive Conference Strategy proposal is simply a way to make our response to that call more powerful and effective.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Anchor Church**: A vital congregation that can provide leadership and collaborative energy to struggling churches.

**Clergy Small Group**: A clergy small group shall be comprised of clergy. This group shall meet monthly in person or assisted by technology. This will be a confidential space where clergy can encourage accountability and deepen their spiritual walk. The District Superintendent will include conversation about a clergy person’s participation in a ‘Clergy Small Group’ in the annual clergy consultation.

**Conference Life**: The means by which the mission of the Church is carried
out through boards, committees, teams and agencies of The United Methodist Church.

**Connection:** Our denomination continues to be organized in a “connectional” system, which “enables us to carry out our mission in unity and strength” (*Book of Discipline 2016*, ¶ 701). Every local church is linked to an interconnected network of organizations that join together in mission and ministry, allowing us to accomplish far more than any one local church or person could alone.

**District:** A geographically-defined area of ministry comprised of churches, congregations, circuits, stations, and mission fields led by a District Superintendent and unified by the common call of clergy and laity to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world.

**Executive Team:** Includes the Bishop and the following staff positions: Director of Administrative Services/Treasurer; Director of Clergy Services/Conference Secretary; Director of Communications/Bishop’s Executive Assistant; Director of Congregational Development and Revitalization; Director of Connectional Ministries.

**Four Areas of Focus:** The 2008 General Conference identified 4 main areas of focus for the United Methodist denomination. They are:

1. Developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world
2. Creating new places for new people and renewing existing congregations
3. Engaging in ministry *with* the poor
4. Stamping out the killer diseases of poverty by improving health globally

**Health Check:** In reference to Article IV of this Proposal a ‘Health Check’ is the periodic examination of the health of Holston Conference by the Conference Strategy Team utilizing the evaluative tools established by this Comprehensive Conference Strategy.

**Mission Field:** *Wherever* we find people in need of experiencing the love of Christ.

**Missional Hub:** In short, a Missional Hub is a group of churches working together to meet a need in the community. It is contextually relevant to the geographical area and interests of the churches of that area. Its shape is organic and cultivated around a shared and fruitful ministry. Through this experience, clergy and laity will share wisdom, experience, and dreams of what God is doing in and through their community.

**Task Force:** A short-term group for a specific purpose, not a standing committee. Membership is assigned at the discretion of the chair.

**Urbanization:** As used in evaluating the size and location of a District, the term ‘urbanization’ means a municipality with a broad commercial and industrial economic base, a large and diverse population, and a geographic area supporting a wide range of social agencies and private as well as public services.
# APPENDICE A.

Please note that the numbers on this summary were manually and/or hard-copied from old journals and appointment books. Therefore, the accuracy cannot be guaranteed. This document is meant as a guide and trend indicator only.

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<tr>
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<td>2000</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
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<td>-16.80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>162291</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
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</tr>
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<td>2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
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</tr>
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(*Recording began in 1964)
COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Last year’s printed Annual Report to the Holston Conference from Archives and History carried this word of thanks:

We are grateful to Emory & Henry College which houses the Holston Conference Archives [in Kelly Library], and shares the sponsoring of the Conference Archivist, Robert Vejnar. The Conference Archives addressed approximately 183 research requests in 2015. Your Conference Archives also continues to upload Holston related documents and photographs to the Digital Library of Appalachia (in partnership with the Appalachian College Association and Emory & Henry College), making Holston material available to researchers worldwide.

However, less than 3 weeks before the opening of the 2016 Holston Annual Conference, we were to learn of a change in that relationship:

[I]t was . . . particularly painful for Archives and History to learn on May 24th of this year [2016] that the Administration of Emory & Henry College, without prior consultation with anyone on the Commission or any official of the Conference, vacated a 21-year agreement between the Conference and the College, by dismissing our Archivist from the Library staff, ostensibly as a cost-cutting measure for the College. This immediately and adversely impacts the security of our assets, the Archives of the Holston Conference, for our Archivist is locked out of the Archives, and further, the Administration of the College took it upon themselves to name an interim Archivist for our Archives, in clear violation of the same 21-year agreement! The Archives, which are stored at Emory & Henry, are the clear property of the Holston Conference and have been entrusted to our care. We had enjoyed a good working relationship with the College; we were wholly satisfied with the excellent work of the Archivist, Mr. Robert Vejnar; and, we had no notice that this course of action was being planned, even though our mutual agreement indicates that an advance notice of one year should be given if any change is anticipated by either party.

By the time of the opening of the 2016 Annual Conference, Archives and History, in a called meeting, had determined that the only recourse left to us in response this extraordinary violation of a covenant agreement between the Conference and the College, was to remove the Conference Archives from Emory & Henry College to a place of safe-keeping. The Conference Archives had been housed at Emory & Henry since the 1960’s.

Accordingly, from June until October, 2016, the Conference Archivist, Mr. Robert Vejnar, and David St. Clair, the Chairperson of Archives and History, engaged in packing and then moving the Conference Archives from Kelly Library to a place of storage at The Connexion in Sevierville. Archives and History is greatly indebted to Robert Vejnar, the Archivist, and to Angela Lee in the Conference Office, for their prodigious assistance in this task. We appreciate the Rev. Jeff Lambert and a great crew of helpers from First UMC, Sevierville, who helped on the day of the move. We are grateful that we have a safe place for
our Conference Archives. However, as long as they are in storage they are not readily accessible, and we hope to remedy this situation in the very near future.

In the meantime, we are sad to announce that our Archivist, Robert Vejnar, has accepted employment at an institution of higher education in another state outside the boundaries of Holston Conference. We are deeply indebted to Mr. Vejnar for his skillful and intelligent work and his great loyalty, both to the Holston Conference and to the greater cause of the preservation of Methodist History. We wish him every success in all his endeavors as he embarks on a new phase of his career. And we hope to have a much more positive report for the next Annual Conference, filled once again with accounts of faithful activities sponsored by Archives and History.

~ David St. Clair, Chair
COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL

The mission of conference communications remains simple. Church members across the conference need to hear stories of people entering and growing in relationships with Jesus Christ. Communications staff make sure those stories and the best practices underlying them are shared in easily understood ways, using the written word, visual design and digital media in a professional manner.

The Communications Advisory Council works with Holston Conference communications staff to provide guidance and feedback where requested. In the past year, the CAC has moved toward a consulting model, with CAC members drawing on their specific skill sets to advise and assist the conference’s paid professionals.

Some recent developments in the area of conference communications:

We have learned that social media continues to have a huge impact on how people process information. This has led to changes in how stories and videos are presented. For example, written materials are trending toward shorter pieces, and images and streaming video are becoming more important as people try to understand the information before them.

As the conference becomes more diverse, we also are increasing the diversity of voices in our communications. Our Hispanic communications efforts are developing quickly. At the same time, we want to be sure these communications are unifying and not divisive—we do not want differences in languages to result in Spanish-speaking and English-speaking wings of the same conference.

The communications staff also are responsible for the technology underlying many of our outreach efforts, and this again is a rapidly changing area. As more data are collected from churches online, greater simplicity is needed for the church leaders sending the information—the desire is to help everyone spend less time, not more, on what we once called “paper work.”

The conference communications staff also are continually looking at cost-control measures related to technology, hoping to take advantage of new developments that could save us money.

The CAC forwarded Communications and IT 2018 budget requests very similar to the revised 2016 and 2017 budgets. An additional $22,500 needed for infrastructure support in IT will come from reserves accumulated over the years from print sales.

We ask for the conference’s continued prayers that our communications efforts be positive and kingdom-building.

~ Chuck Griffin, Chair
COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The purpose of the Office of Congregational Development is to help establish new congregations and to assist in the revitalization of existing congregations. The support that you supply makes it possible for us to undergird and repurpose the ministry of the local churches who request support, and to discover new opportunities for establishing new places of worship.

The Committee on Congregational Development continues to support projects across our Annual Conference. This year we have supported ministries in eight districts: Wytheville, Abingdon, Johnson City, Kingsport, Knoxville, Morristown, Chattanooga, and Maryville. One of the projects you support through Congregational Development is Spring of Living Water, a Sudanese Congregation that meets at Green Meadow United Methodist Church in Alcoa, Tennessee. Because of our close connection with South Sudan this congregation represents the far reaches of our work to advance God’s Kingdom.

One of the most exciting projects is The Connexion in Sevierville, Tennessee. Located on Veterans Blvd very close to Dollywood, it provides a place for training, conferences, concerts, as well as the location of El Ministerio del Espiritu Santo. This fast-growing congregation led by Susana Lopez has been a great help during the wildfires that devastated Sevier County last November. The Connexion not only provided shelter but it also was a site for gathering supplies to help the families who were affected by the fires. A Recovery Ministry is also in the plans for The Connexion.

Connexion was the way John Wesley spelled what is one of the distinctive characteristics of what it means to be a Methodist Christian. We believe that we can do more together than if we operated as independent congregations. That reality has been lived out over and over in Holston Conference.

Your continued support of our Connection makes it possible for the Office of Congregational Development to make a positive impact across our conference.

We would also like to express our gratitude to Sue Weber for her administrative support of The Office of Congregational Development. Her contributions to our work are invaluable.

~ Becky Hall, Chairperson

~ Rusty Taylor, Director
COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY

The Annual Conference Committee on Episcopacy (COE) 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 COE.

In our quarterly meeting in April 2016, the Holston Conference Report from the COE Review and Evaluation Conversations submitted by Del Holley and Carol Wilson on November 30, 2015 and the 2013-2015 Committee on Episcopacy form submitted by Steve Brown on November 1, were reviewed.

Three missional needs were identified and discussed by the committee.

1. **Adapting to new processes/structure out of the work of the Conference Strategy Team** including: right-sizing our districts and conference leadership structures, assuring that decisions are missionally-driven, not just to save dollars, and interpreting these changes to the larger conference audience.

2. **Developing cooperative efforts/resources to do ministry** including: exploring and developing new ways to share congregational ministries, implementing a grant from the National Plan for Hispanic Ministries to respond to our growing Hispanic/Latino population, implementing community partnerships through the leadership of Church and Community Workers, and reaching local neighborhood and communities, especially through church-school partnerships.

3. **Communicating the stories of the Annual Conference** including: telling the stories of what is going on to inspire, educate, and entice support and participation, guiding through times of change so efforts are unified, informing about change in the life of the Annual Conference, and utilizing all forms of communications to reach multiple generations and communication styles.

Bishop Taylor is committed to the Annual Conference fulfilling our mission “to make disciples of 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 to help them grow in areas where they need improvement.

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.
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. 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 and her family in our prayers as we work together to share the Good News to the world.

~ R. Steven Brown, Chair
COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

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

This will be accomplished by:

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

The Commission on Equitable Compensation will accomplish these objectives by:

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

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR EQUITABLE COMPENSATION SUPPORT

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

1. There shall be a Committee on Finance for the charge or for each congregation of the charge making application.

2. There shall be an educational program (approved by the District Superintendent) emphasizing specific stewardship goals of regular proportionate giving and tithing.

3. There shall be at least a simple income projection and spending plan for the congregation making application for a grant. A copy of that plan is to be attached to the application. No application will be considered complete until that plan is received.

4. The church/charge will have worked with the District Superintendent in reaching agreed upon goals related to its district and conference giving.
5. Requests shall be for a specific length of time, not to exceed four years. A specific written plan for getting off Equitable Compensation Support shall be submitted as a part of the application. The plan should be reviewed and updated at least annually to determine that adequate progress toward the ultimate goal is being achieved and celebrated. The total amount that the charge can expect over the four-year period would be determined up front. (Example: Total amount = $25,000; year one - $10,000; year two - $7,500; year three - $5,000; year four - $2,500; year five - $0.) The charge must annually pick up the 25% decrease from the previous year plus any increase in the minimum salary for its pastor as set by the conference for the coming year.

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

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

APPLICATION AND DISBURSEMENT PROCEDURES

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

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

- Total compensation from the charge including salary, travel allowance, parsonage utilities, social security payment, pastor’s share of medical insurance premiums (including salary reduction, if applicable.)
- Contributions from all other sources at the national, conference, district, and local church levels.
- All other income from church sources.

**Step 2:** The district superintendent will submit applications to the cabinet representative to the Commission on Equitable Compensation for review by the entire cabinet. Once approved, the applications will be forwarded to the Conference Administrative Services Office for disbursement.
Step 3: The decision of eligibility for and distribution of equitable compensation funds is delegated to the cabinet, which will, insofar as possible, seek to follow the conference guidelines on equitable compensation. The Commission on Equitable Compensation and the Conference Council on Finance and Administration encourage judicious stewardship in the allocation of these funds.

Step 4: The district superintendent shall diligently guide those charges and pastors who receive support in his/her district toward self-sufficiency.

MINIMUM SALARY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FULL-TIME SERVICE BY CONFERENCE MEMBERS

We are aware that many churches are striving to become self-supporting and are on their way to accomplish this. Also, there are churches that are struggling to keep their full time pastors, and it is our desire that they succeed in this.

After careful consideration the Commission on Equitable Compensation recommends a 2% increase to minimum salary requirements for 2018.

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

PLEASE NOTE: The Commission would like to once again remind all the churches and pastors of the Annual Conference that our recommendations apply only to those pastors that are receiving the MINIMUM salary. We do not make these recommendations with the assumption that all the churches of the Annual Conference will use our guideline of only a 2% increase.

We realize, however, that many, if not most churches do use our suggestion as THE recommendation from the Annual Conference for all churches. We strongly believe that this is simply a basic increase that is needed at the lowest end of our salary scale. We strongly encourage those churches that are paying above the minimum levels that we have listed below to seriously and prayerfully examine their unique situation. If the situation merits it, and the church can afford it, then by all means consider giving an increase greater than the 2% that we are recommending for the Conference Minimum Salary levels.

CATEGORIES TO BE FUNDED AND SCHEDULE OF MINIMUM SALARY LEVELS FOR 2018

For full-time service by Conference Members:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Minimum Salary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full Member (M.Div.) or equivalent degree</td>
<td>$41,808</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provisional Member (M.Div.) or equivalent degree</td>
<td>$39,424</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate Member</td>
<td>$37,855</td>
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For Service as Full-Time Local Pastors:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Minimum Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Master of Divinity (M.Div.)</td>
<td>$36,554</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed Studies</td>
<td>$35,585</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beginning Studies</td>
<td>$30,849</td>
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Equitable Compensation will be based on the Pastor’s Support Worksheet. The
Office of Administrative Services will send payments directly to the church
treasurers rather than to the pastors. The treasurers are to include the funds in the
pastor’s paychecks and account for them on the pastor’s W-2 forms. Equitable
compensation supplements shall not be included in the pastor’s compensation
line item on end-of-year reports.

**CHARGE CATEGORIES**

**Equitable Compensation Charge:** A charge in which the proposed equitable
salary schedule is not fully paid by the charge, but which possesses the potential
to become self-sustaining. Amount of funding will be reduced by 25% per year
with the church becoming self-sufficient within four years. Funding beyond four
years will be subject to a review by a joint committee of the Cabinet and the
Commission on Equitable Compensation.

**Mission Aid Ministry:** A ministry, rural or urban, where the minimum salary
level cannot be paid for by the ministry, either in full or in part; and where there
is no realistic expectation of financial independence. It is the responsibility of the
district, the pastor serving the ministry, and a representative of the related charge
conference to justify the designation of such a ministry and why it qualifies for
aid. The designation is to be reviewed annually.

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

**QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS**

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

A seminary or college student may be appointed full or part-time as a local
pastor to a charge and will receive at least the appropriate minimum salary of
the Annual Conference in accordance with paragraph 318.3 of the *2016 Book of
Discipline*. Students who qualify as a full-time local pastor will receive at least
the appropriate minimum salary of the Annual Conference.

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

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

a) Work at least 2 1/2 days per week on site.
b) Work full-time each week the student is not in school.
c) Be absent from Sunday worship no more than three Sundays per year.
The charge/church receiving salary supplementation must pay at least 50% of the minimum salary, provide housing or a housing allowance for the pastor and offer Sunday school and other local church programs in addition to weekly worship services.

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

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

**STEPS IN BECOMING A SELF-SUPPORTING CHARGE/CHURCH**

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

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

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

~ Terry Goodman, Chair
**EQUITABLE COMPENSATION FUNDS DISTRIBUTION**

**JULY 1, 2016 - JUNE 30, 2017**

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<td>$600</td>
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<td>Trenton Coop Parish</td>
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<td>$600</td>
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<td>Lookout Mountain</td>
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<td>Washington Hills</td>
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<td>Eastdale Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newbern/Mountain View</td>
<td>WY</td>
<td>$2,291</td>
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DISCIPLESHIP TEAM REPORT

The main goal and focus of our Discipleship Team is to help local congregations know who we are, what we do, and how we function. To accomplish this, our Team has adopted the theme of “Go Be the Church”. Our hope and goal is to help local congregations know that the Discipleship Team functions solely for the purpose of connecting them to much needed resources.

The Discipleship Team seeks to aid congregations of all shapes and sizes to utilize us, our teams, and our members to aid in a variety of ways, such as an extensive Missions Team who can help connect local congregations to local missions or worldwide missions, or an African American Ministries Task Force who can help all local congregations better understand the history, value, and influence of the African American church, or the Stewardship Team who seeks to provide churches with tools to effectively tackle stewardship issues their congregations might be facing.

Our Nurture Team represents a huge range of ministries, all helpful to any local congregation such as a Children’s Ministry Team who can help local churches resource programs directly targeting children. Our Conference Council on Youth Ministries is a great place for our youth to serve from each district and a resource specifically for youth! Our Holston Conference Camping program can provide summer camp opportunities from preschool age to high school age, as well as retreat opportunities for local congregations. The Young Adult Ministry Team serves not only to provide worship opportunities for young adults but also they can resource churches seeking to reach young adults. These are all ways our Nurture Team can help to resource your church!

Our Outreach/Advocacy Team is a voice for many in our congregations tackling issues of religion and race, church and society, the status and role of women, Christian unity, disability concerns, and many other voices that play a role in our churches today and need to be heard!

Our Witness Team not only works closely with our Hispanic congregations but they also exist to help aid us as a conference and as local churches to reach out into our communities with relational evangelism and witnessing to the story and love of Jesus Christ.

With all our areas of ministry, teams, clergy, and laity, we exist for you, the local church, to empower you in your ministry, to provide resources, connections, and relationships, and to be in ministry alongside you! You, local congregations, made up of all types of people and history are what make our Holston Annual Conference so awesome! So please call on us as a Discipleship Team to resource your ministry and together we can and will GO BE THE CHURCH!

~ Liz Hamilton, Chair
AFRICAN AMERICAN MINISTRY TASK FORCE

Our task force has been meeting regularly since the 2016 Holston Annual Conference. We have been working for almost one year on African American Ministries in Holston, and we have had some deep conversations about our mission. We celebrate the long history of African American contributions to the Conference and believe that the work of the Conference is enriched by working together. We will focus on empowerment by strengthening the predominantly African American churches and on education for the Conference as a whole by bringing a richer awareness of the African American experience. African Americans are an integral part of our web of community, and we want to understand how we are connected. Areas of concern include mass incarceration resulting from the school to prison pipeline, re-segregation of schools, gentrification of neighborhoods making African Americans in the community invisible, economics and poverty, and political participation including voting. Several of our African American churches are implementing effective efforts to reach out to members of the community and partner with them to address and alleviate the challenges they are facing. We hope to expand these efforts into more communities and to encourage dialogues that shine a light on what separates and unites us. We are inspired by the scriptures of reconciliation and love for one another and by the African philosophy of Ubuntu which promotes our humanity to one another.

~ Carl Marshall, Chair

MISSIONS MINISTRY TEAM

Mission is not something we do, but who we are as followers of the Risen Lord. The Church is only truly the Church when it is moving outward into the world. Carlos F. Cardoza-Orlandi (2002), in his book, Mission: An Essential Guide, reminds us all that since God is in mission… the Church is in mission (p. 14), a mission rooted in God’s salvation history. God is working both within the Church and with the Church, calling the people of God to participate in God’s action in the world. Cardoza-Orlandi continues, “Therefore, the church lives in two realities: it is born out of God’s mission and it participates in God’s mission” (p. 46). When a Church embraces its calling and bears witness to God’s salvation history, proclaiming Jesus the Christ, the Holy Spirit works in the Church and outside the Church, transforming both the Church and the world.

Mission is in the DNA of Methodism. Our Book of Discipline (2016) explains our responsibility and calling to go out into the world and witness to the grace and love of Christ through missions. The section on missions is outlined in Part IV- The Ministry of All Christians. Paragraph 130 explains the call of the local church and reminds us:

“The people of God, who are the church made visible in the world, must convince the world of the reality of the gospel or leave it unconvinced. There can be no evasion or delegation of this responsibility; the church is
either faithful as a witnessing and serving community, or it loses its vitality and its impact…” (p. 98).

While these words remind us of living as a faithful community, there is also an individual, personal reality. Missions should not or cannot be delegated to a select few. Missions is the calling of each person who seeks to live The Way of Jesus. Anglican priest and missionary, Henry Martyn, stated it this way, “The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we become.” As you continue to grow closer to Christ, the Mission Team prays you will accept God’s invitation to go out into your community and the world to experience the abundant blessings of serving through missions.

The Mission Team affirms these words realizing discipleship and transformation take place most significantly at the local church level, and seeks to connect local congregations with God’s redemptive work in the world. More specifically, the Mission Team is focused on inviting, inspiring, and involving the people of the Holston Conference in God’s life-giving, transformative mission in their personal lives, in their communities and in the world.

This report endeavors to provide a brief overview of just some of the mission opportunities throughout Holston. Our Conference has a strong foundation and tradition of excellence in missions work established by the devotion, commitment, and leadership of those who have faithfully responded to God’s call to serve and go into the world. Currently, the Holston Conference is actively engaged in Africa, Central and South America, Eastern Europe, Turkey, India, and throughout the United States. A special thanks to all the missionaries, team leaders and church leaders for your prayers, support, and sacrificial service. Because of your efforts, we are able to celebrate that over 200 short term mission teams have faithfully served and shown the love of Christ to our neighbors both far and near.

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

Fred and Libby Dearing (South Sudan)
Helen Roberts-Evans (Liberia)
John and Denise Redmond (Czech Republic)
Peter Pereira (India)
Bruce and Emy P (Middle East)
Rebecca S (MOT)
Mike Feely (Henderson Settlement)
Bill Lovelace (Lithuania)
Rukang and Fresie Chikomb (Democratic Republic of Congo)
Fran Lynch Baxter (Alaska Missionary Conference)
Lyn and Sharon Foglemen (Mission Society/South Sudan)
The following reports were submitted to celebrate the on-going missions throughout the Conference:

**South Sudan Partnership- Ministry In The Midst Of War**

2016 proved to be a very difficult and devastating year for our brothers and sisters in South Sudan. After two and a half short years of peace as a new nation, civil war broke out in December of 2013. It seemed that the area of South Sudan where The United Methodist Church is concentrated would escape the violence and disruption of war, but in July of 2016, it became apparent that many of those we have come to know and love would have to flee South Sudan for a safer place until the violence of war subsides. Thousands from Yei River State have fled to neighboring Uganda, joining others from parts of South Sudan who are in harm’s way with little ability to provide for their families or themselves. The resettlement camps of northern Uganda continue to expand to meet the needs of several thousand each day that cross the borders, leaving their homeland in desperation.

In the midst of the climate of war in South Sudan, amazingly, some of the UMC schools and churches are still open and functioning, with dedicated staff and pastors who remained behind to continue the journey of liberating minds and hearts of those who remain. We continue to be in partnership with them to insure that their efforts are not in vain and that they know and trust that God will not walk away in their time of need, nor will we.

A recent visit to Uganda to reconnect with those who have settled in the camps provided a glimpse of new ministry opportunities in the midst of such a troubled time:

- Clean water is scarce amidst a lot of competition in areas with so many people. Funds have been released to establish a well near the Grace Home staff and children, with intentions of adding more wells as funds are provided and locations are identified.

- Educating the children and youth is imperative to enable the students to remain on track to become the citizens and leaders of South Sudan when they return home. Sponsors and donors are making it possible for an education that costs significantly more in northern Uganda.

- The staff and children of Grace Home are all together and functioning as family, supportive of one another and trusting God for the next day. Funds have been released to provide substantial shelter for them for the interim period until they can return home. The children are being educated in available opportunities.

- Several of our pastors reside in the camps, eager to establish places of worship and connection for those who have fled. Funds have been released to construct four churches and pit latrines, one near the location of Grace Home staff and children, others at locations selected strategically by the pastors.
We are committed to remain in partnership with our brothers and sisters in South Sudan, knowing that God’s faithfulness is constant and can be lived out through each of you in the darkest hour of this new nation. We remain in partnership in ministry and prayer, so that one day hearts will be transformed and made new. And yes, we will one day walk hand-in-hand back across the border into South Sudan with our brothers and sisters. Thank you, Holston, for your faithfulness, not just for now, but also for eternity.

~ Danny Howe, Country Coordinator for South Sudan

**English Speaking UMC- Prague**

ESUMC’s current mission continues to be establishing an English-speaking church in the city of Prague, CZ. Our church mission statement is: Imperfect and diverse people striving to know Christ and love others. I have returned to the United States twice since last year’s Annual Conference, speaking in local churches and meeting with mission leaders to communicate the needs and opportunities for the church plant and missions work. Most recently I just visited the United States for the mission celebration conference at First Broad Street as well as speaking at Crossroads UMC in Kingsport this past weekend. Both trips were successful in raising awareness about the depravity and spiritual hunger for the gospel in the country of Czechia (Czech Republic), one of the atheistic countries in the world, where God is unknown, and 90% of the population has no faith belief.

During this most recent trip, I also met with an advisory board to start the conversation of re-visioning and further defining our mission. It was also encouraging and helpful in establishing a support group for the mission to assist in communication, raising funds, and planning for sustainability.

Concerning the church plant, we are celebrating the recent remolding of our worship place. Not only will this provide a great place for worship but it will also prove a flexible space for fellowship and ministry. Our leadership has also decided to change our service time on Sundays from 4pm to 11am. The hope with this change is to allow for a more consistent group of people to participate in church beyond Sunday worship and grow in their discipleship. One new and exciting opportunity where this can be lived out is through serving at the homeless shelter for the Roma community. The Roma’s are an invisible people at best, and at worse, a disliked population with few opportunities.

Recently, we received a generous donation for a dance ministry to start in the fall! We were blessed to have a young woman join our fellowship who asked if she could start this in our church sanctuary. She began her ministry in a different city and had great success with outreach to believers and non-believers alike. They averaged around 100 students from ages of 4-20 years old.

We continue to build and strengthen our ongoing ministries and missions, as well as offering Bible studies, the English Conversation Group, English Language Learning, a growing Student Ministry, and Women’s Accountability
Group. Additionally, there is an on-going, growing Sports camp ministry in a neighboring community that served over 80 kids last year. It has been a great way to connect sports with the gospel and yielded 6 professions of faith.

I am very hopeful for the future of ESUMC and hopeful in the knowledge the advisory team will provide resources and support to take this mission to the next level. God is at work in the Czech and I am looking forward to seeing what God will do through our church and mission.

If you would like more information on the mission you can visit the website at esmuc.cz or contact me at john@esumcprague.org. To support the mission through the Holston Conference, gifts can be sent to The Holston Conference UMC, PO Box 850, Alcoa, TN 37701-0850 Advance #716. Thank you for your prayers and gifts which are bringing the light of Christ into this part of the world.

~ John Redmond, Pastor and missionary to the ESUMC Prague

**Muslim Outreach Team (MOT)**

Building relationships is the foundation for the Muslim Outreach Team. The MOT is planning educational events throughout the conference to foster deepening understanding. One MOT couple who have worked in Indonesia, Kazakhstan and Turkey retired in 2014 but continue to live in Turkey part-time and maintain connections with Muslim and Christian friends there. One of them is the editor of a Turkish website where the old Ottoman Turkish translations of the Bible are displayed (www.osmanlicakelam.net). Your continued prayers and support are appreciated.

**Church and Community Workers**

Another way Holston connects the local church with the community is through our Church and Community Workers (CCWs) assigned through The General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM.) Holston is blessed with 5 CCWs: Koni Purscell serves the Big Stone Gap District; Brooke Atchley serves in the Tazewell District; Mark Stransky and Harry Howe are at Project Crossroads in and around Marion, Virginia and Linda Stransky serves at The Jubilee Project in Hancock County, Morristown District. Thank you for your prayerful and faithful support of these missionaries and missions.

**Jubilee Project, Inc.**

Jubilee Project is located in Sneedville, TN, and serves the people of Hancock County which is the 2nd poorest county in Tennessee. The ministry addresses a variety of issues that affect an area where poverty is prevalent. These areas include clean, accessible water to homes, substandard housing, and food sufficiency. In the midst of meeting these basic needs the ministry strives to build relationship with those they serve through sharing the love and grace of Jesus Christ and thus opening the door for God to come in and transform lives. Also, working to empower those they serve to improve their own lives. There are 2 ongoing group programs to provide fellowship, support, and spiritual growth; one is for middle and high school youth and one is for women.
2016 was a productive year for the project:

- 25 mission teams did home repairs and handicap-accessibility changes on 22 homes.
- 12 homes were served through the water project
- A summer feeding program through Second Harvest Food Bank was started and over June and July around 6,573 meals were served and 672 food boxes distributed to participating families. These numbers were made possible through serving as a pilot program in July for Share Our Strength, No Kid Hungry.
- 5 youth were sent to Wesley Woods on scholarship for their first camp experience.
- The total value of donations, goods, and services for the year was $345,483.
- Including multiple visits: 7666 people were served through the food ministry, 3999 through the personal care ministry, and 676 through the household items.

If you would like to participate in the ministries at Jubilee Project, there are several ways:

- Prayer for the ministers and those they serve.
- Contribute either monetarily or with items to one of the ministries.
- Send a mission team to work with the home repair or water project ministries. All teams are welcome including intergenerational, adult, or youth who can serve for a week, weekend or even a day.
- Help spread the word about the ministry of Jubilee Project and invite someone from the ministry to speak at your church.

For more information, contact Rev. Linda Stransky, Executive Director
Jubilee Project, Inc. P.O. Box 657 Sneedville, TN 37869 423-733-4195

~ Linda Stransky, Executive Director

Project Crossroads

Project Crossroads has experienced some growth in the medical ministry this past year in our partnership with the Mel Leaman Free Clinic. We have moved to our new clinic that was built for us by Emory & Henry College and we now have a larger facility where we can see more patients and provide more medical services. We also have increased our service area to include portions of Grayson and Washington Counties as well as Smyth County and have already seen an increase in the number of patients. With the closing of the Wesley Clinic in Abingdon, we received some medical equipment as well as a donation that enabled us to purchase a mobile medical/dental unit. We will begin to provide dental screenings and care as well as medical care to isolated communities in our
service area. Through the partnership with Emory & Henry College School of Health Sciences we will be receiving the first students in the Physician Assistant program this coming May. As a part of the partnership we will be a teaching clinic. We will be teaching PA students while they are here taking classes. Also as a principal partner in the RAM Smyth County we will be hosting our second RAM Clinic in May of this year. We are anticipating an increase in the number of patients coming for dental, vision, and medical care during this event.

During our summer season this past year we had some new teams as well as many returning teams come and serve with us in our home rehab ministry. We were able to do work on over 40 homes in order to make them safe and secure for those that are low income, elderly, and handicapped in our communities. At this point we have 34 teams already committed for this year and have several that are looking at possible dates to come and serve with us.

Through the winter, we have been busy cutting splitting and delivering firewood to families and our communities. We are grateful to the teams that come and help us get our firewood ready. Mark has been busy coordinating with local churches as well as visiting churches to help with this ministry. Two teams from the conference have been coming for several years in order to help us get our firewood ready. They are Beaver Ridge United Methodist Church and Central United Methodist Church.

We want to thank the Conference and all the churches for your support in our ministries at Project Crossroads and your continued presence as we serve together in missions.

~ Harry Howe (and Mark Stransky), Project Crossroads

Elk Garden School Community Ministry

Established in 2015, the mission of The Elk Garden School Community Ministry exists to improve the physical, mental, social, and spiritual health of the community. The 100 year Elk Garden school building was repaired and remodeled to address the needs and serve the communities of the northern part of Russell County, including Elk Garden, Lebanon, Honaker, and Belfast, Va.

The ministry provides resources, space, and assistance so that those being served not only have their physical or emotional needs met but also experience God’s grace and love. Some of the ways the Elk Garden School Community Ministry demonstrates love for their neighbor are:

* community garden
* nutrition and cooking classes
* Narcotics Anonymous
* thrift store
* fitness classes
* after-school program
* walking track
Brooke Atchley is a Church and Community worker assisted by Mary Chapieski, a part-time local pastor, and recently hired a part-time gardening coordinator. The mission also has numerous volunteers from the local church and community strengthening and supporting the mission.

**Big Stone Gap- Koni Purscell**

Of the three counties comprising the heart of Big Stone Gap District, Lee County has 23 percent of its population living below the poverty level, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Wise County has 22 percent, and Scott County has 17 percent. Statewide, 10 percent of all Virginians live below the poverty level, which is $22,350 in annual income for a family of four. To help those struggling with poverty, Koni Purscell accepted an appointment as a CCW to Holston in 2011. Koni has developed several ministries to assist those in need including: church and community renewal, providing direct support and programs for systemic change for people in this rural area. This includes work with food banks, summer gardens, children’s ministries, thrift stores, and Christmas assistance for some 500 families.

**Holston Conference Initiatives**

**Hands-On-Mission Offering**

One of the most powerful ways the people of Holston partner with God to change lives is through the annual Hands-on-Missions project. Last year was another tremendous outpouring of support and generosity. We celebrated three shipping containers filled with health kits, school kits, sewing kits, home buckets, and food buckets bound for Liberia and Zimbabwe. Each of the 12 Districts and 887 churches helped us exceed our goal 9,018 kits were supplied by the churches throughout Holston with a total value of $221,337.92. Thank you to Jerry Russell for his leadership of this mission area and for your continued support and generosity.

**Annual Conference Offering 2016- Children in Poverty**

Last year’s Annual Conference Missions offering continued to focus on Children in Poverty within the Holston Conference addressing issues faced families and children in local communities throughout Holston. The 2015 Children in Poverty offering collected $195,150.29 in total and the 2016 offering yielded $125,400.47. These funds were made available throughout 2015-2017 to provide grants for local churches. The grants were written to address local needs and to connect churches with their communities. In total, 55 churches of the 887 churches in the Conference received grant money totaling nearly $190,000. Almost every church which applied for a grant was awarded money. New ministries emerged and existing ministries created new outreach programs. Among some of the ministries created were partnerships with local schools providing feeding...
programs, after school ministries, and reading enrichment ministries. Two 
grants addressed camp scholarships which will help children hear the story of 
Jesus. Assistance in Recovery ministries will set people free from addiction and 
help heal families. Some of the grant money will help mothers struggling with 
addictions and their babies who were born addicted.

The Children in Poverty Mission offering received during the Missions 
Celebration totaled $100,849. This money was used to once again provide grant 
 funds for local churches to address children in poverty- especially through 
school partnerships.

Thank you for your generous support.

**Disaster Response Ministries 2016-2017 Report**

Holston Conference Disaster Response Ministries has trained twenty-nine 
volunteers in Basic Early Response Team and Chainsaw Safety Classes and two 
recertification's, (UMCOR mandatory every three years), in ERT for a total of 
thirty-one trained.

The Sevier County Wild Fires response has been the major focus of the disaster 
year. Thousands of local persons have stepped up and volunteered to support 
the fire survivors thus eliminating the need for H C ERT’s responding directly 
to the fire recovery effort. H C Spiritual & Emotional Care teams supported 
the TN Fire Chaplin’s efforts to counsel fire responders and survivors. The H 
C Disaster Response Coordinator contacted the International Brotherhood of 
Electrical Workers and gained their support to assist with their electrician skills 
during the rebuild efforts. H C is coordinating with the Appalachian Service 
Project Team to do rebuild. We expect UMC Southeastern Jurisdiction UMVIM 
Teams to assist along with the UMC NOMADS.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), recognized by FEMA 
as a leading source in disaster case management, has been asked to train the 
Disaster Response Case Workers for the unmet needs support committee for 
Sevier County Long Term Recovery.

The HC Disaster Response Coordinator serves as a member of the Unmet Needs 
Committee for the Sevier County Wild Fires Long Term Recovery effort.

Long Term Recovery is expected to take several years and H C Disaster 
Response Ministries will be a long term partner in those efforts.

~*Jim Fetzer, Disaster Response Coordinator*

**Conclusion**

There are numerous missions that also occur through local church and district 
missions serving people and communities throughout Holston. Thank you for 
all the ways you are reaching out beyond the walls to share the hope and love 
of Jesus Christ.

~*Tom Hancock, Chair*
NURTURE TEAM

The Nurture Team has the opportunity to work with conference level ministry teams in Holston Conference as we seek to help leaders and congregations grow by coming to more fully know and experience God’s love for us in Jesus Christ. We have been blessed to witness the way God has been at work in Holston through our ministries with children, youth, young adults and older adults. We are grateful for the opportunity that God has given us to see grace in action through ministries and events such as Resurrection, RezKids, Divine Rhythm and Jubilation.

We celebrate the way young people have come to faith through Camping and Retreat Ministries and rejoice at the opportunity God has given us to partner with the Appalachian Trail Ministry.

We are planning our second Worship Conference, scheduled for October 6-7, 2017, in which we will learn from Dr. Ed Phillips and Rev. Barbara Day Miller of Candler School of Theology. The focus of this year’s conference is on the power of baptism and holy communion to strengthen and shape our congregations to more fully live and love in the way of Jesus. We covet your prayers and hope to see you in October.

We are so grateful for your support of the ministries of the Nurture Team and for your commitment to growing in the love and knowledge of Christ.

~ Daniel Ogle, Chair

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY TEAM

The Young Adult Ministry Team wishes to thank LaTricia Craft-Schobert for leading our workshop at this year’s Divine Rhythm. She did a great job presenting a quick beginners guide to grant writing for young adults. Young adults often have great ideas for ministry that answers the needs they see in their communities, but funding those ideas can be difficult. We hope to be back at DR ’18 with even more workshop opportunities for young adults who want grow in the practice of their Christian faith.

Do you have questions about how to begin Young Adult Ministry in the context of your local church? Are you a young adult looking to connect to churches in your area? Perhaps you have a great story to tell about how your church is doing ministry with the young adults in your midst. If so, connect to the YAMT and other churches in Holston through our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/HolstonUMCYMYoungAdults

~ Keith Moore, Chair
Annual Conference On-Site Mission Opportunity

On Tuesday, June 13, of Holston's Annual Conference, 12:30 p.m., you will have the opportunity to participate in packaging 10,000 meals. The Rise Against Hunger 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! (Volunteers for set-up needed at 11:30 a.m.)

Everyone is invited to participate and we do ask the children to please bring a parent(s) with you. We need set-up volunteers and participants.

To sign-up to volunteer, participate, and/or contribute, go to:  
http://events.stophungernow.org/HolstonUMCconference

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.

RiseAgainstHunger.org for more information
Together we CAN END Hunger

Sponsored by the Holston Conference Missions Team
Ishe Anesu, which means "God is with us," holds a special place in the hearts of Holston Conference congregations. When you visit, you find a Rock City birdhouse from Chattanooga and a storage unit filled with food buckets provided by Holston churches through the annual Hands-On Mission Project. For 20 years, Maria and Bill Humbane have provided the leadership for this school and community outreach that literally saves the lives of the poorest children in Mutare, Zimbabwe. Holston has provided the food for these children for over 18 years. Children who are vulnerable to the ravages of disease and poverty now thrive through the love, care, and support offered without fail.

Holston will continue to provide food buckets this year as part of our hands-on mission kit collection. In addition, Ishe Anesu is the recipient of this year’s mission offering.

In 2017 Maria and Bill Humbane are retiring. Due to visa requirements, they will return to their home country of Mozambique. The ministry of Ishe Anesu will continue. For its future to be secure, Holston is providing a cash offering that will be used to meet the immediate needs and provide the foundation for long-term security for the school.

The children of Ishe Anesu have become Holston’s children. We are committed to their welfare and to providing for their future. This is our chance to express our appreciation to Bill and Maria for their selfless giving to the children and this ministry. This is our time to invest in the children whose lives will be transformed by the touch of Christ through Ishe Anesu.
For the past two years, we have challenged ourselves to give to ministry with the children who live in the shadows of our church buildings. This year, we expand that vision to give to the children who live in the shadow of God’s love thousands of miles away. All these children are held in the palm of God’s hand. All these children are the precious ones Jesus invited to come to him.

Please share in the Holston Conference Mission Offering for Ishe Anesu on May 7 or the Sunday designated by your congregation. Your pastor or lay member to Annual Conference will then bring your church’s offering to Annual Conference for the Tuesday evening Mission Celebration.

Thank you, Holston, for the ways you care for all God’s children and for your commitment to the children of Ishe Anesu.

Please give.

Mark your gift for Ishe Anesu Mission Offering and give it through your local church offering. Thank you!

For information on Ishe Anesu, visit http://ac.holston.org.

Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church
P. O. Box 850 • Alcoa, TN 37701-0850 • 865/690-4080
www.holston.org
The Advance
Advancing hope in Christ's name
Holston Annual Conference 2018
www.holston.org

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
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

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<td>Pratsi Chikomb</td>
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<td>777</td>
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<td>The Rev. Bill Loveless</td>
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<td>Helen Roberts-Evans</td>
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(Other missionaries may be supported by Holston churches. Inquiries should be made through the Conference Mission Sec.)

B. Africa
1. ISHE ANESU Project/Maria Hambwe
   Zambabwa
   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: 007625A
   074
D. Estonia
   1. Baltic Mission Center
   Code: 016923-N
   055
2. Baltic Methodist
   Code: 14021B
   203
   Theological Seminary Scholarship ($1,500 per year)
E. Paraguay
   New Horizon School
   Code: 302-1889
   421
Covenant Relationships
with Missionaries and Persons in Mission
Although advance salary support for missionaries is needed in any amount, churches wishing to have a Conference Covenant Relationship with a missionary provide $1,000 per year. Churches under 333 members provide $3 per member per year. A GBOM 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 Missionary 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
   Appalachian Missionary Conference
   Code: 982050
   022

B. Appalachian Ministries Network
   Code: 982041
   007

C. Appalachian Service Project
   Code: 982090
   092

D. Cherokee U.M. Church, Cherokee, NC
   Code: 731144
   153

E. Four Corners Native American Ministries,
   Shiprock, NM
   Code: 581254
   023

F. Henderson Settlement, Frakes, Kentucky
   Code: 773365
   088

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

UMCOR Advance

A. Heifer Project International
   Code: 982418
   021

B. Heifer Project, Living Gift
   Code: 982332
   031

C. UMCOR Disaster Response in U.S.
   Code: 981670-1
   026

D. UMCOR Emergency Relief (Around the World)
   Code: 982430-8
   050

E. World Hunger / Poverty
   Code: 982920
   016
Holston Annual Conference
Offering
Ishe Anesu, Mutare, Zimbabwe

Conference Advance
A. Persons in Mission assigned to Holston Conference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Harry Howe</td>
<td>Marion, VA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kool Parcells</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooke Ashley</td>
<td>Tazewell, VA</td>
<td>085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred and Libby Dearing</td>
<td>Middle East</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linda Strusky</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark Strusky</td>
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B. Asbury, Inc

C. Muslim Outreach Team Project

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D. Campus Ministry and Wesley Foundations

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<tr>
<td>ETSU</td>
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<td>UT Knoxville</td>
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<td>UVA at Wise</td>
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E. Disaster Relief Within Holston Conference

F. District Advance (Indicate which project)

G. Habitat for Humanity Ministries

H. Hispanic Ministries within Holston Conference

I. Holston Conference Camps

1. Campships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Project No.</th>
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<tr>
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2. Camp Development Funds

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3. Annual Ministry Funds

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4. Camp in the Community

5. Camp & Retreat Ministries

6. Strength for the Journey Scholarships

(HIV/AIDS Retreats)
Conference Advance
Continued

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

K. Neighborhood Centers
1. Bethel Community Center 079
2. Wesley House Community Center 080

L. Student Aid, Conference Scholarship Grants
1. Emmaus and Henry College 085
2. Hiwassee College 045
3. Tennessee Wesleyan University 125

M. Support for Action Ministries
1. AgriMission, Inc 360
2. Anglican Ministries (KN) 637
3. Big Sandy Gap Dist. Church & Community Renewal 141
4. Blue Moon Ranch 813
5. CASA of East Tennessee (KN) 493
6. CASA of East Tennessee (CL) 611
7. CASA of the Tennessee Heartland (OA) 455
8. Coalition for Kids, Inc (IO) 133
9. COMPASSION Counseling 849
10. Crossroads Medical Mission (AB) 364
11. Emerald Youth Foundation-Just Lead (KN) 014
12. GATE/Gateway to Independence (MA) 612
13. Good Samaritan Ministries, Inc (GC) 066
14. Graceland (MN) 828
15. Interfaith Health Clinic (KN) 492
16. Jubilee Project, Inc (MC) 015
17. Morgan-Scott Project (OA) 013
18. Partners for Children 536
19. Plott House School (OR) 106
20. Project Crossroads Ministries (AB) 047
21. Second Harvest Food Bank 759
22. St. Andrews Center (CH) 110
23. Susannah’s House (KN) 830
24. Unity Center (CL) 151
25. Wesley Medical Clinic (AB) 674

N. 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 300
4. New Church Development in Latvia 365
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O. World Ministries
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2. English Speaking UMC-Prague 716
   —John J. Redmond
3. Haiti Water Project 671
4. South Sudan Projects 537
5. Hope for Today—India 490
6. Magby Bessany—
   Ambassadors for Christ International 501
7. Mary Diana Samuel Orphanage—India 579
8. The Rescue Ministries—Philippines 676

P. “Change for Children” 012

The Advance
Advancing hope in Christ’s name
Holston Annual Conference 2018
www.holston.org
According to numbers provided by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, 3,064 hikers registered to thru-hike in 2016. Statistically, it can be assumed that at least 288 of them were struggling with addictions on the AT. In my opinion, this number is extremely conservative; I can say with confidence that hundreds of individuals using the Appalachian Trail in 2016 were living with some form of active addiction to drugs or alcohol. These would include non-registered thru-hikers, section hikers, and weekend and day hikers.

One man who crossed my path on a regular basis fell into the binge drinking category early in his hike. By the time I saw him for the last time in Virginia, his drinking had escalated to the point that others were beginning to be concerned about his health and safety. He had progressed from drinking occasionally while in town to packing out liters of whiskey and staying in shelters for days at a time. At first, it was assumed that he just liked to party and had a demonstrative personality. Before long, other hikers began to avoid him because of erratic and reckless behavior. Soon it became clear that he had a serious drinking problem and was in a destructive downward spiral.

I talked with him several times and shared my story; however, I do not think that I was ever able to have a conversation with him when he was not under the influence of alcohol. He did admit to me that he had a problem, but that he felt that there was no hope. He made a statement that I will never forget. He said, “I wish that I had known this was going to happen…that someone had noticed this about me when I was younger. I’ve been a drunk from the very first time I took a sip. It has never been a secret…but no one told me I was going to ruin my d*** life.”

The last time I heard any news regarding him, he was seen skipping a section of the trail and hitchhiking to a town where he had heard there was a liquor store. This man was just one example of someone who was hiking the trail while struggling with an advanced phase of addiction.

It is my belief that the Appalachian Trail Outreach Ministry and the Chaplaincy program provide a needed service to those who use the trail each year. People are struggling, need help and a source of hope, and this ministry is carrying the love of Christ into a specific area of the world that is not accessible by traditional means of service offered by the church. We are literally able to “Go Tell It on the Mountain.” While I was unable to hike all of the miles, I am thankful to have been able to be a part of this year’s work.

~ Chuck Jones

2016 Appalachian Trail Chaplain
Camp and Retreat Ministries

The 2017 session of Holston Annual Conference marks the 32nd anniversary of Conference Camping ministries as we know them today. “Sharing the Love of Christ in the Glory of God’s Creation!” describes the mission. Helping local churches of Holston in “Making Disciples for the Transformation of the World” continues to guide our work.

The summer camp setting offers a unique opportunity for children and young people to connect with God’s love in forming a lifelong faith. Counselors trained in sharing their faith, leading Bible studies, and conducting outdoor camping adventure activities live faithful lives of love each day of camp. The faith these counselors inspire is remarkable. During the summer of 2016, 228 campers made first-time faith commitments and 497 campers made reaffirmation commitments to their faith. In addition, the overwhelming majority of campers share that they experienced God’s love while at camp. Many seeds of faith have been sown at summer camp.

Camp and Retreat Ministries continue to come back to life in the upper east Tennessee and lower southwest Virginia areas of the conference with the progress being made at Camp Bays Mountain. During 2016 the former Buffalo Mountain Camp property was sold. Most of the acreage will be added to the Cherokee National Forest to be preserved forever. Camp began again as Camp Bays Mountain by conducting off-site day camp and Senior High leadership programs serving 91 campers.

Camp Dickenson, Camp Lookout, and Camp Wesley Woods continue to serve the conference well as they each undergo strategic improvements. In 2017, Camp Dickenson will break ground on their long awaited Multi-purpose Center that will greatly expand ministry opportunities. A capital campaign at Camp Lookout will help them break ground on a new cabin cluster to expand outreach for a program operating at capacity. Camp Wesley Woods will complete the remodel of Nickle Lodge in 2017 which is the anchor project of their ministry.

During the fall of 2016, the Camp in the Community ministry was split off from Camp Wesley Woods as a separate entity. Under the leadership of Whitney Winston, this outreach ministry to children in poverty will double its previous
size, reach more than twice the children it has reached in the past, and add an exciting youth leadership component.

The 2017 session of Annual Conference is the occasion of the retirement of the Reverend Randy Pasqua, Executive Director of Holston’s Camp and Retreat Ministries for the last 23 years. He began his camping career in 1981, first as Director of Buffalo Mountain Camp and then Camp Lookout. On behalf of the Annual Conference, the members of the Camp and Retreat Ministries Board thank Randy for his faithful service and wish him well in the days ahead.

And as we move ahead, it is with great pleasure that the Camp and Retreat Ministries Board welcomes the Reverend Mary Carol Thompson as our Executive Director beginning July 1, 2017. The camping ministry in Holston has had a profound impact on Mary’s spiritual development and her call into ministry. She comes with enthusiasm and energy to help insure a future of significant faith encounters for all our campers and guests.

Total person’s served in 2016: 12,926

~ Dave Grant, CRM Board Chairman
~ Randy Pasqua, CRM Executive Director

**CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON YOUTH MINISTRIES (CCYM)**

I can honestly say being a part of CCYM changed my life for the better. I always had the opportunity to be a part of youth group but nothing outside of the local church. When I joined CCYM, I began to see so much more.

Youth are doing amazing things in our conference and aren’t always recognized. This year at Resurrection we raised over $22,000 dollars which will help benefit victims of the wildfires in Sevier County as well as multiple grants chosen by this council. I have also been able to help plan other conference events including Assembly, Youth in Mission, and Discovery. Whether it be finding a lifetime bond, doing mission work, or discovering your call to ministry, one or all of these events can forever change you.

To me, CCYM and the Holston Conference have helped me grow as a Christian, a student, and a son. I hope that through my time as a youth, and in my future as I continue to grow in Christ, I have helped others come to follow Jesus. The Lord is our cornerstone and we should help others to not stray from the path.

~ Dawson Lantz Kitts, President

**OLDER ADULT MINISTRIES**

As we look toward the future, one of the most important trends is the rapid growth of the older adult population (better known as the “boomer” generation). It is the largest generation and it promises to change the way we all look at aging. Statistics tell us that if a person today lives to age 65, chances are that person will live 20 years more with a life expectancy of 86 years. This presents a unique opportunity for our churches.
How can you stay connected to this growing group of new retirees? First, plan for and support an older adult ministry in your church. Second, help them journey through the process by holding pre-retirement classes or small groups. Third, be sure the church stays in contact with them and offer ways to serve. And finally, utilize their expertise and wisdom in the leadership of your congregation.

A number of our districts continue to foster ongoing local ministries in their districts and other districts are considering ways to revitalize their current program – but many churches do not have active older adult ministries. Jubilation – our conference event for older adults – continues to offer a quality retreat at a reasonable price for older adults – and has been self-funded with the help of generous grants. However, the grant funding is no longer available and the design team will be exploring ways to continue this quality ministry in the years to come.

Last month we hosted the 2017 event led by Dr. Mickey Efird, Professor Emeritus of Duke Divinity School. We were greatly enriched by his leadership as well as others who shared their gifts with us. Do you have older adults in your congregation? Was your church represented? If not, I challenge you to send someone next year. They will be greatly blessed and so will your congregation.

~ Gaye King
Associate Director of Connectional Ministries

**OUTREACH/ADVOCACY MINISTRY TEAM**

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

Two elders from Holston Conference attended the Young Clergy event in January 2017 at the General Board of Church and Society in Washington, DC. 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.

On immigration and refugee issues, we continue to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform at both the national and local level. We also stay locally connected to our immigrant neighbors in celebration and struggle. We are connected to the excellent work of the Hispanic Ministry Team and are partnering with them in growing Immigrant Welcoming Communities. In September 2016, we offered two sessions on “Welcoming Communities” training in the
Conference at Washington Pike UMC in Knoxville, TN, and the Unity Center in Cleveland, TN. Kristin Kumpf of GBCS led the sessions.

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 the Fall, 2016, they offered a retreat which was very well attended. This team has submitted a report which follows the O/A report.

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

At the Peace with Justice luncheon at Annual Conference in 2016, Outreach/Advocacy presented Kevin Blue, the Holston Peace with Justice Coordinator, who spoke on his vision of Peace with Justice. We were also represented at the Peace with Justice Gathering at GBCS in Washington, DC, in April 2017.

Our ministry team also offers support to the Virginia Chaplaincy Service, the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, and grants to address issues around HIV/AIDS. Through the Committee on Status and Role of Women (COSROW) and Race and Religion, monitoring of inclusive participation at Annual Conference is recorded and reported for 2016 and again this year.

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

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

~ Susan Montgomery, Chair

Strength for the Journey

Strength for the Journey (SFTJ) has been a “camping” ministry to persons with HIV/AIDS for about 17 years. As an official outreach ministry of the Holston Conference, SFTJ is part of a larger network of ministries based on the common model of providing a spiritual retreat for renewal in the lives of these patients. The practice of taking home and bringing back the ashes from the campfires allows for the continuing connection of camps and campers in the SFTJ community.
When the SFTJ ministry began, a diagnosis of HIV meant a death sentence inevitably leading to AIDS and a life expectancy of about two years. Now, the ongoing research has made it possible to live with the virus for much longer periods. Unfortunately, we still have memorial night during each session for friends who have died due to complications from the disease. The medical protocols and the other treatments make living with HIV difficult, so we are seeking a new development in how we “do camp.” The SFTJ board is considering how camp can be shaped for those persons newly diagnosed with HIV and those campers who have lived with the virus for a number of years. These are different perspectives of experience which present different challenges in ministry.

We still enjoy the hospitality of Wa Floy Campground’s Steiner Bell Retreat Center near Gatlinburg. We have a dedicated volunteer leadership for SFTJ. We appreciate the help we receive from Holston Conference and all our church partners in doing this ministry. Holston Conference is the only annual conference in the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church that has an SFTJ event. We receive campers from many different parts of the country. We know this ministry is helping many people in their walk with Christ.

~ C. Don Jones, Chair

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

This is a year of transition for our team. I want to give thanks to Debbie Stokes, our outgoing chair for the leadership she provided. Due to a mix-up in the hand-off procedure, I did not realize that I became the team leader in July of last year. I thought I took on this responsibility in January of 2017. So, our team is now in catch up mode having only met for the first time in February. We have, however, hit the ground running and are proposing the following initiatives in the year ahead:

First of all, we are in the process of ironing out final plans to bring Clayton L. Smith, executive pastor with leadership in the area of generosity at the Church of the Resurrection, to present two one-day workshops in our annual conference. The dates will be Saturday September 9, 2017 (Knoxville area) and Sunday September 10, 2017 (Abingdon area). These workshops will be designed to help us better understand the concept of generosity and provide you with information and materials that you can take back to your local church. Please mark these dates and plan to attend one of these sessions. As details become finalized, they will be shared through various methods with the churches of the annual conference.

Secondly, we have been in discussion with members of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CCFA) about a joint venture to help our churches better understand the role that estate planning might have in the future funding of the ministries of our local churches and annual conference. We are still in the discussion phase of this project/idea. Our goal is to create material and/or provide seminars at the local church level to help a church understand the
The Holston Conference Witness Team exists to help local congregations fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus: “Make Disciples.” We strive to be a resource for local congregations in their work of proclaiming, discovering, and inviting persons into a relationship with Jesus Christ. In addition, the Witness Team offers grants to local churches for outreach and evangelism programs which help churches connect with communities within the Holston Annual Conference to reach people for Jesus Christ.

During this past year, several Evangelism Program Grants were awarded to churches making a great impact in the work of evangelism and outreach.

- Roan Mountain UMC = $4,840.00
- Rich Creek UMC = $10,000.00
- South Bristol UMC = $4,500.00
- Stanley UMC = $8,650.00

During our 2016 Holston Annual Conference, the prestigious Harry Denman Evangelism Award recognized three individuals who excel in sharing Christ with others. The Denman Evangelism Award was presented to the Rev. Jason Roe, Maryville District (clergy); Julie Hayes, Broadway UMC, Maryville District (lay); and Drew Dunn, Bear Springs UMC, Tazewell District (youth).

Finally and most importantly, Holston Conference had a total of 1,995 professions of faith in 2016. This is also a challenge to win more for Christ.

~ Terry Goodman, Chair
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

### CHURCHES OF EXCELLENCE IN EVANGELISM

#### Abingdon District

**GOLD**
- Valley View
- Marion First
- Pleasant View

**SILVER**
- Abingdon
- Aldersgate
- Addilynn Memorial
- Roberts Chapel
- South Bristol
- Wharf Hill

**BRONZE**
- Marys Chapel
- Madam Russell
- Lebanon Memorial United Methodist
- First Bristol
- Church Hill
- Byars Cobb Memorial
- Grace
- Three Springs
- Trinity

**HONORABLE MENTION**
- Weaver
- Mountain City F
- John Wesley
- Elizabeth
- Anderson St
- Beech Grove
- Boohers Chapel
- Brumley Gap
- Charles Wesley
- Chilhowie
- Crabtree
- Davis Memorial
- Emory
- Green Wood
- Meadowview
- Mt Carmel
- Reynolds Memorial
- Washington Springs
- Carvosso

#### Big Stone Gap District

**GOLD**
- East Stone Gap

**SILVER**
- Holston View

**BRONZE**
- Slant

**HONORABLE MENTION**
- Coeburn
- Rye Cove
- Fort Blackmore
- Dryden

#### Chattanooga District

**GOLD**
- Hixson
- James Memorial
- Rising Fawn
- Signal Crest
- Stanley United Methodist
- Tyner
- Christ

**SILVER**
- East Ridge
- Eastdale Village Community
- McKendree
- Pleasant Grove

**BRONZE**
- New Salem
- Wesley Memorial

**HONORABLE MENTION**
- Fort Oglethorpe
- St Luke
- Flintstone
- Wauhatchie
- Chapel Hill
- Red Bank
- Simpson
- St John
- Fairview
- Washington Hills
- Grace
- Paynes Chapel
- Pikeville

#### Cleveland District

**GOLD**
- Allen Memorial
- Benton
- Decatur
- Jones Chapel
- Keith Memorial
- Ooltewah

**SILVER**
- Broad Street

**BRONZE**
- Black Fox

**HONORABLE MENTION**
- Apison
- Carlock
- Burkett Chapel
- Calhoun
- Mt. Zion
- Pleasant Hill
- Spring Creek
- Wesley Memorial Etowah
- Mars Hill
- Mt Carmel
- Spivey
- Vine Grove - Mt. Olive
- Wesleyanna
## CHURCHES OF EXCELLENCE IN EVANGELISM (cont.)

### Johnson City District

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<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>Eden</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Johnson City</td>
<td>Fairhaven</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greenwood a</td>
<td>Grace</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SILVER</strong></td>
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<td>Rockhold</td>
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<tr>
<td>Munsey Memorial</td>
<td>Slages</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roan Mt</td>
<td>Stone Dam</td>
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<td>Sulphur Springs</td>
<td>Telford</td>
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<td>Mountain View</td>
<td>Rock Springs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surgoinsville First</td>
<td>Ross Campground</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SILVER</strong></td>
<td>Colonial Heights</td>
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<td>Cassidy</td>
<td>St Mark</td>
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<td>Church Hill First</td>
<td>Vermont</td>
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<td>Kincaid</td>
<td><strong>BRONZE</strong></td>
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<td>Mt Carmel</td>
<td>Arcadia</td>
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<td>Chalybeate Springs</td>
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<td>Colonial Heights</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Elm Springs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fall Branch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Glen Alpine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grange Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hulls Chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kendricks Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mafair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pleasant Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Salem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sugden Chapel</td>
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</table>

### Knoxville District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GOLD</strong></td>
<td>Beulah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colonial Heights</td>
<td>Clappss Chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fountain City</td>
<td>Lennon-Seney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Chapel</td>
<td>Rutherford Memorial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Life</td>
<td><strong>SILVER</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piney Grove</td>
<td>Bookwalter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Paul</td>
<td>Bearden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fountain City</td>
<td>Emerald Ave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BRONZE</strong></td>
<td>Hopewell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lonsdale</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sand Branch</td>
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<td>Second United Methodist</td>
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### Maryville District

<table>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>GOLD</strong></td>
<td>First Pigeon Forge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burnett Memorial</td>
<td>First Alcoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Maryville</td>
<td>Seymour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sevierville F</td>
<td>First Sweetwater</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sycamore Tree</td>
<td>Friendsville</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SILVER</strong></td>
<td>Axley’s Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Broadway</td>
<td>Buckner Memorial</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fairview</td>
<td>Tuckaleechee</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Webb’s Creek</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Logans Chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Madisonville First</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Middleselements</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shults Grove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BRONZE</strong></td>
<td>Eden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Immanuel</td>
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<td>Middle Creek</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pleasant Hill</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Churches of Excellence in Evangelism (cont.)

### Morristown District

**GOLD**
- Dandridge First
- First Morristown
- Liberty Hill
- Shady Grove
- Shiloh Rutledge
- Sulphur Springs

**SILVER**
- First White Pine
- Marys Chapel
- Mt Pleasant Talbot
- Mulberry Gap
- Tate Chapel

**BRONZE**
- Balbyton
- Bybee
- Caton’s Grove
- Christ United Methodist
- First Newport
- Glendale
- Hartman’s Chapel
- Hills Union
- Mt Carmel Mosheim
- Mt Zion Afton
- Panther Springs

**HONORABLE MENTION**
- Mc Campbells
- Mount Hebron
- Mr Pleasant Greeneville
- Mt Hope
- Mt Zion Dandridge
- Pruitt Hill
- Sneedville
- Strawberry Plains
- Talley’s Chapel
- Trinity Greeneville
- Warrensburg

### Oak Ridge District

**GOLD**
- Kern Memorial
- Fincastle
- First Oak Ridge
- Beaver Ridge

**SILVER**
- Luminary

**BRONZE**
- St Mark
- Rocky Top
- Pleasant Grove

**HONORABLE MENTION**
- Thompson Chapel

### Tazewell District

**GOLD**
- Byrnes Chapel
- Cedar Bluff
- Christ First
- Mt Zion (Bland)
- Narrows First
- Pocahontas First
- Wright’s Valley

**SILVER**
- Coleman’s Chapel
- Dailey’s Chapel
- Main Street
- Rich Creek First

**BRONZE**
- Bland

**HONORABLE MENTION**
- New Hope Union
- Pearsburg First
- Pisgah
- Shady Grove (Bland)
- Shiloh
- Trinity
- Virginia Avenue
- Wesendonck

### Wytheville District

**GOLD**
- Asbury
- Bethany
- Dublin
- Mt Ephraim

**SILVER**
- Asbury
- Atkins Memorial
- Cecil’s Chapel
- Fries
- Glenwood (Galax)
- Hillesville First

**BRONZE**
- Bethany
- Bridle Creek
- Draper
- Floyd
- Franklin Street
- Huddle Memorial
- Little Wilson
- Parrott

**HONORABLE MENTION**
- Woodlawn
- Fairview
- Auburn
- Belspring
- Bethel
- Bethel Anders
- Brick
- Cold Spring
- Crossroads
- First Pulaski
- Forest

- Fort Chiswell
- Glenwood
- Grahams Forge
- Grant
- Grove United Methodist
- Mt Olivet
- New Hope
- Salem
- Savannah
- Sidney
- Thornspring
- Trinity
- West End
COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

RECOMMENDATIONS AND GUIDELINES

2018 Apportionments

Thank you for your faithfulness to God and to God’s Church. With your tithe you are supporting the ministry of the Holston Conference and The United Methodist Church. Your generosity has touched many lives here and around the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ and His redeeming love. You have funded Camp and Retreat Ministries, Higher Education and Campus Ministries, Age Level Ministries (Older Adult Ministries, Young Adult Ministries, Youth, and Children), Evangelism and Witness, Missions, Licensed and Ordained Ministry, and a host of other ministries. “The Mission—The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” (The Book of Discipline 2016, ¶ 120). Thank you for doing your part in fulfilling the mission of the Church.

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

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

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

Causes Beyond Those Included in Conference Budget.

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

A. CCFA recommends the salary of the district superintendents for 2018 be $96,910 which represents a 2% increase over 2017.

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 rate of .50 per mile.

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

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

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

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

Office of Financial Services

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

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

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

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

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

Policies for Boards, Commissions, and Agencies

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

B. All requisitions for any funds shall be submitted on approved vouchers and shall bear the signature of the properly authorized representative of the board, commission, team, agency or staff.
C. The standard travel rate for attendance at meetings of conference boards, teams, commissions, and agencies shall be the recommended IRS rate for charitable travel (currently 14 cents per mile) and an additional two cents per person per mile for others traveling in the same vehicle for the same board or agency. The travel rate for paid staff employed by the conference shall be the IRS recommended rate per mile per car or actual cost of public transportation, for travel related to the performance of duties of their office(s).

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

Recommendations to the Local Churches

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

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

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

D. Church treasurers are reminded that The Book of Discipline 2016, ¶624, requires full payment of Ministerial Support approved by the charge conference including housing.

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

H. CCFA encourages the local churches to support all of our conference-related institutions, including Emory & Henry College, Hiwassee College, Tennessee Wesleyan University, Holston Home for Children, and Asbury Centers by promoting gifts, grants, and bequests from our members.

I. CCFA 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 2017 Conference Journal has been contracted with United Graphics, Inc., of Knoxville Tennessee. The price of the 2017 Journal will be determined at a later date. An electronic version will be available online at Holston.org

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

D. The conference will reimburse the members-at-large for a per diem amount of $45 per day with a maximum of 3 days and mileage for the 2017 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 (The Book of Discipline 2016, ¶ 32 Article 1).

E. CCFA is partnering with the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits to secure funding for retiree health subsidies.

The Holston CCFA 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.

~ Jeff Lambert, President
~ Doug Goddard, Vice President
~ Rick Cherry, Conference Treasurer

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE TREASURER

Once again the Churches of the Holston Annual Conference have participated
within the connection by remitting your Tithe. We are grateful to each church
for their giving. Through our tithe and second mile giving, we are able to equip
the ministries of local congregations and to support multiple ministries that
are an expression of our commitment to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the
transformation of the world. The majority of Churches have been very faithful
and committed to the Tithing Formula. Some have not committed to their
obligations and that has placed a financial strain on our Annual Conference once
again this year. As previously reported, over the past six years we have reduced
the number of staff by six full time positions through attrition. Employees have
foregone raises for two of those years. Budgets have been cut and in some cases
very necessary infrastructure and very vital programs have been postponed,
ignored, or simply deleted for lack of funds available. In 2016, to avoid another
year of depleting our reserves, we basically “balanced the budget on the back
of the General Church by not paying 100% of our Apportionment.” We paid
the General Church 75.22%. For 2017 and 2018, CFA has already budgeted a
reduced amount that we will pay The General Church by 10%. Once again,
the only plan to offset withheld Tithing is to reduce the amount remitted to
the General Church further. If ALL Churches in the conference fulfilled the
covenant of paying 10% there would be more than sufficient money to pay the
obligations and build ministry. The Annual Conference and CFA have worked
very hard to make necessary changes in the budget to live into the tithing
formula. Tithing is a wonderful concept when everyone participates.

After reviewing the 2016 Year End Statistics I would like to share with you
some of my findings.

612 churches in the Annual Conference paid between 96% and 100% of the
2016 calculated Tithe.

219 churches in the Annual Conference paid less than 96% of their 2016
calculated Tithe.

If all 894 churches in the Annual Conference paid 100% of the calculated Tithe
we would have collected $10,097,766.
The 2016 Approved Budget was $9,711,541*
Total Budget spent for 2016 $9,053,739**
Designated Giving for 2016 was $26,618,778
34 churches paid $0 for 2016 (this excludes 26 preaching stations) Calculated Tithe = $77,572
* $10,097,766 - $9,711,541 = $386,225 Surplus
**$10,097,766 - $9,023,317 = $1,044,027 Surplus

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 have had several years of deficit spending. District Superintendents work very hard to help local churches pay these tithes. Together through our connection, we can change the lives of people and transform the world in the name of our Savior, The Lord Jesus Christ.

~ Rick Cherry, Conference Treasurer
## HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE
### Benevolent Giving Comparison

<table>
<thead>
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<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3000 - Peace With Justice</td>
<td>$1,954.55</td>
<td>$3,225.60</td>
<td>$2,602.10</td>
<td>$3,355.37</td>
<td>$4,339.53</td>
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<tr>
<td>3100 - Native American Ministries</td>
<td>$3,738.02</td>
<td>$4,022.69</td>
<td>$3,706.41</td>
<td>$3,994.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>3200 - World Communion</td>
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<td>$7,533.33</td>
<td>$7,653.34</td>
<td>$7,491.98</td>
<td>$7,395.04</td>
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<tr>
<td>3300 - One Great Hour</td>
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<td>$29,451.89</td>
<td>$22,833.11</td>
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<tr>
<td>3400 - Methodist Student</td>
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<td>$2,880.46</td>
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<td>3500 - Youth Service Fund</td>
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<td>5000 - International Advance Specials</td>
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<td>5100 - United States Advance Specials</td>
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<td>5200 - UMCOR</td>
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<td>6000 - Conference Initiated *</td>
<td>$1,417,262.55</td>
<td>$1,181,700.75</td>
<td>$1,265,654.27</td>
<td>$1,155,632.03</td>
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<td>7200 - World Service Special Gifts</td>
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<td>Total Benevolences</td>
<td>$1,850,786.05</td>
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<td>$2,604,357.84</td>
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* 2016 Wildfire Collections Toted $330,126.98
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<th>5c</th>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>163</td>
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<td>15</td>
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### Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church

#### Proposed 2018 Budget Requests

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<th>Category</th>
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**Totals**                                      | $9,955,085            | $10,220,435           | $10,463,448           | $9,711,541            | $9,430,200            | $9,074,601              |
### Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church
### Proposed 2018 Budget Requests

#### CABINET

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<th>Description</th>
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<th>Budget Annual</th>
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<th>2018 Requested Budget</th>
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### Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church
#### 2018 Budget Requests

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Actual YTD</th>
<th>Budget Annual</th>
<th>2017 Approved Budget</th>
<th>2018 Requested Budget</th>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
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<td><strong>COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY TEAM</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>General &amp; Administration</strong></td>
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# 2018 Budget Requests

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Actual YTD</th>
<th>Budget Annual</th>
<th>2017 Approved Budget</th>
<th>2018 Requested Budget</th>
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### Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church
### 2018 Budget Requests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Actual YTD</th>
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<th>2017 Approved Budget</th>
<th>2018 Requested Budget</th>
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<tr>
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## Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church
### 2018 Budget Requests

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<th>2017 Approved Budget</th>
<th>2018 Requested Budget</th>
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Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church
2018 Budget Requests

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## Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church
### 2018 Budget Requests

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### Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church

#### 2018 Budget Requests

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Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church  
2018 Budget Requests

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Holston Annual Conference
### Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church

#### 2018 Budget Requests

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Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church
2018 Budget Requests

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Actual YTD</th>
<th>Budget Annual</th>
<th>2017 Approved Budget</th>
<th>2018 Requested Budget</th>
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<tbody>
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## Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church
### 2018 Budget Requests

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## Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church
### 2018 Budget Requests

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### Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Actual YTD</th>
<th>Budget Annual</th>
<th>2017 Approved Budget</th>
<th>2018 Requested Budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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### Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church

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<th>Budget Annual</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GROUPS RELATED TO THE CABINET &amp; BOM</strong></td>
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<td>Budget Annual</td>
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## Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church

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<th>Budget</th>
<th>2017 Approved Budget</th>
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### Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church

#### 2018 Budget Requests

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## Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church

### 2018 Budget Requests

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**Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church**  
**2018 Budget Requests**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<th>2018 Requested Budget</th>
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# Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church
## 2018 Budget Requests

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Actual YTD</th>
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<th>2017 Approved Budget</th>
<th>2018 Requested Budget</th>
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### Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church
### 2018 Budget Requests

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<th>Actual YTD</th>
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2016 Five Star Churches and 100% Tithe Churches

We want to thank the churches who qualified for the Five Star Award. To be a 5-Star Church, churches must pay the conference tithe 100% and pay at least $25.00 in each of the four Advance mission categories. International Advance, U.S. Advance, UMCOR Advance and Conference Advance.

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

Five Star Churches Abingdon District

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100% Tithe Churches Abingdon District

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Five Star Churches Big Stone Gap District

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100% Tithe Churches Big Stone Gap District

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### Five Star Churches Chattanooga District

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### Five Star Churches Cleveland District

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### 100% Tithe Churches Chattanooga District

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## Holston Annual Conference

### Five Star and 100% Tithe Churches (Cont.)

**Five Star Churches Kingsport District**

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**100% Tithe Churches Kingsport District**

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**100% Tithe Churches Maryville District**

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## Additional Information

- Five Star Churches Morristown District
- Five Star Churches Oak Ridge District
- 100% Tithe Churches Morristown District
- 100% Tithe Churches Oak Ridge District
**FIVE STAR AND 100% TITHE CHURCHES (Cont.)**

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This past January, the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry heard from each of our campus ministers about the wonderful things God is doing with college students across Holston Conference. It was an exciting and enlightening experience! Praise be to God, disciples are being formed, communities are being served, and God is being worshipped on our campuses thanks to these ministers and their ministries!

As a committee, we are tasked with providing oversight and care for Holston Conference’s campus ministries and institutions of higher education. In an age where many lament the presence of young adults in our churches, it is a joy to participate on a Board that oversees ministries of young adults participating in Christian worship, discipleship, and service! We are constantly reminded how important our colleges and Wesley Foundations are in reaching out to young people where they are. Thanks to these ministries, young adults (churched or unchurched!) hear the gospel and are invited to participate in the life of Christ.

We are incredibly thankful for our Wesley Foundations and United Methodist colleges—and we are thankful for the ministry opportunities they hold for our local churches. Please take a few minutes to read about all that God is doing on our campuses and consider how your church can partner with these ministries. Prayers, meals, relationships, calling Chaplains/Wesley Foundation Directors with names of your college students, supporting the United Methodist Student Day offering—every bit helps Holston Conference love, support, and reach out in the name of Christ to young adults.

~ Magan Stubblefield, Chair

Grace and peace to you from the Office of Spiritual Life at Emory & Henry College! During the 2016-17 academic year, Associate Chaplain Sharon Wiley Wright and I have worked together to support a growing and engaged Spiritual Life ministry designed to offer grace, acceptance, education, and accountability to all of our students.

In August, before most students arrived on campus, the leaders of our student organizations gathered for leadership training and planning. The purpose of this time together was for the leaders to build community, leadership skills, and to determine the best ways to welcome new students to campus. Upon the arrival of our new students on check-in day, our students shared ice cold bottles of water to new students and their families. On Sunday during our Wasp Welcome (formerly known as New Student Orientation), 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 a photo booth. Hosted by Emory UMC, our students shared a meal with the church, followed by ice cream.

Each week our campus community has opportunities to gather for worship. Encounter, our student-led worship service, continues to have a growing number of participants on Monday evenings. Preachers include E&H professors, area pastors, and E&H students. Emory United Methodist Church welcomes a number of students to its Sunday morning services and to its worship experience, “Gathering Around The Table.”

Weekly Campus Christian Fellowship meetings begin with a home-cooked meal each Tuesday evening, followed by a devotion and a variety of activities including game nights, guest speakers, service projects, and fellowship opportunities.

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

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

Kerygma, our vocational discernment group, holds bi-weekly meetings where participants have the opportunity to be in fellowship with others discerning God’s direction for their lives. They share a meal and facilitate discussions related to different approaches to following God’s lead and being a witness to their faith as they pursue their passion, whether professional church workers or laity within the church. Students shared stories of experiences in which God is working in their lives. In the Spring, the chaplains took a group of students to visit Wesley Theological Seminary.

Expedition meets on Thursday evenings to discuss topics that some people would consider “the harder questions.” This group provides an open format where students can talk candidly about topics important to their faith. “Real Reel,” a program sponsored by Expedition, offers the opportunity for students to gather on Friday evenings at the Chapel to eat supper, watch a movie, and discuss important themes in the film and how these things relate to their lives.

The Association of Religious Diversity holds weekly meetings and leads interfaith devotionals and prayer services, as well as campfire discussions about topics from the perspective of the faith traditions represented. ARD led the spiritual life groups in sponsoring a lecture series focusing on the perspectives of sin through the lenses of Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, and the Baha’i faith.
In January, the theme of our annual MLK Day Celebration was “Welcome Home.” The five-day event featured a series of programs that challenged us to consider Dr. King’s call for communities to respond to oppression by becoming sanctuaries and to determine what it would take for E&H to become a community in Southwestern Virginia that is truly welcoming, a place where everyone can find “home.” The keynote address was delivered by E&H’s brand new Vice President for Student Life and Student Success and Dean of Inclusion, John M. Holloway. His address, “Echoes of Divisiveness Need Not Define our Community,” focused on his dream for creating a culture of intergroup dialogue on campus that will be designed to heal brokenness in the aftermath of a polarizing presidential election.

January also included two weekends at Holston Conference youth and young adult events. The first of those weekends, four students, Chaplain Briggs, and Matt Crisman (Interim Director of Admissions) traveled to Pigeon Forge to represent Emory & Henry at Resurrection. They worked to recruit students to Emory & Henry and to promote the Defining Moments program. On the last weekend of January, a group of students traveled with the chaplains to participate in Divine Rhythm.

During Spring Break, a team of thirteen students and two faculty/staff members traveled to Costa Rica as a part of a study abroad class, Cross Cultural Christian Mission. This was the second year that the E&H group worked with Rice and Beans Ministries to share the gospel of Jesus Christ and to experience Costa Rican culture.

During General Conference, Emory & Henry student Emily Ballard represented Holston Conference as a lay delegate to the 2016 General Conference in Portland. Chaplain Briggs served as a Marshal for the quadrennial gathering of our denomination. Experiencing and participating in the work of the legislative body of the UMC was educational, inspirational, and challenging for both of them.

Chaplain Briggs completed service as the director of the second year of “Defining Moments,” a program initially funded by a grant through the GBHEM’s Young Clergy Initiative. This partnership with the Holston Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and the CCYM continues to work to identify and nurture young people who are considering a call to ministry. Support from across the conference contributed to the success of this initiative that is changing the face of young clergy in ministry throughout our denomination. After two years of Defining Moments, nearly 40 young people (high school students and young adults through age 25) have been mentored by young clergypersons who are passionate about providing young people with the tools and support to carefully discern God’s call on their lives. With a focus on the sacraments (baptism and Eucharist) and spiritual disciplines, participants were given guidance specific to their own sense of call. The pilot year (2015-16) was funded by the YCI grant, and the College is committed to at least two additional years which will
allow the program to continue at least through 2017-18. The 2017-18 cohort is forming now. The program will begin this July. Anyone in Holston is welcome to nominate young people for participation and/or to apply to be a part of this program that we hope will strengthen individual church leadership as well as the culture of nurturing call within the bounds of Holston and beyond. (www.discernmymcall.com)

In October, eight persons from Emory & Henry traveled to Oklahoma City to attend “Called to be Neighbors,” a conference sponsored by the GBHEM, Interfaith Youth Corp, and several United Methodist-related institutions, including Emory & Henry. President Jake Schrum was a conference presenter, and two of our students led an interfaith devotion. IFYC is working with several mainline denominations to encourage strengthened interfaith and inter-religious relations on church-related campuses. Part of this partnership between the UMC and IFYC included the opportunity for participating institutions to apply for grants through the IFYC (and made possible by the Texas Methodist Foundation) in order to help establish and strengthen interfaith initiatives on their campuses. Emory & Henry was awarded a grant to fund the creation of an interfaith prayer space on campus and to educate the campus community about the prayer practices of a variety of faiths. Emory & Henry is also developing other ways to become religiously literate and welcoming to people of all faiths.

Now having completed my ninth year as the Chaplain at Emory & Henry, I continue to be amazed at the questions being asked and the insights being given by our students. Yes, our demographic of religious affiliation mirrors that of our country, with a greater percentage of “nones” and “others” than any Christian denomination. That is all the more reason that Associate Chaplain Wright and I are committed to creating a space where students are encouraged to ask the difficult questions and to struggle with them to search for the answers. We are forever grateful for the generosity and support of the Conference Board of Higher Education and Ministry, as well as the churches of Holston, who help us provide opportunities for faith formation among the young people who walk the sidewalks of our beautiful campus. We continue to be honored and humbled that we have been called to this place and entrusted with such an important task.

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

TENNESSEE WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS MINISTRY

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

Both campus ministry groups continue to work closely together in a variety of projects, including assisting freshmen and their families on ‘move-in’ day, hosting “Campus Ministry Week” in September, and by participating as a
combined group in Lip Sync, the annual Homecoming talent show. WCF, in cooperation with the Business Department and campus sororities, packed 90 shoeboxes in November for Operation Christmas Child.

Our weekly Chapel services take place on Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. in the chapel, located on the third floor of Old College. Guest preachers included Rev. Will Shelton, Associate pastor at Keith Memorial UMC; Rev. Keith Moore, Director of the UTC Wesley Foundation, and Rev. William McDonald, TWU Religion professor and pastor at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church in Vonore, TN. Guest speakers included Olivia Holden, 2016 TWU alum who spent the summer of 2016 in Northern Ireland, engaged with sports ministry; Kelly Gordon, local coffee shop barista who is a devout follower of Jesus; Drew Barton, 2014 TWU alum and current assistant youth director at Signal Crest UMC, in Chattanooga, TN; Don Washburn, Director of Camp Lookout; and Tara Bugg, 2013 TWU alum, currently serving as Warehouse and Event Manager for Feed My Starving Children, Atlanta, GA.

Dr. Ted A. Campbell, Professor of Church History at Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, TX, spoke for the Spring Religion and Heritage Day Lectures on March 13 – 14, 2017. His focus was upon “Methodism's catholic Heritage.”

TWU Campus Ministry once again sponsored the Prayer Room during the Resurrection 2017 weekend, and six TWU students participated with the Young Adults of Keith Memorial UMC in the Divine Rhythm event in late January in Gatlinburg.

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

~ Christopher Dover, Chaplain

THE ETSU WESLEY FOUNDATION

We had another good year at ETSU Wesley. Each semester is different as we have students graduate and new students coming in. The past couple of years we have put much time and resources in restoring the parsonage next to the Wesley Foundation. We now call this building the Wesley House. We use this house for residential use and presently have 4 students residing there. They have responsibility for leadership for our small groups and Bible studies. This coming fall we have six students applying to stay at the Wesley House, as three of the students living there will graduate this May. The Wesley House is becoming a very important part of the ministry of ETSU Wesley Foundation. Once again, thanks to all who have helped manually and financially for the restoration and rebuilding of the Wesley House.

Some other highlights from the year include:
• Averaging 50 in attendance for our Tuesday night worship service throughout the fall and early spring semesters.

• We had 7 students to graduate in the 2016 fall semester, and 15 will graduate this May 2017. We had 22 students to graduate from ETSU this calendar school year! They will be missed and hard to replace, but the Lord will provide.

• We have one ETSU Wesley student, Sam Hopson, attending seminary at Candler School of Theology who will graduate next May 2018. Presently we have two graduating seniors planning on attending seminary in the near future.

• The annual barbeque and auction netted $15,288 this year. Since 2001, we have raised $345,028 through our annual barbeque and auction!! Thank you for your support and continued support for the next one! Also, special thanks to Sam and Sharon Barnett for purchasing and donating the delicious barbecue! The next Barbecue and Auction will be October 1, 2017. This will be on a Sunday afternoon from 12:30pm to 4:30pm.

• Presently we are planning a fund raising banquet for March 25, 2017 called the Generous Portion. This will be at Munsey UMC starting at 6:00pm. Last spring we raised over $5,000. We are hoping to receive $6,000 to $12,000 for this year.

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

• We have 11 students serving on the leadership team. Responsibilities include communications, fundraising, hospitality, fun nights, intramurals, local missions, Freshley Wesley, and campus outreach.

• Presently, we have three Bible study groups that meet weekly. These Bible studies are led by students. For this semester we are studying Ephesians. We are expecting our Bible study groups to expand next fall.

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

• For our mission trip this year we will be going to Sitka, Alaska. We will be helping with maintenance and construction needs and some painting at Sitka Fine Arts Camp. We went to Sitka in 2014 and had a great mission experience and look forward to a return visit.

• We have a fantastic worship band led by Chris Eger and Matt Sanders.

• 12 attended Divine Rhythm 2017!

• We participated in the Shepherd’s Breakfast, Appalachia Service Project, and Relay 4 Life and other local missions in the Johnson City area.
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 $22,468.52 in book scholarship support! Donations to this important mission fund are still being encouraged and accepted.

We hired Garrett Williams as the new assistant director. Garrett has a lot of experience in campus ministry and we welcome him to Wesley. He replaces Chris Jacobs who served us well for two-and-a-half years. Chris got married in January 2017 and moved to Knoxville. Jessica Sanders continues to serve us exceptionally well as the office manager.

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

~ John Ousley, Director

**Radford Wesley Foundation**

Warm and grateful greetings to you, the good people of Holston Conference, for your faithful support and gifts of prayer that sustain our ministry and inspire us to grow and share in God’s mission. 2016-17 has been a good year for our ministry. We have been blessed to meet a wonderful new group of students, some are lifelong Christians, and others are seeking to know more about faith, God and their connection with life in Christ.

Worship and leading worship continue to be an anchor of our program ministry. Our students lead worship monthly in our center this year. As well we coordinate and lead the university-sponsored worship service held on campus for Family Week-end. A state university sponsoring an ecumenical Christian worship service as part of a campus-wide event is pretty unusual, but the fact that the other campus ministries at RU choose not to be a part is even rarer. I hope you can celebrate with me the fact that our students recognize this awesome opportunity to reach out in the name of Christ. Our monthly worship services have been varied in style this year and have included a traditional Ash Wednesday service, an interactive service, and a multi-sensory service of lessons and carols before Christmas to name a few. Our worship time on Wednesday nights has been
expanded and enriched by our music. Divine Rhythm 2017 was a highlight of worship experiences for our students as well.

Mission and service to others remain a key element of our ministry. Our after school tutoring program for K – 2nd Graders is now in its 22nd year. Our best estimate is that 600 children and 600 college students have been touched through this ministry held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons for 10 weeks of each semester. Parents of the children involved and teachers continue to praise our commitment to one-to-one tutoring for children who just need a little extra help to round out their education. In addition, our students are involved in local outreach regularly with a local mission for homeless men, Panera bread distribution, a community meal that provides for anyone who needs a meal, Project Linus, and Project INASMUCH to name a few.

This year, more than ever, I have celebrated the gift of ministry offered by our Board of Directors. For several years, Holston has offered a Capital Improvement Grant to its 5 Wesley Foundations to help offset the costs of the major capital projects needed at each site. The Radford Board of Directors wisely saved those funds for several years and has begun in earnest to re-model the Wesley Foundation kitchen for the first time since 1983. Fall, 2016, we began. We replaced our 33 year old dishwasher as Phase I of the renovation project. An added benefit for us is the fact that the project can be completed in stages. The project will progress in stages as our saved funds and donations allow. Our building affords wonderful sanctuary, a home-away-from-home, and a safe and healthy environment for exploring and sharing God’s word and its potential to change lives.

These are but a few of the tangible highlights from our ministry. Knowing that people all over Holston are praying for college students and our ministry to them inspires and sustains us as we encounter new challenges and opportunities to Offer Them Christ. Thank you Holston,

~ Martee Buchanan, Director

THE WESLEY CENTER AT UT CHATTANOOGA

Greetings from your United Methodist Campus Ministry in Chattanooga!

Fall got off to a great start with a fall retreat led by Brian Davis, the pastor of Powell Church. An alumnus of UTC, Brian was happy to return to Chattanooga and bring the good news. Rebekah and Jacob Ducote worked hard to lead the students in recreational activities that reinforced the message. Nathan Patterson of Seymour did a fantastic job leading worship.

We had another great week at Epworth by The Sea for our end-of-the-year Mission Trip to South Georgia. Once again we met up with Students from the Wesley Foundation at UVa and had a blast! During the week our combined group helped an organization called Operation Bed Spread. Home grown by a member of St. Simons UMC, Operation Bed Spread targets an unseen need
in many communities – beds and bedding for kids who don’t have any. We are already planning our 2018 trip.

Speaking of plans for 2018, students under the leadership of Stuart French, a young adult volunteer leader and member of our board, began meeting to plan an international mission trip to the Dominican Republic for spring break of 2018 - many thanks to Stuart for all of his help and leadership in this area.

We are also pleased to announce the Wesley Center’s role in chartering a BSA Venture Crew for UTC! Boy Scout Venture Crews are a continuation of scouting for young adults 18-21. It is a great fit for the Wesley Center, and our Board Chair, Steve Barham of Harrison UMC, was instrumental in bringing this opportunity to our door.

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

~ Keith Moore, Director

THE WESLEY FOUNDATION AT UTK

Greetings to you from your Wesley Foundation at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville! This has been a year of wonderful growth in our 95th year of campus ministry at UTK. We are celebrating the 50th anniversary of our building this year. We’ll have a celebration dinner on the anniversary of our opening on September 22, 2017.

We have welcomed many new first-year and graduate students into the life of the Wesley Foundation who have become active student-leaders in this community. We seek to be a home away from home by providing a welcoming and nurturing environment on the university campus. Through worship, fellowship, study, and service we seek to build an open and diverse Christian community.

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

We have forged new partnerships with three local churches to help meet the growing needs of our community. We have partnered with Second
United Methodist Church to provide a student intern to help them plan and implement a new community garden in their neighborhood. We continued our partnership with Church Street for a recovery ministry called Living Well Community, which provided a time of healing worship and powerful small group studies to help participants take important steps toward recovery in its many forms. We also celebrate a growing relationship with First United Methodist Church to collaborate in mission and ministry.

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 continue our program to help students discern God’s call in their life, funded by The Lilly Endowment’s Theological Exploration of Vocation Initiative. This five-year plan helps students to better understand their gifts and graces and how to implement them in faithful ways in their communities. Through service learning, reflection, internships, and mission events, the students in our community can better discern who they are designed to be and what God is calling them to do.

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

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

~ Rev. Tim Kobler, Director

**The Wesley Foundation at UVa-Wise**

What a mighty God we serve! The Wesley Foundation at UVa-Wise, on a campus with about 2,000 total students, spent time reflecting, reprioritizing, and rebuilding the program with a majority of brand new students (and many new faculty and staff participants, too!) this year; and, the ministry is thriving.

The most important aspect of ministry has been a Wednesday luncheon discussion group. Lunch is provided by the Wesley Foundation or a local church group. Discussion takes place based on topics chosen by the student leadership team. Topics have included (but aren’t limited to): Sexuality and the Bible, Faith and Politics, What is Love?, God and Violence, Christians and Profanity, Which Lives Matter?, and Soulmates. Many students, faculty, and staff come
and participate in the discussions while having lunch. We have been able to expand our ministry through this discussion-based format which has resulted in abundant connections on campus. These relationships formed have fostered academic departments utilizing the Wesley Foundation as a resource for space, spiritual support, and connecting the Church and world.

We continue to offer an open and inclusive community of worship where there are many avenues to explore what it means to be in relationship with God, humanity, and all of creation. Activities this year include the Wednesday luncheons, book and Bible studies, leadership development, a faculty and staff weekly prayer group, and worship with communion each week. Additionally several opportunities to be involved in community service through mission and outreach have been offered at the local, national, and global level.

We are thrilled with our partnerships with local churches, community organizations, other collegiate ministries near and far, and academic departments on campus. We have joined with UTC to sponsor outreach at St. Simons Island and Brunswick, Georgia. We have joined with three local churches to do mission work in the Dominican Republic. We have partnered with academic departments and other student organizations on campus to foster discussion and growth among students who typically do not participate in spiritual life opportunities at UVa-Wise. These connections to the Church and our community are points of entry for all persons to be invited into a relationship with Jesus Christ. Wesley is a place where students, faculty, and staff feel safe exploring how their faith will impact their work in the world. Wesley is a place where dialogue and training about transforming the world as disciples of Christ regularly take place.

Our Board of Directors, guided by our long-term Strategic Plan, continues to prioritize projects and develop plans for fundraising, administration, and ministry at UVa-Wise.

There is hope for The United Methodist Church. The young people I work with on a daily basis are open to the work of God in their lives and are eager to transform the world. Thank you for your faithful support to keep this mission going. You are helping God equip and empower young people to shape the future of the UMC and the world!

~ Beth Tipton, Director

**BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY**

“Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. . . . And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.” 1 John 4:11-12, 21 (NIV)

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

I am thankful for the opportunity to serve as a member of the Extended Cabinet. Please know that Bishop Taylor, District Superintendents, and Conference staff are committed to the work and ministry of the Kingdom of God and are fully supportive of partnership ministry between laity and clergy as we labor together in the mission field of the Holston Conference. It is a privilege for me to spend time each month planning and evaluating the administrative, mission, and ministry efforts of the Conference with this group that has become such an important part of my own spiritual journey.

Our Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries, Jon Pursley, has been hard at work this year to update all LSM district leadership on the impact of changes to Book of Discipline paragraphs affecting training and certification adopted by General Conference 2016. The Board expresses appreciation to Jon for his diligent efforts and to all district LSM leaders for their faithfulness in training and deploying laity in ministry across the Conference. We continue to have a strong network of well-trained lay servants, lay speakers, lay missioners, and lay ministers. Thanks be to God for all of you who have responded to God’s call to participate in this organized lay ministry!

Once again this year, the Board will help facilitate prayer ministry on the grounds of Lake Junaluska during the annual conference session. The Room of Memories adjacent to Memorial Chapel will be open for prayer each day we are meeting from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. Resources for prayer and prayer request cards will be available in the prayer room.

During the past 18 months, District Lay Leaders and other Board members have been involved in consultation and meetings with the Conference Strategy Team as that group has worked toward a long-term plan. We are grateful for the Team’s intentional efforts to hear the voices of laypersons from all areas of the Conference and to incorporate their concerns and ideas into the report being presented this year. United Methodists in Holston are a diverse group, and yet we hear John Wesley’s admonition even today – “Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike?”

On behalf of the Board of Lay Ministry, thank you for all the ways you lead, serve, and love in your churches and communities.

~ Del Holley, Conference Lay Leader
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Since the 2016 Annual Conference, Holston Conference United Methodist Women are busy doing the work of living out our Purpose. The women of Holston more than met our Pledge to Mission of $274,037, which undergirds the Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church universal.

When we assembled in July at our Conference Mission Education Event at Central United Methodist Church, Lenoir City, we studied subjects chosen several years in advance by the United Methodist Women’s Incorporated. Study topics were “Spiritual Growth - The Bible and Human Sexuality; Geographic – Latin America; Social Issue for adults, children and adults – Climate Justice. Study leaders included Mike Feeley, Eugene Kim and Pat Watkins, Brooke Atchley and Nancy Hobbs, Kacey Castenir, and Melissa Hutchinson. This was a well-attended meeting with approximately 125 in attendance and the first time for a gathering of a large group of youth. The 2017 Mission u will be held once again at Central UMC July 20-22. Study leaders have been secured and they are in the process of completing their training for the sessions. Glenda Eastridge is the Dean and Kay Phillips is serving as the Assistant Dean.

In August, we met at Fairview United Methodist Church in the Maryville District, for our fifth Social Action Workshop on “Stop Hunger Now”. This was a very eye opening experience with each participant experiencing how they would react to hunger by being served a hunger banquet. Approximately 200 were in attendance and a large number of items were brought by individuals to be distributed to our conference Church and Community organizations.

In June, several ladies from Holston Conference attended the Southeast Jurisdiction Meeting of the United Methodist Women in Charleston, SC. We were blessed by all the program participants and the workshops were very informative. Our very own Kay Phillips from the Maryville District was elected to serve as treasurer for the coming quadrennium. Marsheine McClurg, from the Maryville District was also elected by the United Methodist Women to serve as a member of the Program Advisory Group for this quadrennium.

We were honored to have Reverend Kristen Burkhart as our worship leader at the Conference UMW Annual Meeting in September. We were honored to have retired Deaconesses Barbara Campbell and Betty Letzig enlighten us on UMW 101 and also to encourage everyone to become involved in the 150th Legacy Celebration of United Methodist Women which will happen in 2019. District Superintendent Lauri Jo Cranford assisted Reverend Burkhart as our communion celebrants and we were blessed with our music being led by Angela Garrison and accompanied by Gail Morris. Offices for the coming year were elected and officer training was conducted for all district officers in attendance. Our mission project for the year was the Jubilee Project in Sneedville and a check for the contributions from districts for the year was presented to Linda Stransky, Director of Jubilee Project.
One of the highlights of Holston UMW is our Hispanic Ministry. This has been a real blessing to the conference in so many ways. Through the many donations to our Hands on Mission Fund, we have been able to purchase interpretation equipment, and many Bibles in Spanish, both in print and audio for those who are unable to read, for not only the women, but for the youth and men. The conference would like to express their appreciation to the many individuals, church groups and churches who have donated to this fund during the past year. Your donations have brought more blessings to this community. In October 2016, a Hispanic Ministry Worship Day was held at the Unicoi United Methodist Church and 65 plus adults and children were in attendance. This group of women and children spent the day worshipping after having traveled several miles to reach the destination. We encourage every district to promote this event annually and encourage your Hispanic congregations to take part in it.

One of the main goals of United Methodist Women is to be proactive in the fight against Human Trafficking and the battle of drug use. Our next Social Action Event in August will focus on human trafficking. Each of you are encouraged to be aware of strange things when you see things happening that are suspicious and contact your local authorities.

Districts have been encouraged to find ways creative to increase their mission giving to the United Methodist Women to serve women, youth and children all over the world. We are appreciative of our Conference staff, District Superintendents and Pastors for the support they lend United Methodist Women. One of our goals is to look at ways we can grow United Methodist Women and have a unit in every church. As we do this, we are looking at innovative ways to grow our groups with more young women and be flexible in how we structure our approach and planned program activities to accomplish this goal.

Our goal every year is to help continually grow in FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE for the women of Holston Conference. We strive to live according to Jesus’ command to us. “Whatever you do for one of the least of these children of mine, you do for me.”

~ Lynice Broyles, President
Holston Conference United Methodist Women
The Holston Administrative Professionals held their annual conference and business meeting on September 28-30, 2016 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Workshop topics included Dealing with Difficult People, Enneagram, Event Planning, and Microsoft Publisher. We would like to give a special thank you to all of our workshop leaders, Rev. Laura Shearer, Rev. Diana Brown Taylor, JaNaé Swanson-Brown, and Clayton Hensley, as well as a special thank you for Rev. Mark Flynn and Don Washburn who led us in opening worship, communion, and music.

For our mission project, we chose to work with the homeless in the community where we were meeting. We want to thank First-Centenary UMC for helping with distribution of compassion kits for the homeless people in Miller Park, downtown Chattanooga. In lieu of our tradition of donations for door prizes for the annual meeting participants, we chose to have the money go towards the mission. The district office colleagues generously provided the components for the kits and the youth group at Kern Memorial UMC assembled the kits. As for the participants of our annual meeting, we also brought many toiletry items for The Mustard Tree Ministry. Thank you so much for all the mission-hearted people in the Holston Conference.

The goal for the Holston Administrative Professionals is to continue working in the guidelines of The Book of Discipline ¶ 807.19. "To provide guidance and consultation for continuing education of church secretaries, including establishment of training and certification programs, and to provide assistance to the Professional Association of United Methodist Church Secretaries.” (PAUMCS)

We were established as and continue to work with PAUMCS, who has voted to change their name to be reflected in the 2020 Discipline to Professional Administrators of The United Methodist Connectional Structure. We have continued to provide annual meetings with quality workshops for continuing education credits, for improvement of job quality and performance, and for individual growth and personal development.

We continue to thank all the pastors for their financial support of the professional administrators and their encouragement of professional development to further their service in their ministry settings. The 2017 Holston Administrative Professional Conference and Retreat will take place in Gatlinburg, TN, September 27-29, 2017.
COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Cabinet representatives are appointed by the Resident Bishop and shall begin service upon appointment. (Numbers in brackets indicate quadrennia of service)

CABINET

Chairperson
Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor
Executive Assistant to the Bishop
Carol E. Wilson
Dean
TBD

Appointment Cabinet (District Superintendents)
- Thomas T. Ballard
- Brenda Carroll
- Lauri Jo Cranford
- Thomas T. Ballard
- Brenda Carroll
- Lauri Jo Cranford
- Jason Gattis
- Kimberly M. Goddard
- Sandra J. Johnson
- Elihugh J. Kilgore
- Randy Martin
- Jeffrey W. Wright

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

COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Chairperson
Chuck Griffin
Vice Chairperson
Tim Jones
Secretary
Caroline Lamar

(C) Daniel Castillo (MA)(1)
(C) Tim Jones (MA)(1)
(L) Clayton Hensley (OA)(1)
(C) Chuck Griffin (OA)(1)
(C) Frank Trelle (MA)(1)
(L) Caroline Lamar (Kn)(1)
(C) Timothy Hankins (AB)(1)
(L) Rose Foster (Kn)(1)
(L) Betty Yeomans-Barton (JO)(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: TBD

COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Chairperson
Becky Hall
Vice-Chairperson
Ronnie Collins
Secretary
Debbie Stokes

(C) Brooke Atchley (TA)(1)
(C) Tim Paul (Kn)(1)
(L) Mary Baker (BI)(1)
(C) Stephen Defur (Kn)(1)
(C) Arturo Reyna (MO)(1)
(L) Becky Hall (CH)(1)
(C) Ronnie Collins (WY)(1)
(C) Bill Shelton (MA)(1)
(L) Willie Kitchens (CH)(1)
(C) Ginger Isom (CH)(1)
(C) Debbie Stokes (Cl)(1)
(L) Byron Williamson (Kn)(1)

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

Chairperson  
Vice Chairperson  
Secretary  

District Lay Leaders:
- Sue Tilson (AB)  
- Nan Carver (JO)  
- Rob Saunders (MO)  

Conference Presidents:
- United Methodist Men: Eric Knoefel  
- United Methodist Women: Lynice Broyles  
- United Methodist Youth: Dawson Kitts  

Members-at-Large:
- Harold Brown (CH)(1)  
- Kelly Price (MO)(1)  

Ex-Officio Members:
- Resident Bishop: Mary Virginia Taylor  
- Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministry: Jon Pursley  
- Staff Resource: Rick Cherry  
- Cabinet Representatives: TBD, Thomas Ballard  

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

Chairperson  
Vice Chairperson  
Secretary  

(C) Brian Davis (KN)(1)  
(C) Caleb Frazier (JO)(1)  
(C) Natalie Justice (JO)(1)  
(C) Ralph Kidd (AB)(1)  

(C) Misti McCreary (KI)(1)  
(C) Ila Schepisi (WY)(1)  
(C) Magan Stubblefield (MA)(1)  
(C) Beth Sullivan (CH)(1)  

(L) Jim Cooper (KI)(1)  
(L) L. Haden Scott (MO)(1)  
**(L) Chris Lee (MA)(1)  
(L) David Schoeni (MA)(1)  

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

Ex-Officio Members:
- Staff Resource: Laura McLean, Mike Sluder  
- Cabinet Representative: Kim Goddard


**Holston Annual Conference**

**Discipleship Team**

Chairperson: Elizabeth Hamilton  
Vice Chairperson: Paige Wimberly  
Secretary: Lisa Black

(C) Amy Aycock (KN)(1)  
(C) Elizabeth Hamilton (AB)(1)  
(C) James David Neel (CL)(1)  
(C) Carl Marshall (CH)(1)  
(C) Randall Wright (KI)(1)  
(C) Betsy Switzer (TA)(1)

(C) Estel Williams (JO)(1)  
(C) Paige Wimberly (WY)(1)  
(L) Lisa Black (OA)(1)  
(L) Clayton Hensley (OA)(1)  
(L) Renni Morris (OA)(1)  
(L) Donna Tisdale (CL)(1)

**Ex-Officio Members:**

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

**Chairpersons with vote:**

- Missions Ministry Team: Tom Hancock  
- Nurture Ministry Team: Daniel Ogle  
- Outreach/Advocacy Ministry Team: Susan Montgomery  
- Stewardship Ministry Team: Terry Goodman  
- Witness Ministry Team: Ray Amos, Jr.

**Representatives without vote (named by respective groups):**

- Board of Ordained Ministry: Will Shelton  
- Communications Advisory Council: Donna Hankins, Chuck Griffin  
- Staff: Mike Sluder  
- Cabinet Representative: Jeffrey Wright

**African American Ministry Task Force of the Discipleship Team**

Chairperson: Carl Marshall  
Vice Chairperson: Paige Wimberly

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

Representative, Religion & Race: Walter Cross  
Director of Connectional Ministry: Mike Sluder  
Cabinet Representative: TBD

**Missions Ministry Team**

Chairperson: Tom Hancock  
Vice Chairperson: Jerry Russell*  
Secretary: LeRae Collins

(C) Chris Brown (KI)(1)  
(C) Randy Frye (KN)(1)  
(C) Tom Hancock (KI)(1)  
(C) Patty Muse (JO)(1)

(C) Robert Nyaga (AB)(1)  
(C) Rosa Slavik (AB)(1)  
(C) Beth Tipton (BI)(1)  
(L) Sam Barnett (JO)(1)

(L) Linda Bernick (WY)(1)  
(L) Kelly Bracken (CL)(1)  
(L) LeRae Collins (KN)(1)  
(L) Charlotte DeLozier (OA)(1)

**Ex-Officio Members:**

- Chair, Advance: Norma Smith  
- Chair, Church and Community Worker Committee: Leann Crandall  
- Coordinator of South Sudan Missions: Danny Howe  
- * District(s) Mission Secretaries  
- Chair, Native American: Vicki Collins  
- UMW Representative: Marsheine McClurg  
- Volunteer in Mission Coordinator: Bill Campbell  
- Director Connectional Ministries/Missions:  
- Conference Secretary of Global Ministries/Cabinet Representative: Mike Sluder
NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES

Chairperson: Vicki Collins  
Vice Chairperson: Bomba Easter  
Secretary: Faith Ramer

(C) Susan Lankford (JO)(1)  
(C) Mike Pinner (JO)(1)  
(L) Faith Ramer (BI)(1)  
(L) Bomba Easter (OA)(1)  
(L) Vicki Collins (OA)(1)  
(L) Patricia Guthrie (KN)(1)

Ex-Officio Members:
Cabinet Representative: Mike Sluder

NURTURE MINISTRY TEAM

Chairperson: Daniel Ogle  
Vice Chairperson: Adam Love  
Secretary: Sarah Slack

(C) Adam Love (KI)(1)  
(C) Josh Kilbourne (KI)(1)  
(C) Daniel Ogle (KN)(1)  
(C) Ken Sauer (CH)(1)  
(C) Sarah M. Slack (MA)(1)  
(C) Donald Swift (TA)(1)  
(L) Alan Eleazer (MA)(1)  
(L) Lisa Howard (OA)(1)  
(L) Leanna Johnson (JO)(1)  
(L) Tina Morgan (CL)(1)  
(L) Prue Oxendine (AB)(1)  
(L) Joe Penland (MA)(1)

Representatives with vote (named by respective groups):
Camp and Retreat Ministries Board  
Children’s Ministries Team  
Young Adult Ministry Team  
Council on Youth Ministries
Board of Lay Ministry Representative: Del Holley
Cabinet Representative: Mike Sluder

CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES TEAM

Chairperson: Jaymie Derden  
Vice Chairperson: Lindsey Piercy  
Secretary: Ashley Wade

(C) Christi Boaz Taylor (KI)(1)  
(C) T. J. Burdine (CL)(1)  
(L) Jaymie Derden (AB)(1)  
(L) Tracy Gartman (CL)(1)  
(L) Will Hubbs (MA)(1)  
(L) Lindsey Piercy (KN)(1)  
(L) Sherri Smith (KN)(1)  
(L) Karen Throp (KI)(1)  
(L) Ashley Wade (CH)(1)

Ex-Officio Members:
Staff Resource: TBD
Cabinet Representative: Mike Sluder

CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON YOUTH MINISTRIES
(Members are elected by Districts)
CCYM President: Dawson Kitts  
Coordinator of District Coordinators: Pat Tipton  
Coordinator of Youth Ministries: Laura McLean  
Cabinet Representative: Mike Sluder
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**Young Adult Ministry Team**

Chairperson: Keith Moore  
Vice Chairperson: Betzy Elifrits Warren  
Secretary: Caleb Pitkin

(C) Betzy Elifrits Warren (TA)(1)  
(L) Jacob Ducote (CL)(1)  
(L) Christopher Lee (MA)(1)

(C) Caleb Frazier (KI)(1)  
(L) Matt Hall (WY)(1)  
(L) Ashley Lockridge (OA)(1)

(C) Edna Warrick Lopez (MA)(1)  
(L) Katie Jackson (MO)(1)  
(L) Sydney Maxfield (MO)(1)

(C) Caleb Pitkin (CH)(1)  
(L) Jon Kilgore (WY)(1)  
(L) Zack Roskop (OA)(1)

**Ex-Officio Members:**

Divine Rhythm Design Team Representative: Elizabeth Parr  
Campus Ministries Representative: Keith Moore  
Staff Resource: Laura McLean  
Cabinet Representative: Mike Sluder

**Camp and Retreat Ministry Board**

Chairperson: David Grant  
Vice Chairperson: Leslie Bright  
Secretary: Sarah Varnell

(C) Aaron Atchley (TA)(1)  
(C) Brandon Berg (WY)(1)  
(C) Joe Phillips (CL)(1)  
(L) Leslie Bright (KI)(1)

(C) Will Conner (CL)(1)  
(C) Jack Porter (MA)(1)  
(L) Linda Clark (KN)(1)

(C) Leann Crandall (TA)(1)  
(C) Sarah Varnell (KN)(1)  
(L) Mark Lay (CL)(1)

(C) Charles Ensminger (CH)(1)  
(L) Alan Ashworth (TA)(1)  
(L) Linda Schumann (MO)(1)

(C) David Grant (OA)(1)  
(L) Wes Bradley (JO)(1)  
(L) Sarah Wimmer (MA)(1)

**Ex-Officio Members:**

Bishop: Mary Virginia Taylor  
Director of Connectional Ministries/Staff: Mike Sluder  
Cabinet Representative: TBD  
Camp and Retreat Ministries Executive Director/Staff: Mary Thompson  
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

(C) Daniel Castillo (MA)(1)  
(C) Linda Stransky (AB)(1)  
(L) Charlotte McKee (OA)(1)

(C) Cynthia Frye (AB)(1)  
(L) Linda Clark (KN)(1)  
(L) Phyllis Miller (JO)(1)

(C) Anna Lee (KN)(1)  
(L) Jim Cooper (KI)(1)  
(L) Susan Montgomery (OA)(1)

(C) Linda Rozar (JO)(1)  
(L) Gretchen Hakola-Penn (OA)(1)  
(L) Koni Purscell (BI)(1)

Chairperson, Religion and Race: Elston McLain  
Chairperson, Status and Role of Women: Sharon Bowers  
Chairperson, Creation Care: Brenda Haymore

**Ex-Officio Members** (named by the Team):

Representative, Alcohol and Related Issues: Rance Edwards  
Representative, Holston UM Home for Children: Nicole Krewson  
Coordinator, Peace with Justice: Kevin Blue  
Representative, Native American Ministries: TBD  
Chairperson, Strength for the Journey: Don Jones  
General Board of Church and Society: Don Hanshew  
Staff Resource: TBD  
Cabinet Representative: Mike Sluder, TBD
**STRENGTH FOR THE JOURNEY TEAM**

<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Chairperson</td>
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<td>Al Shaver</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Betty Yeomans-Barton</td>
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<td>(C) Annette Flynn (CH)(1)</td>
<td>(C) Al Shaver (MA)(1)</td>
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<td>(C) C. Don Jones (MO)(1)</td>
<td>(C) Jan Thomas (KN)(1)</td>
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<td>(C) Dennis Loy (KN)(1)</td>
<td>(L) Chris Bowles (CH)(1)</td>
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**COMMITTEE ON RELIGION AND RACE**

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<tr>
<td>Chairperson</td>
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<td>(C) Walter Cross (KN)(1)</td>
<td>(L) Elizabeth Hernandez-Lopez (WY)(1)</td>
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<td>(C) Susan Lankford (JO)(1)</td>
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<td>(C) Rochelle Maxwell (JO)(1)</td>
<td>(L) Charlotte McKee (OA)(1)</td>
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<td>(C) Elston McLain (KN)(1)</td>
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<td>(C) Bobby Black (OA)(1)</td>
<td>(L) Dabyam Olivera (MA)(1)</td>
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<td>(L) Tepa Bigham (CL)(1)</td>
<td>(L) Nathaniel Watson (JO)(1)</td>
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<td><strong>Ex-Officio Members:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Representative, Hispanic Ministry</td>
<td>Arturo Reyna</td>
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**STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM**

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<tr>
<td>Chairperson</td>
<td>Terry Goodman</td>
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<td>Robert Countiss</td>
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<td>(C) Will Cantrell (OA)(1)</td>
<td>(C) David Jackson (AB)(1)</td>
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<td>(C) Robert Countiss (AB)(1)</td>
<td>(C) Glenna Manning (OA)(1)</td>
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<td>(C) Terry Goodman (BJ)(1)</td>
<td>(C) Micah Nicolaus (OA)(1)</td>
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<td>(C) Angela Hardy Cross (KN)(1)</td>
<td>(C) Debbie Stokes (CL)(1)</td>
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<td><strong>Ex-Officio Members:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Director of Connectional Ministries/Staff</td>
<td>Mike Sluder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cabinet Representative</td>
<td>Roger Redding</td>
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**WITNESS MINISTRY TEAM**

Chairperson  
Ray Amos, Jr.

Vice Chairperson  
Kristen Burkhart

Secretary  
Scott Layer

(C) Ray Amos, Jr. (AB)(1)  
(C) David Hall (CH)(1)  
(L) Emily Ballard (AB)(1)

(C) Kristen Burkhart (MO)(1)  
(C) Scott Layer (MO)(1)  
(L) Rick Lay (CL)(1)

(C) Reece Fauscett (CH)(1)  
(C) Will Lauderback (CH)(1)  
(L) Joyce Moore (AB)(1)

(C) Maria Grimm (MO)(1)  
(C) Tim Smith (WY)(1)  
(L) Elaine Powell (WY)(1)

**Ex-Officio Members:**

Chairperson, Small Membership Congregation Team  
Steve Evans

Chairperson, Hispanic/Latino Leadership Team  
Tony Collins

Director of Congregational Development & Revitalization/Staff  
Rusty Taylor

Director of Connectional Ministries/Staff  
Mike Sluder

Cabinet Representatives  
Sandra Johnson

**SMALL MEMBERSHIP CONGREGATION TEAM**

Chairperson  
Steve Evans

Vice Chairperson  
Dan Duggar

Secretary  
Annette Warren

(C) Wayne Cook (CH)(1)  
(C) C. Scott Spence (AB)(1)  
(L) Terry Frerichs (MA)(1)

(C) Steve Evans (OA)(1)  
(C) Michael Teague (AB)(1)  
(L) Dan Duggar (MO)(1)

(C) Layne Pennington (BI)(1)  
(C) Annette Warren (TA)(1)  
(L) Donna Mosby (OA)(1)

**Ex-Officio Members:**

Special Advisor  
Richard C. Looney

Staff Resource  
Mike Sluder

Cabinet Representative  
Hugh Kilgore, Rusty Taylor

**HISPANIC/LATINO LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Chairperson  
Tony Collins

Vice Chairperson  
Tommy Vanover

Secretary  
Mickey Rainwater

(C) Tony Collins (CL)(1)  
(C) Javier Hernandez-Torres (WY)(1)  
(L) Pat Bellingrath (KN)(1)

(C) Marta Cogburn (MO)(1)  
(C) Susana Lopez (MA)(1)  
(L) Kayce Castenir (MA)(1)

(C) Debra Dickerson (CH)(1)  
(C) Mickey Rainwater (KI)(1)  
(L) David Ketchersid (CL)(1)

(C) Barbara Farmer (AB)(1)  
(C) Bradley Stapleton (BI)(1)  
(L) Tommy Vanover (JO)(1)

**Ex-Officio Members:**

Conference Coordinator  
TBD

Staff Resource  
Mike Sluder

Cabinet Representative  
Thomas Ballard, Sandra Johnson, TBD
BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

Chairperson  Mickey Rainwater
Vice-Chairperson  Don Hanshew
Secretary  Jane Taylor
Chair, Division of Elders  Jodie Ihfe
Co-Chairs, Division of Local Pastors and Associate Members  Kathie Wilson-Parker
Co-Chairs, Division of Local Pastors and Associate Members  Chuck Starks
Chair, Division of Deacons, Diaconal Concerns and Professional Certification  Rebekah Fetzer
Chair, Committee on Provisional Mentoring and Recruitment  Paul Seay
Chair, Conference Relations Committee  TBD
Vocational Discernment Coordinator  David Woody

Clergy
Chris Brown  Elizabeth Hamilton  Micah Nicolaus  Crystal Smith
Kristin Burkhart  Don Hanshew  Mary K Pope Briggs  Chuck Starks
Walter Cross  Brad Hyde  Mickey Rainwater  Jane Taylor
Barbara Doyle  Jodie Ihfe  Brad Scott  Rusty Taylor
Rebekah Fetzer  Timothy Jones  Paul Seay  Kathie Wilson-Parker
Terry Goodman  Tim Kobler  Al Shaver  David Woody
Anthony Grills  Glenna Manning  Will Shelton
Gary Grogg  Linda McDaniel  Michael Sluder

Lay
Lynice Broyles  Bob Ergenbright  Laura McLean  Deborah Neal
Lee Sherbakoff  Ralph Skinner  Nancy Tate

Ex-Officio Members:
Chair, Order of Elders  Sharon Bowers
Chair, Order of Deacons  Diana Brown Taylor
Co-Chair, Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors  Reece Fauscett
Co-Chair, Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors  Wayne Cook
Director, Wesley Leadership Institute  Daniel H. Taylor, Jr.
Administrative Registrar/Staff  Sandra Johnson, TBD

HOLSTON CENTER FOR WELLBEING SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE

Chairperson  Laura Plaster
Vice Chairperson  Kathy Ehrenschwender
Secretary  Bob Ruth

(C) Sharon Bowers (WY)(1)  (C) Will Shelton (CL)(1)
(C) Cynthia Frye (AB)(1)  (L) Kathy Ehrenschwender (KN)(1)
(C) Laura Plaster (AB)(1)  (L) Becki Garland (KN)(1)
(C) Bob Ruth (KN)(1)  (L) David Hudson (CH)(1)

Representative, Board of Ordained Ministry  Brad Hyde
Representative, Partners in Crisis  Nancy Ridenour
Steward of Clergy Concerns/Staff  Daniel H. Taylor, Jr.

Ex-Officio Members:
Cabinet Representatives  Hugh Kilgore, TBD, TBD
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Administration
Council on Finance and Administration

President  Jeff Lambert
Vice President  Doug Goddard
Secretary  Knox Wimberly
Chair, Personnel Committee  TBD

(C) Sherrell Boles (KN)(1) (C) Chuck Starks (MO)(1) (L) Robbie Gardner (WY)(1)
(C) Wil Cantrell (OA)(1) (C) Janet S. Sweet (BI)(1) (L) Doug Goddard (MO)(1)
TBD (C) Knox Wimberly (OA)(1) (L) Carolyn Kidd (AB)(1)
(C) Rhonda Hobbs (KJ)(1) (L) Keith Burroughs (KN)(1) (L) Art Masker (MO)(1)
(C) Jeff Lambert (MA)(1) (L) Nat Foster (KN)(1) (L) Steve Walling (KN)(1)

Ex-Officio Members (without vote):

Resident Bishop  Mary Virginia Taylor
Conference Treasurer/Staff  Rick Cherry
Director of Connectional Ministries/Staff  Mike Sluder
Cabinet Representative  TBD

Board of Pensions

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

2017 2018 2019 2020
(L) Mickey Ellis (C) Shannon Marie Berry (C) John Slater (L) Mary Ruth Richards
(L) Linda Colvin (L) Ken Webb (L) Nancy Fitchpatrick (L) Jim Snowden
(C) Albert Bowles (C) Andy Ferguson (C) Todd Chancey (C) Debra Stokes

2021 2022 2023 2024
(C) Clair Sauer (C) Gary Crum (L) Brent Clark (L) Dan Duggar
(L) Robert White (L) Robert Taylor (L) Diana Galloway (L) Sharon Price
(L) Susan Rudell (L) Amy Westmoreland (L) David Houseman (L) Jane Robinson

Ex-Officio Members:
Pensions Director/Staff  Rick Cherry
Chairperson, Joint Committee on Medical Leave (Incapacity)  Brian Burch
Staff Resource  Ken Luton
Cabinet Representative  TBD

Board of Trustees

President  David McLain
Vice President  Robert Reedy
Secretary  Brian Burch

(C) Brian Burch (TA)(1) (C) Amy Probst (KJ)(1) (L) David McLain (CH)(1)
(C) Bruce Galyon (KN)(1) (C) Tom Robins (OA)(1) (L) Debbie Melton (CL)(1)
(C) Dan Gray (JO)(1) (L) Evelyn Horton (KN)(1) (L) Renni Morris (OA)(1)
(C) Jonathan Jonas (AB)(1) (L) Ken Johnson (MO)(1) (L) Robert Reedy (KJ)(1)

Ex-Officio Members:
Resident Bishop  Mary Virginia Taylor
Conference Treasurer/Staff  Rick Cherry
CFA Representative  Jeff Lambert
Cabinet Representative  Lauri Jo Cranford
Personnel Resources Committee

Chairperson: Reed Shell
Vice Chairperson: Joe Harvey
Secretary: Carolyn Kidd

(C) Shannon Marie Berry (MO)(1)  (C) Harry Layell (BI)(1)  (L) Kathy Hoard (MO)(1)
(C) Anthony Grills (TA)(1)  (C) Adam Love (KI)(1)  (L) Terrell James (CH)(1)
(C) David Harr (CH)(1)  (C) Reed Shell (CH)(1)  (L) Carolyn Kidd (AB)(1)
(C) Jonathan Jonas (AB)(1)  (L) Joe Harvey (KI)(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: TBD

Commission on Equitable Compensation

Chairperson: Terry Goodman
Vice Chairperson: Jack Brewster
Secretary: Mollianne Hubbs

(C) Larry Carroll (KN)(1)  (L) Jack Brewster (TA)(1)
(C) Bruce Galyon (KN)(1)  (L) Teresa Gammons (MO)(1)
(C) Terry Goodman (BI)(1)  (L) Mollianne Hubbs (MA)(1)
(C) Angela Hardy Cross (KN)(1)  (L) Lee Sherbakoff (CL)(1)
(C) Jim Oxendine (AB)(1)  (L) Mary Frances Tucker (KN)(1)

Ex-Officio Members:
Conference Treasurer/Staff: Rick Cherry
Executive assistant to the Bishop: Carol Wilson
District Superintendent/Cabinet Representative: Brenda Carroll

Committee on Petitions and Resolutions

Chairperson: John Eldridge

(C) Richie Hayes (KI)(1)  (C) David St. Clair (AB)(1)  (L) Nancy Hickman Bollinger (MA)(1)
(C) Catherine Nance (MA)(1)  (C) John Thompson (MO)(1)  (L) John Kernodle (OA)(1)
(C) Elston McLain (CH)(1)  (L) John Eldridge (KN)(1)  (L) Ellen Moore (WY)(1)
(C) Larry Osley (KN)(1)

Ex-Officio Members:
2016 Delegate for General Conference (named by Delegation): Becky Hall
Conference Secretary/Staff: Daniel H. Taylor, Jr.
Cabinet Representative: TBD
### Committee on Rules and Order

**Chairperson**  
Bradley Scott

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

**Ex-Officio Members:**
- Resident Bishop: Mary Virginia Taylor  
- Executive Assistant to the Bishop: Carol Wilson  
- Conference Secretary/Staff: 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

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

3 Appointed by the Bishop:

*C* 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, Kim Goddard

### Episcopal Residence Committee

**Chairperson or Representative of the Committee on Episcopacy**  
Steve Brown

**Chairperson or Representative of the Board of Trustees**  
David McLain

**Chairperson or Representative of the Council on Finance and Administration**  
Jeff Lambert

**Representative of the Cabinet**  
Rick Cherry

**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

(C) Ron Fisher (MA)(1)  
(C) Jack Jenkins (MO)(1)  
(C) Ron Matthews (MA)(1)  
(C) David St. Clair (AB)(1)  
(L) Harold Hartman (OA)(1)  
(L) Jerry Jones (AB)(1)  
(L) Moze Reliford (MO)(1)  
(L) Madge Walker (MO)(1)  
(L) Marie Willis (KI)(1)

**Ex-Officio Members:**
- Conference Historian: Roy Howard  
- General Commission on Archives: Grady Winegar  
- Conference Secretary/Staff: Daniel H. Taylor, Jr.  
- Cabinet Representative: TBD
COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

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

District Superintendents:
Sandra Johnson (AB, TA), Jeffrey Wright (BI), Randy Martin (CH), Elihugh Kilgore (CL),
Lauri Jo Cranford (JO, KI), Brenda Carroll (KN, OA), Jason Gattis (MA),
Tom Ballard (MO), Kim Goddard (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

Presidents:
United Methodist Men: Eric Knoefel
United Methodist Women: Lynice Boyles
United Methodist Youth Representative: Dawson Kitts

Ex-Officio Members:
Chairperson of the Discipleship Team: Elizabeth Hamilton

District Representatives:
Carolyn Kidd (AB), Mary Baker (BI), Becky Hall (CH), Pat Chester (CL),
Lynice Broyles (JO), Martha Ketron (KI), Mary Frances Tucker (KN), TBD (MA),
Rob Saunders (MO), TBD (OA), Deborah Neal (TA), Alan Hawthorne (WY)
# Support Groups

## United Methodist Men

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Eric Knoefel</td>
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<td>Honorary President</td>
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<td>Cabinet Representative</td>
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<td>District President: Abingdon</td>
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<td>District President: Tazewell</td>
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<td>District President: Wytheville</td>
<td>John Toothaker</td>
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## United Methodist Women

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Lynice Boyles</td>
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<td>Nyoka Holder</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Karen Adair</td>
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<td>MC/Spiritual Growth</td>
<td>Donna Tisdale</td>
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<td>MC/Education &amp; Interpretation</td>
<td>Gayle Kilgore</td>
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<td>MC/Social Action</td>
<td>Lori Sluder</td>
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<td>MC/Membership, Nurture &amp; Outreach</td>
<td>Peggy Dalton</td>
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<td>Secretary of Program Resources</td>
<td>Karen Murphy</td>
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<td>Communications Coordinator</td>
<td>Amy Thomas</td>
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<td>Chairperson, Committee on Nominations</td>
<td>Johnnie Bridges</td>
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<td>Cabinet Representative</td>
<td>Kim Goddard, Sandra Johnson</td>
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DISTRICT COMMITTEES ON ORDAINED MINISTRY
Nominated annually by the District Superintendent in consultation with the Chairperson or Executive Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry and approved by the Annual Conference (¶ 666 2016 Book of Discipline)

Abingdon District
Clergy: Mary K. Pope Briggs, Barbara Doyle, Elizabeth Scott Hamilton, Ralph M. Kidd (Chair), Larry Lusk, Michelle McKinnon-Young, Robert Kariuki Nyaga, Carolyn Whitaker
Lay: David Woody

Big Stone Gap District
Clergy: Kenneth Conner, Terry Goodman, W. Wayne Hedrick, Nancy T. Hobbs, Mark Kilbourne, Harry Layell (Chair), Jacqueline McGowan, D. Layne Pennington, Bill Porter, Faith Ramer, Brad Stapleton, Jeffrey Wright
Lay: Mary Baker, Lan Stallard, John H. Wright

Chattanooga District
Clergy: Donald E. Allison, Sharon Bowers, Brenda Carroll, Reece Fauscett, Dennis Flaugher, W. David Hall, Gary Grogg, Charles Harrison (Chair), Ginger Isom, Linda McDaniel, Keith Moore, Reed Shell, Gregory Smart, Mary Thompson
Lay: Dobbins Callahan, Cheri Harr, Shirley Hixson

Chattanooga District
Clergy: Hugh Bryan, David W. Graybeal, Pat Hogan, Dwight Kilbourne, Eliegh Kilgore, Terril Littrell, Randy Martin, Mary Parson, Kenneth Scoggins, Debra Stokes, James Thompson, Michael Travis, Dale Wyrick
Lay: Kay Freeman, Becky Jaquish, Martha Kidwell

Johnson City District
Clergy: Ricky Clowers, Dan Gray, Doug Grove-DeJarnett, Kimberly Isley (Chair), Lon Tobin
Lay: Lynice Broyles, Dan Cross, Dell Gates, Linda Keller

Kingsport District
Clergy: Jack Edwards, Caleb Frazier, Richard Hayes, Paul Humphrey, Adam Love, Nancy Martin, Amy Probst, Paul Seay (Chair), Kenneth Sprinkle
Lay: Joyce Eberhart, Roger Herron, Marie Willis

Knoxville District
Clergy: Sherry Boles, Kenny Faught, Don Ferguson, Angela Hardy Cross, Bruce Galyon, Dennie Humphreys, Richard Isbell (Chair), Daniel Ogle, Ann Robins, David Smith, Sarah Varnell
Lay: Shirley Napier, Mike Slimbarski, Sharon Vaughn

Maryville District
Clergy: Kenneth Abbott, Lisa Blackwood, Ronald Fisher, Gene Lovell, Asa Majors, Charles Maynard, Laura Rasor, Sarah Slack (Chair), Crystal Smith
Lay: Robert Ergenbright, Larry Martin

Morristown District
Clergy: Steve R. Brown (Chair), Kristen Burkhart, Don Ferguson, Maria Grimm, Jeannie Higgins
Lay: John Allen, Linda Franklin, Nancy Renner

Oak Ridge District
Clergy: David Grant, Donna Hester, Sue Lynn Johnson, David Lewis, Micah Nicolaus, Steve Parker, Brenda Poole, Thomas Robins (Chair), Michael Stallings
Lay: Bob Colvin, Renni Morris, Barbara Osborne

Tazewell District
Clergy: Steve Aker, Brian Burch, Betsy Elifritz Warren, Anthony Grills (Chair), Rodney Lawson, Ray Petty, Bradley Scott, Don Scott, V. Kaye Seay, Donald Swift, Betsy Switzer, David Tabor
Lay: Jane Johnson, Mike McMahon, Sara Reese, Rick Waddell, Jean Walk

Wytheville District
Clergy: Paul Goshorn, Dale Gilbert (Chair), Don Hanshew, Robert Smith, Joe Mack Taylor, Aubrey Whitlow
Lay: John Causey, Mike Pugh, Carolyn Snow
DISTRICT BOARDS OF CHURCH LOCATION AND BUILDING

Nominated by the District Superintendent in consultation with the district Nominating Committee, if one exists, and elected annually by the Annual Conference

(¶2519, 2016 Book of Discipline)

Abingdon District

Class of 2017: Donnie Lee Bailey, Harry Cuskey, Marvin Tate
Class of 2018: James Lyttle, Leonard Smith, Betty Webb

Big Stone Gap District

Class of 2017: Wayne McClelland, Dewayne McGowan, Richard Williams
Class of 2018: Lucius Ellsworth (Chair), Larry Hobbs, Harry Layell,

Chattanooga District

Class of 2017: Jacqueline Brown, Andrew Cotton, Brad Folsum
Class of 2018: Thomas Tucker

Cleveland District

Class of 2017: Arthur Bigham, Ramon Torres, Betty Ward
Class of 2018: Edith Jones, Donna Tisdale, Wendell Whaley (Chair)

Johnson City District

Class of 2017: Erin Johnson, Earl Maden
Class of 2018: Bob Goodsell (Chair), Ernest Campbell

Kingsport District

Class of 2017: Sheila Postell, Jack Edwards
Class of 2018: Roy Adams, Frank Marsh

Knoxville District

Class of 2017: David Petty, Henrietta Jenkins, Tim Paul
Class of 2018: Miriam Boney, Gary Clark (Chair), Brad Hyde
Class of 2019: Leah Burns, Richard Richter, Tommy Schumpert

Maryville District

Class of 2017: Linda Hartley, Judy Martin, Susan Saunders

Morristown District

Class of 2017: Diana Cornett, Danny Hensley, Guy Jones
Class of 2018: Linda Franklin, Brad Peters, Tom Rush, Ronald Ramsey (Chair)

Oak Ridge District

Class of 2017: Knox Wimberly (Chair), Lily Rayson, Marcia Barton
Class of 2018: Bill Hicks, Doug Underwood

Tazewell District

Class of 2017: Ed Blair, Jason Crandall, Ben McGuire, Barbara Parker
Class of 2018: Erin DeHart, Tom Miller, Kevin Richardson

Wytheville District

Class of 2017: C. G. Akers, G. W. Catron, Richard Gregory
Class of 2018: Ann Blair, Buford Hanks, Don Orfield
TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS OF CONFERENCE RELATED INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES

ASBURY, INC.
... members of the board ... shall be nominated and elected by the boards and confirmed by the Annual Conference.
Standing Rule 6, 2016 Conference Journal

President Nellie Cole
Vice Chairperson Guy Wilson
Secretary Bob McCollum
Treasurer Beth Stubbs

David Atkinson Marvin Eichorn Cole Piper
Nellie Ward Cole Larry Martin Beth Stubbs
Sandra Davis Marsheine McClurg Guy Wilson
Eric Deaton Robert “Bob” W. McCollum

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, 2016 Conference Journal

President Sam Coulter
Vice Chairperson John Anderson
Secretary Cheryl Light

PANEL OF 2017 PANEL OF 2018 PANEL OF 2019
John Anderson Sarah Beamer Cheryl Light Charlie Harr
Gary Bagnall Sam Coulter Wanda Moody Lee Iglehart
Brad Bower Dennis Falls Beth Peacock Bill Kida
Laurence Hesser Lynne Fugate Mike Reynolds Ware Mitchell
Mark Walker Mike Hincher Mike Stice Ken Webb

Chair, Audit Committee Mark Walker
Chair, Conference Relations Laurence Hesser
Chair, Gift Acceptance Committee TBD
Chair, Grants Committee Wanda Moody
Chair, Investment Committee Charlie Harr
Chair, Nominating Committee Lynne Fugate
Chair, Personnel Committee Mary Francis Tucker

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

HOLSTON CONFERENCE FOUNDATION HOLDING COMPANY, INC. 2017

President Sam Coulter
Vice Chairperson John Anderson
Secretary Cheryl Light
Treasurer Roger Redding

BOARD MEMBERS: Lynne Fugate, Charlie Harr, Laurence Hesser, Wanda Moody, Mary Frances Tucker, Mark Walker
HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE

HOLSTON CONFERENCE-EMORY & HENRY CEMETERY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair
Henry C. Dawson, Jr.

Conference Representatives:
Eugene Lovell  Peyton Rowlett  Walter Weikel  David Jackson

Emory & Henry College Representatives:
Henry Dawson  Beth Mahaffey  Talmage Stanley
Monica Hoel  Jake Schrum

HOLSTON UNITED METHODIST HOME FOR CHILDREN
... members of the board ... shall be nominated and elected by the boards and confirmed by the Annual Conference. Standing Rule 6, 2016 Conference Journal

Chair
Jeffrey J. Monson

Vice Chair
Bryan A. Jackson

Secretary
Fred Crabtree

Treasurer
Wes Robbins

Panel 2017
Bradley J. Bower  Ivy M. Leonard  Jeffrey J. Monson  Debra B. Oldenberg  Wes Robbins

Panel 2018
Stephen W. Brumit  John B. McGuffin  Jim Moody  Jamie Oakley  Brenda T. Stevens

Panel 2019
Kent Bewley  Bryan A. Jackson  Ronald Jones  Debra Miller

Ex-Officio Members:
Resident Bishop, Holston Conference ............................................................ 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, 2016 Conference Journal

Members:
Mr. Phil Andrews  Mr. Tom Hilton  Dr. Jim Tramontana
Mr. Gerald Boyd  Dr. Mark Johns  Mr. Jim VanderSteeg
Mrs. Leigha Edwards  Dr. Dan Lenoir  Mr. Glenn Zahn
Mr. John Eschenberg  Mr. Alan Parker
Mr. Clay Good  Dr. Mark Prince
Mr. Parker C. Hardy, III  Mr. Bill Reis
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, 2016 Conference Journal

EMORY & HENRY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairperson: William B. Pendleton
Vice-Chairperson: Gary M. Reedy
Secretary: L. Carole Wharton
Treasurer: Kyra Kegley Bishop

Board of Directors:
- Glenn H. Birkitt, Jr.
- Lynda Jones Hawkins
- William B. Pendleton
- Jay B. Schrum
- Joseph F. Ellis
- A. Susan Keene
- Ann Grim Sparger
- F. Winton Lackey
- Donna Profit Vaughn
- John W. Fields
- Beth Maiden Malaffey
- Peter S. Walters
- Vaugh R. Groves
- John P. McClave
- L. Carole Wharton
- Jack Rhorton
- Jane Hicks Harter
- William L. Naehle
- Donald R. Youell, Jr.

Ex-Officio Members:
- President, Emory & Henry College: Jake B. Schrum
- Resident Bishop of Holston Conference: Mary Virginia Taylor
- Abingdon District Superintendent, Holston Conference: Sandra J. Johnson

HIWASSEE COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair: Rev. Charles W. Maynard
Vice Chair: Mr. John D. Wood
Treasurer: Mr. Douglas W. Hulme
Secretary: Dr. William Eddie Harmon
Alumni Trustee (1 year term): Brenda Malone
Student Trustee (1 year term): Mr. Bryan Woodlief

Panel 2017:
- Brenda Malone
- Willard T. Akers, III
- Sarah G. Mozley
- Reuben N. Pelot, III
- Jack Rhorton

Panel 2019:
- Maxine O’Dell Gernert
- Douglas W. Hulme
- Halei LeQuire
- Bryan Hall
- Reuben N. Pelot, III

Panel 2020:
- Richardia Pierce
- Halei LeQuire
- William Eddie Harmon
- John D. Wood

Ex-Officio Members:
- Resident Bishop of Holston Conference: Mary Virginia Taylor
- Maryville District Superintendent: Rev. Charles Maynard
- President: Dr. Robin J. Tricoli
### TENNESSEE WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Chair** | Allen Carter  
**Vice Chair** | Hugh Queener  
**Secretary** | Matt Brookshire  

**Representatives to the Board of Trustees:**
- **Faculty Representative** | Tony Bryant  
- **Student Representative** | Emily Green  
- **Alumni Representative** | Greg Moses  
- **Covenant Health Representative** | Keith Altshuler  
- **Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center Representative**  
  - Allen Carter  
  - Danny Hays  
  - Thomas Reed  
  - Hugh Queener  
  - Tenna Hornsby  
  - Jerry Smith  
  - Matt Brookshire  
  - Bryan Jackson  
  - Ken Smith  
  - Sharon Brown  
  - William Kilbride  
  - Claire Tucker  
  - Jerri Bryant  
  - Rick Lay  
  - Hugh Walker III  
  - Ailene Chambers  
  - Larry Mauldin  
  - Don Webb  
  - Carl Colloms  
  - Regenia Mayfield  
  - Mark White  
  - Angie Green-Griffin  
  - Daniel F. Moore  
  - Mintie Willson  
  - Laurie Hallenberg  
  - Charles Peccolo  
  - Jim Winer  
  - Vant Hardaway  
  - Pat Purushotham  
  - Shirley Woodcock  

**Ex-Officio Members:**
- Resident Bishop of Holston Conference .......................... Mary Virginia Taylor  
- President ................................................................................ Harl ey G. Knowles  
- District Superintendent ........................................................ Hugh Kilgore  
- Trustee Emeritus ................................................................. George Oliphant  
- Honorary Trustee .................................................................. Danny R. Hays  

### WESLEY FOUNDATIONS BOARDS

**EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY WESLEY FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Chair** | Caleb Frazier  
**Vice Chair** | Anna Kapoor  
**Secretary** | Lisa Ousley  
**Treasurer** | Jessica Sanders  

**Ex-Officio Members:**
- Steve Baldwin (JO)  
  - Rachael Barnett (2) (JO)  
  - Caleb Frazier (4) (KN)  
- Ryan Blackwell (KN)  
  - Butch Jones (3) (JO)  
  - Anna Kapoor (5) (JO)  
- Shannon Marie Berry (MO)  
  - Joyce Jones (3) (JO)  
  - Dr. Joe Sherlin (5) (JO)  
- Vickie Bacon (2) (JO)  
  - Linda Keller (3) (JO)  
  - Braxton Sluder (7) (JO)  
- Abraham McIntire (2) (JO)  
  - Kathy Feagins (3) (JO)  
  - Johnny Qualls (7) (JO)  
- Dr. Ken Johnson (2) (MO)  
  - Nancy Hopson (3) (JO)  

*(Numbers in brackets indicate total number of years served as of June 2017)*  
*(Names in bold lettering are new members)*

**Ex-Officio Members:**
- Campus Minister, Wesley Foundation ........................................ John W. Ousley  
- District Superintendents ......................................................... Lauri Jo Cranford, Thomas Ballard  
- Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry Representative  
  - Magan Stubblefield
RADFORD UNIVERSITY WESLEY FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Heather Rowland
Vice-President: Bill Parker
Secretary: Marcy Harless
Treasurer: Jackie Taylor

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

Ex-Officio Members:
Campus Director, Wesley Center: Martee Buchanan
District Superintendents: Sandra Johnson (AB)(TA), Kim Goddard (WY)
District Secretaries of Christian Education: June Totten (AB), Gordon McBride (TA), Matt McDaniel (WY)
District Lay Leaders: Betsy King (Carter St.), Dale Gilbert (Central), (Grove), Irvin Clark (New Mt. Olive)
Pastors, Radford Churches: Sue Tilson (AB), Deborah Neal (TA), Alan Hawthorne (WY)
Conference Staff Representative: Laura McLean

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, CHATTANOOGA WESLEY FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair: Lillian Cook
Vice Chair: TBD
Treasurer: Cheryl Morgan
Secretary: TBD

Panel of 2017
Cindy Beale
Tracy Mozingo

Panel of 2018
Steve Barham
Rebekah Ducote
Stuart French
James Hamby
Diane Meadows
Daniel Oakley
Bob Welin

Ex-Officio Members:
Campus Minister, Director of Wesley Center: G. Keith Moore
District Superintendents: Randy Martin, Hugh Kilgore
Conference Staff Representative: Laura McLean
HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE
WESLEY FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair Mark Wilson
Vice-Chair Rachel Elliott
Secretary/Treasurer

Elected Members:
Panel 2017
Carter Cross
Amanda Madson
Mark Wilson

Ex-Officio Members:
Campus Minister, Wesley Foundation Director ................................................................. Tim Kobler
Program Director .............................................................................................................. Heather Godsey
District Superintendents ............................................................................................... Brenda Carroll, Jason Gattis
Conference Staff Representative .................................................................................. Laura McLean
Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry Representatives Magan Stubblefield, TBD
Student Members Austin Byerly, Hannah Corlew, David Large,
Katie Lee, Katy Miller, Adam Young

UNIVERSITY OF VA-WISE WESLEY FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair Betzy Elifrits Warren
Vice-Chair Susan Herron
Secretary Jacob Somervell
Treasurer Pat Bowden

Patricia Bowden Bruce Ecker Jacob Somervell Kenneth Purscell
Betzy Elifrits Warren Susan Herron John Wright Rebecca Stapleton
Richard Galyean Layne Pennington Karen Hall Kenny Spurlock
Dawn Gilbert

Ex-Officio Members:
District Superintendent, Big Stone Gap........................................................................ Jeff Wright
District Superintendent, Tazewell.................................................................................. Sandra Johnson
District Lay Leader, Big Stone Gap ............................................................................... Mary Baker
District UMW President, Big Stone Gap ....................................................................... TBD
District UMW President, Big Stone Gap ....................................................................... Hope Stapleton
Representative, Tazewell District .................................................................................. Betzy Elifrits Warren
Pastor Trinity, Wise ......................................................................................................... Phillip Bates
Member Emeritus ............................................................................................................. TBD

Ex-Officio Members without vote:
Campus Director, Wesley Foundation........................................................................ Mary “Beth” Tipton
Conference Staff Representative..................................................................................... Laura McLean
Student Representative................................................................................................. Maggie Chafin
Liaisons to the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry .................................. Ralph Kidd
Have you visited the displays in the Harrell Center Auditorium today?
BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

The Board of Ordained Ministry is perhaps best known for its partnership with the local churches and the Annual Conference in the process of identifying, discerning, educating, and credentialing those who discern God’s call in their lives to ministry as a vocation. We recognize the incredible responsibility entrusted to us as we seek to resource, through the office of our Bishop and the twelve districts, the local congregations of The Holston Annual Conference with persons who are convinced of the call of God upon their lives to “make disciples of Jesus Christ, for the transformation of the world,” and to equip those who they are partnered in ministry with to effectively do the same. At every level, laity and clergy alike, we are unapologetically about “helping people follow Jesus.”

One of the tensions we live with is the joy of seeing new candidates: licensed, commissioned, and ordained as they begin to provide spiritual leadership in the hills and valleys, isolated communities, and cities of what we know as Holston and the retirement of those who have served in those same places – some for just a few years, some having spent a lifetime of thirty, forty, or more years. We are grateful to those who have worn the mantle for years demonstrating faithfulness and sacrifice and those who now take up the mantle with the potential of decades of leadership ahead of them.

In 2016 we celebrated the retirement of 26 clergy whose combined ministry was a total of 568 years of service to God’s Church. We ordained and received into Conference Membership 6 elders and 1 deacon; and we commissioned 8 provisional elders. We licensed 24 and recognized 1 associate member and the orders of 1 person coming from another denomination.

The Board is now following a three-year provisional period for those who are seeking ordination as deacon and elder. The implementation of this change is reflected in this year’s Annual Conference as our current provisional members are the first group under the three-year requirement and therefore will become eligible for ordination in 2018.

We also partnered this year with the Wesley Leadership Institute on Minister’s Convocation which took place in February in Pigeon Forge with Olu Brown as the plenary speaker.

I am grateful for those who give many hours a year to serve as members of the Board of Ordained Ministry. We could not do all we are charged with doing were it not for the many who serve on District Committees of Ordained Ministry and the Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. I want to also express my gratitude for the work of the Office of Clergy Services who resource the Board as well as the District Committees with the information needed for this challenging work we seek to faithfully carry out each year for the sake of our mission of “helping people follow Jesus.”

~ Mickey W. Rainwater, Chairperson
The Holston Center for Wellbeing, formerly the Holston Conference Pastoral Counseling Center, has continued to thrive during this past year’s work of ministry. The change in the name of the ministry to Holston Center for Wellbeing came as a result of much reflection among those who are currently charged with shepherding the ministry so as to more fully reflect the goal of our work. The new name very much indicates the passion God has given us for life in God’s kingdom, a life that brings about the fruits of the Holy Spirit -- love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control-- for all to experience.

The staff persons who work in this ministry guide and support individuals through a healing process, a process we hope will enable these persons to recover a sense of God’s grace toward themselves and toward others. The work takes place in a variety of settings -- individual or couple or family therapy, clergy groups, in large group meetings or in brief personal encounters. My hope as a counselor is that I might bring to others an awareness of God’s healing mercy, abundant grace, and love.

In the past twelve months, 74 individuals have received direct services in various locations and settings around the Conference. Without fail, in almost all situations, persons served by this office express gratitude for this important ministry. The work is primarily listening, but the results that come about are truly amazing. The investment of time by our clergy members and others in attending to such personal work leads to significant increases in personal awareness and growth, improved relationships, strengthened confidence, and renewed hope.

To be a part of this work is a great blessing. As Director, I am honored and thankful to be appointed to serve Holston’s clergy and their family members. As I considered a way to express my gratitude and sense of connection, I considered a photograph that hangs above the desk in my office. It is a large-scale photo that my father brought home after serving in the U.S. Army in North Africa during World War II. The photograph is of a dusty desert scene with a large herd of sheep, some goats, a donkey, likely the shepherd’s pack animal for his journey, and a lone shepherd. The photo is especially meaningful to me and I keep it there as a reminder that no matter where we are on our journey of faith, God shepherds us. We are precious to him and he cares for us as the shepherd cared for his animals, including the goats and the donkey! It also reminds me that we are on this journey together, a community to help and support each other. The photo is a metaphor also for the work we do as clergy. Like the shepherd, we are to care for all as best we can, whether people are like the sheep who stray from the flock or the goats who stubbornly hold their ground. God uses his and our compassion and messages of love to reach and bring about change for the wellbeing of each of us. That is how I sense God’s call to me and God’s call as to how I am to serve.
Our prayers continue to be with our United Methodist Church, our Holston Conference churches and clergy, and the works of ministry to which we respond. May God be with us always.

~ Reverend Laura A. Shearer, Director
~ Reverend Laura Plaster, Chair, Supervisory Committee

THE TASK FORCE ON BULLYING AND HARASSMENT OF CLERGY BY LAITY

The 2015 Holston Annual Conference approved a resolution which identified bullying and harassment of clergy by lay persons to be a significant problem both in the United States and in the Holston Conference. The resolution asked a Task Force be appointed to study the problem of bullying and harassment of clergy by lay persons and to develop a policy to address this issue and to report its findings to the Annual Conference.

While members of the Task Force were initially uncertain how big a problem this was in Holston, our research and initial meetings confirmed this was an active problem. In fact at our first Task Force meeting members described two separate continuing situations of bullying and harassment going on at that time. One was in one of our largest suburban churches and one was in a smaller county seat church.

Our goal as a Task Force was to identify and assess the extent of this problem in the Holston Conference, develop a policy to address bullying and harassment in Holston, and recommend policies and strategies to the cabinet and clergy for identifying and responding to bullying and harassment.

Over the past year and a half the Task Force has reviewed the literature of bullying and harassment of clergy by laity. This included books and articles reviewing these issues in several different denominations and in both the US and the United Kingdom. Clearly, this behavior can be incredibly damaging both to the pastor and their family, the perpetrator and the church.

In addition, the Task Force surveyed the Holston Clergy to determine the prevalence of bullying and harassment experienced in their work in the churches of the Holston Conference.

Finally, we interviewed both clergy and District Superintendents about their experiences of bullying and harassment.

Simply put, harassment and bullying of clergy men and women occurs in Holston Conference. Based on our surveys and interviews, we believe 25 to 30% of clergy have been bullied or harassed at some point in their careers in Holston. Further, as noted above, this is a current and active problem in our churches today.

Lay/Clergy Bullying and Harassment In Holston Conference

It is the policy of the Holston Conference to demonstrate holy relationships
with God and each other. Therefore, mistreatment, harassment, and behaviors fostering negative relationships between clergy and lay persons in the congregation will not be tolerated.

Furthermore, most lay persons are opposed to such negative treatment of their pastors and find it reprehensible. However, congregations often lack both the knowledge and resources to properly address such destructive behaviors. The impact on church congregations is well documented. In a bullying situation

- an average of 28% of worshipers left to go to another church;
- 19% left the church completely;
- 38% that remained decreased giving and participation;
- 18% stayed on the rolls but became inactive.

In order to address the harassment/bullying of clergy by lay persons, it is important to distinguish the difference between normal conflict management and the presence of harassment/bullying behaviors.

Normal conflict responds well to rational, competent, and caring management methods. An effective method for dealing with normal conflict includes

- establishing ground rules;
- clarifying grievances and needs;
- speaking, listening, and giving feedback;
- affirming areas of agreement;
- brainstorming creative options;
- negotiating a resolution;
- and evaluating.

**DEFINITIONS**

**Harassment** is a repeated behavior that is directed at a person or group of persons and that:

- It is offensive, humiliating, or threatening;
- It is unwelcome and unsolicited;
- It is something a reasonable person would consider offensive, intimidating, humiliating, or threatening to the person or group of persons.

**Bullying**

Bullying is persistent, unwelcome, offensive, abusive, intimidating and/or insulting behavior.

- It makes the recipient feel upset, threatened, humiliated and/or vulnerable. It undermines their self-confidence and may cause them to suffer stress.
It mostly uses unwarranted or invalid criticism, nit-picking, faultfinding and distorted or fabricated allegations.

It includes behavior that could be expected to intimidate, offend, degrade, humiliate, undermine, or threaten.

It is a form of abuse or assault (psychological violence), which has serious and devastating consequences not only for those targeted, but also for any organization within which it is allowed to prevail.

The perpetrators usually act covertly and systematically to undermine, control, and (if they deem it necessary) to remove their targets.

Bullying is often more devastating than a physical injury as the suffering is usually compounded by denial.

Bullying is NOT

- A personality clash
- People being unkind or “difficult”
- Healthy, honest confrontation and consequential discipline from management
- Something which only happens to children
- Something which only happens to “wimps” or unassertive people
- Something which those targeted can stop by standing up to the perpetrators
- Something which can be resolved by a “no-blame” reconciliation process.

Any one or more of these one time or repeated behaviors can be considered bullying and harassment. These include

- antagonists who thrive on creating trouble;
- who have an insatiable need for power and control;
- whose reward is tearing down;
- who want to hurt, humiliate, destroy, and remove the pastor;
- who use e-mails and other social media to reprimand, insult or otherwise inform some one of their apparent feeling, either to the individual or to third parties
- who thrive on being critical;
- who enjoy conflict;
- who have extremely controlling personalities;
- who get their feelings hurt easily and turn those feelings into anger, bitterness, resentment, and ultimately revenge;
who consider clergy available 24/7 to do their bidding;
who have a sense of entitlement;
whose singular goal is to get the pastor removed;
whose nature of attacks is rarely substantiated with objective data;
who count on the clergy to be non-combative;
who have unspecified anger as the most common characteristic;
who have common complaints such as “don’t like leadership style, doesn’t preach the gospel, not pastoral or poor administrator.”

The antagonists’ most common weapons are anonymous rumors and triangulation.

Bullying may manifest itself in a variety of different ways. It is usually persistent, and often unpredictable, and can amount to severe intimidation. It is insidious, and undermines the ability and confidence of the person suffering from it. It can lead to fear, isolation, demotivation and reduced output, poor concentration, symptoms of stress, a noticeable level of sickness, absence or stubborn attendance when obviously unwell, and psychological, emotional, and physical harm.

The most serious incidents might result in:

- putting someone’s health physically, emotionally or psychologically at risk by making them upset, frightened, and/or ridiculed
- ignoring signs of overwork and extreme stress
- creating an unsafe working environment

Pastoral Care in a Bullying Situation

A complaint of bullying/harassment has the potential to affect a wide network of relationships. In particular, three groups call for special pastoral care - the victim, his/her family or significant relationships, (the associate victims); the alleged perpetrator, his/her family, peers, (the secondary victims); the church community and individual members as a whole. The pastoral response of the church needs to be integrated with the investigative, disciplinary and possible legal procedures that may be undertaken.

The purpose of procedures for dealing with cases of bullying or harassment is to protect the vulnerable, stop the abuse, and to promote restoration/healing.

Holston Conference shall offer appropriate pastoral support to the victim, the alleged offender, and their respective families. It is inappropriate for the same person to offer pastoral care to both the victim and the alleged offender. It is not appropriate for specific/designated pastoral care to be offered by those involved in any disciplinary actions related to the case.

The purpose of these procedures may be accomplished by offering opportunities
for the truth to be spoken and believed, for any violation to be acknowledged, for accountability to be exercised, and for compassion to be demonstrated in ways that serve justice. All procedures need to be based on providing protection for the vulnerable and ensuring accountability for the offender.

“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.” (Matthew 18:15-17 - see also Deuteronomy 19:15-20).

Ideally, members should attempt to resolve issues of bullying at the informal level by raising the issue directly with the person they believe is responsible for bullying. Sometimes, an informal approach can quickly resolve an instance of bullying.

- If that fails to stop the bullying then involve one or two other members in the discussions with the person you believe is responsible for bullying.

If that fails, and if the clergy person believes they are experiencing bullying and harassment from a lay member of their church, they are encouraged to talk immediately with the Conference contact person for dealing with bullying and harassment of clergy, the Conference Pastoral Counselor, and their District Superintendent.

**TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Affirm a policy declaring a zero tolerance of bullying and harassment of lay and clergy in Holston Conference United Methodist churches.

2. Encourage the Conference Pastoral Counselor to actively develop Clergy Small Groups across the conference for support, fellowship, learning, and sharing. The pastoral ministry can be especially isolating and stressful without community and support of fellow pastors. This isolation can create a vulnerable environment for a pastor dealing with a bully or antagonist.

3. Institute regular training of pastors in conflict transformation at least once a quadrennium. This would focus on dealing with normal conflict and distinguishing between that and bullying and harassment. In addition, pastors would identify strategies for responding effectively to bullying and harassment.

4. Provide the Cabinet of Holston Conference with training to enable them to identify support and respond to bullying and harassment of clergy effectively.

5. Provide training for Staff Parish Relations Committees in recognizing and dealing with conflict and supporting their pastor. This would focus
on identifying and dealing with normal conflict and distinguishing between that and bullying and harassment.

6. Identify and train contact person(s) designated as first responders in the conference dealing with pastors and their families struggling with bullies and antagonists in their churches. This person shall support and guide the pastor as they work through the process toward resolution.

7. The Conference Pastoral Counselor and the Conference Wellness, Advocacy and Response Team (CWART) shall work together to schedule and provide the training recommended above and to identify and publicize the contact persons who will serve as advocates in a bullying and harassment situation.


~ The Task Force on Lay Abuse of Clergy

Rev. Don E. Ferguson, Chair
Rev. Rhonda Hobbs, Vice Chair
Rev. Lauri Jo Cranford
Rev. Randy Martin
Rev. Paige Wimberly
Mr. Tim Priest

APPENDIX 1 The Initial Resolution from the 2015 Holston Annual Conference

RESOLUTION TO REDUCE THE ABUSE OF CLERGY BY LAYPERSON 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 often 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

BOARD OF PENSIONS AND HEALTH BENEFITS

The Board of Pensions and Health Benefits is pleased to issue its report to the Holston Annual Conference and will address the following:

RETIREMENT AND OTHER WELFARE PLANS:

- **Pre-82 Pension Plan (Pre-82)**, (Defined Benefit Plan for Clergy Service Prior to 1982)
- **Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP)**, (Modified Defined Contribution Plan for Clergy Service from January 1, 1982 through December 31, 2006)
- **Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP)**, (Combination Defined Benefit and Defined Contribution Plan for Clergy Service on or after January 1, 2007)
- **United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP)**, (Qualified IRC§403(b) voluntary deferred compensation plan for clergy and Conference lay employees)
- **Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)**, (Provides disability for active clergy and death benefit for active and retired clergy and qualified covered dependents)
- **Retiree Moving Expense Reimbursement**
- **Special Grants 2017-2018**

HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS:

- **Holston Self-Insured Health Plan** (*Administered by Blue Cross / Blue Shield of Tennessee*)
- **Retiree Health Plan** (*Medicare Part C Supplement from Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Tennessee*)

COMPREHENSIVE BENEFIT FUNDING PLAN

The Pre-82 pension plan provides for a lifetime pension benefit for all eligible clergy and 70% of that benefit for surviving spouses during their lifetime.

The benefit is based on the years of service prior to January 1, 1982, and a dollar amount referred to as the “Past Service Rate” for each service year. The Board has approved a Past Service Rate for calendar year 2018 of $577.00 which represents a 1 ½ % increase from 2017.

The Conference liability for Pre-82 as of 1/1/2016 was 84% funded through reserves with additional funding to be provided by funds available from the CPP plan and redirection of amounts continuing to be collected through direct billing.

Denominational funding status as of 1/1/2016 was 97%. Actuarial assumptions relating to revised mortality tables and discount rates resulted in increases in
funding liability from previous years. Increases in the Past Service Rate are required to be funded in advance ($360,384 for 2018) and also contribute to the increase in unfunded liability.

**************************

The MPP plan was funded by direct Conference contribution to individual participant accounts based on the respective clergy compensation base and functioned as a defined contribution plan during active plan years. Effective January 1, 2014 retiring participants are required to convert 65% of their plan balance to a lifetime annuity with optional survivor benefits available with reduced immediate benefits. The balance of the retiree’s account is available for immediate distribution or “Roll-Over” to UMPIP or other qualified outside accounts.

The plan is fully funded as of 1/1/2016 and no contribution is required by the Conference for 2018.

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Our current retirement plan, CRSP, provides both a “Defined Benefit” and a “Defined Contribution” component.

The Defined Benefit is calculated using the following criteria:

- For each service year from January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2013, eligible participants are credited with 1 ¼% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC)
- For each service year after December 31, 2013, the percentage credited has been reduced to 1% of the DAC
- Clergy appointed at less than 100% but at least 50% are credited with a pro-rata percentage benefit.
- At retirement, participants will receive a lifetime annuity based on their accrued plan benefit, with optional survivor benefits available with reduced immediate benefits.

The Conference contribution to the CRSP Defined Benefit plan for 2018 is projected to be $2,246,943 and will be funded by “Direct Invoicing”.

Under the Defined Contribution benefit portion of CRSP the Conference:

- Contributed 3% of the participants’ plan compensation into an investment account similar to UMPIP and with the same fund investment options.
- Effective January 1, 2014, this percentage was reduced to 2% of the participants’ plan compensation.
- After January 1, 2014, if the participant voluntarily contributes at least 1% of their plan compensation into the UMPIP plan, an additional 1% will be contributed to the participants’ CRSP Defined Contribution account.
This action was taken in order to encourage participation in the UMPIP plan.

At retirement the balance in the participants’ Defined Contribution account is available for immediate distribution or “Roll-Over” to UMPIP or other qualified outside accounts.

The Conference contribution to the CRSP Defined Contribution plan for 2018 is projected to be $783,973 and will be funded by “Direct Invoicing”.

The Conference sponsors UMPIP for both clergy and Conference laity employees. All clergy are encouraged to contribute at least 3% of their plan compensation as elective deferrals into the plan which allows an additional 1% contribution by the Conference into the clergy person’s CRSP-DC account. This election is properly made on the “Pastor Support Worksheet” concurrently with each new appointment or in connection with annual Charge Conferences for recurring appointments. Lay elections and changes are made directly with the Conference Treasurer’s office.

Conference laity staff members, after one year of employment, are eligible to participate in the UMPIP with the Conference contributing 6% of eligible compensation provided the employee elects to contribute at least 3% personally. UMPIP provides a variety of self-directed investment options available through Wespath.

The Conference contribution to the laity plan for 2018 is projected to be $81,192 and will be funded by Tithe/Askings.

The CPP covers full-time appointed clergy only and provides for long-term disability integrated with Social Security disability benefits awarded to claimants. Clergy requesting “Medical Leave” status and approved by the Joint Committee on Incapacity are eligible to apply for disability benefits with approvals coordinated by Liberty Mutual Insurance Company and Wespath. Applicants are granted a stipend of the lesser of 70% of their compensation base or $3,000 for a period not to exceed three months, or for a lesser period if approval takes place before the end of that three-month period. The Conference is reimbursed through retro-active benefits awarded the claimant. If not approved, the funds advanced are deemed to be a grant and no repayment is required.

During the time clergy are on disability and before becoming “MEDICARE” eligible, provided the claimant is enrolled in the Conference Health Plan, the Conference assumes the church portion of Health Plan Premiums with the claimant responsible for their personal portion. Health Plan cost to the Conference for clergy on disability is projected to be $73,996 for 2018 funded by Tithe/Askings.
In accordance with ¶ 356, *The Book of Discipline 2016*, the Conference Board recommends the following active ministers and local pastors be continued subject to the renewal of their eligibility for disability benefits under CPP:

Ronnie G. Duncan  Thomas A. Conley  Victoria L. Neese
John C. Anderson  Bobby D. Barton  Kenneth J. Blevins
Natalie Justice  Janice A. Cate  William L. Hill
David W. Olinger, Jr.  Roger G. Mathess  John D. Brewster
John L. Shelton  Diana Cornett  Michael D. Ward
April P. Milligan  Regina H. Shelton  Lyle White (Pending)
Ronald Ramsey (Pending)

The **Voluntary Transition Program** under CPP facilitates “grace-filled” exit from ministry for eligible clergy members in full connection or associate members who choose to withdraw from ministry:

- **Eligibility:**
  - Minimum service of at least five years in full connection
  - Not within two years of eligibility to enter the retired relationship under ¶ 357.2b, or ¶357.2c of the *Book of Discipline 2016*
  - The Clergy person, district superintendent, bishop, and board of ordained ministry must agree to transition participation
  - Surrender of Credentials upon approval

- **Severance Benefits** – Two weeks of participant’s plan compensation for each full year of continuous service up to a maximum of six month pay

- **Other benefits:**
  - Continuation of Health Plan benefits, if enrolled, with full payment of premiums for an 18 month period.
  - Active death benefits for same period used to calculate the severance payment.
  - Transition outplacement and career counseling services for up to 90 days during the transition period.
  - Moving expense reimbursement in accordance with policy established for retiring clergy.

- **Other Considerations:**
  - Participant is excluded from any other benefits under CPP not specifically granted under the transition program
  - If a former Transition Participant returns to ministry at any time he/she is required to repay the transition payment received under this program when the Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry approves a return to active ministry.
Additionally, CPP provides death benefits for eligible clergy, their spouses, and covered dependents.

Projected premiums for CPP for 2018 amount to $783,973 but have been waived by Wespath for, at least, the next two years. The Conference will continue to redirect Invoice amounts designated for CPP during this payment “Holiday” and redirect them to offset the Pre-82 funding deficit.

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Retiree Moving Expense Reimbursement - The Conference will continue to provide new retirees with a one-time moving expense allowance not to exceed $1,500 upon submission of valid receipts to the Conference Treasurer. The Conference cost for 2018 is projected to be $33,000 to be funded by Tithe/Asking.

Conference Pension Grants
In compliance with ¶ 1506.11 of The Book of Discipline 2016, the Board hereby reports the following grants to dependent adult children of former clergy of the Holston Annual Conference:

- Mr. Thomas E. Byrd, age 72, dependent adult son of Rev. Howard G. Byrd, 25% of current pension rate.
- Mr. Wendell R. Stock, age 58, dependent adult son of Rev. Shirl F. Stock, 25% of current pension rate.

Health Benefit Plans
In accordance with ¶ 639.7, The Book of Discipline 2016, the Conference sponsors a group health care plan. The Holston Self-Insured Health Plan covers all eligible Conference clergy, staff, and laity staff employed by participating local churches and other qualifying organizations. Clergy are deemed eligible if their cash compensation, as shown on line 4 of the Pastor Support Worksheet, is equal to, or greater than, 75% of the minimum compensation of the individual’s Conference status (Refer to the Committee on Equitable Compensation Report for those levels). Premiums are established each year by the Board and a blended premium amount set as the church’s responsibility for eligible appointed clergy. This premium is billed to the church even though an eligible clergy appointee is covered under an alternative health plan.

Participating clergy elect their level of coverage, (Individual, Family, or Employee + one); Plan type, (PPO or Health Savings Account (H.S.A.)) and Network preference, (Blue Cross / Blue Shield of Tennessee Network “S” or Network “P”). Participant premiums are set accordingly plus any added amounts for optional dental, vision coverage, and elected participation in a “Flexible Spending Account”.

Full-Time (30 Hours per week average), non-clergy Conference employees, and laity staff of participating local churches and other qualifying organizations are eligible to participate in the Conference Health Plan. Premiums for these
individuals are established by the Board based on the same option available to clergy and billed to participating organizations as one total amount. While our approved rate schedules present a recommended allocation between employer and employee premium responsibility, the amount of employer-shared responsibility is at the discretion of the participating organizations as long as the election is applied consistently to all participants.

For all covered individuals, plan types, coverage options, network preferences, and optional coverages may be modified during the open enrollment period (November 1-30 of each calendar year); or during the plan year if a qualifying event occurs (marriage, divorce, new eligible dependent, or loss of other coverage).

Flexible Medical Spending and Dependent Care Account participation must be renewed each year during the open enrollment period and a new enrollment form must be completed and submitted in order to participate the following calendar year.

In accordance with Board action in 2016, an annual wellness exam is required for all participants and covered spouses. Examinations are to be conducted between July 1 and June 30 of each Conference year. Failure to comply with the requirement will result in a monthly premium surcharge the following calendar year.

Claims and administrative expenses are projected to be $7,231,620 for 2018 and will be funded through Direct Invoicing to local churches and other participating organizations.

While total costs are contingent on actual claims experience, the Conference obtains “Reinsurance” to limit the impact of claims in excess of $200,000 and maintains adequate Health Plan reserves to cover total costs in excess of premiums collected.

Please refer to Attachment A for the schedule of base premiums for 2018.

In accordance with ¶ 639.6, The Book of Discipline 2016, the Conference provides Conference clergy persons, who have retired in accordance with ¶ 357.1, ¶ 357.2b, ¶ 357.2c, or ¶ 357.2d other than as applied to ¶ 357.2a of The Book of Discipline 2016 who are eligible for Medicare, and their spouses, access to a Medicare supplement through a Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Tennessee group plan.

Additionally, the Conference provides a fixed-dollar stipend for participating retirees and spouses to subsidize the cost of the Medicare supplement. The covered individual’s amount of stipend is calculated based on the retired clergy’s total years of service under appointment in Holston applied to a factor of $77 for each year, with a maximum annual stipend of $2,310 annually for 30 years of service. The stipend is available only to retirees and their spouses with at
least 10 years of service and a minimum stipend of $770 annually. In the case of clergy couple retirees, the highest years of service is used to determine the stipend for both. Retirees or spouses who are not eligible for Medicare can be covered under the regular Conference Self-Insured health plan at a 2% discount off of the published premiums for each year of service. Surviving spouses receive a stipend equal to 2 times their calculated individual amount.

Effective January 1, 2018, clergy with less than 10 years of service under appointment in Holston as of that date, and their spouses, will not be eligible for a stipend at retirement. The Conference has an unfunded liability for “Post-Retirement Health Care Benefits” of $18,453,875 as of January 1, 2016, and this action by the Board will dramatically reduce the actuarial determination of this obligation in future periods.

Projected annual plan benefit costs for 2018 are $940,238. Due to limited funding in the Conference budget, full allocation of amounts necessary to fund retirees’ healthcare cost will not be available in 2018 and future periods. To provide the necessary funds to cover projected costs, the Board has approved an additional increase in the clergy healthcare premium attributable to the appointment charge, and allocated reserves in amounts sufficient to fully fund projected costs as follows:

- CFA Proposed Budget $350,000
- Healthcare Premiums for appointment $250,000
- Healthcare Reserves allocated $340,238
- Total $940,238

The Board will continue to work with CFA in a cooperative effort to balance future expected cost with available resources.

**Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan**

In compliance with ¶1506.6 of *The Book of Discipline 2016*, The Holston Annual Conference has developed, adopted, and implemented a formal comprehensive funding plan for funding all its benefits obligations. The funding plan for 2018 has been submitted to “Wespath” (formerly the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits) for review, and receipt of a favorable written opinion from Wespath is anticipated as in prior years. The complete Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan document, together with the Wespath written opinion, will be posted on the Conference website when available. References in this report to 2018 funding levels and funding sources reflect components of this funding plan and approval of this report by the Holston Annual Conference constitutes approval of the funding plan by reference.

~ Rev. Todd Chancey, Chair
~ Rick Cherry, Treasurer
~ Kenneth Luton, Benefit Officer
PERSONNEL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Holston Conference Personnel Resources Committee has primary responsibility for the management of staff and personnel who have duties related to the various ministries of the Holston Conference. The Committee oversees job descriptions, compensation, and benefits of Conference employees. Likewise, we seek to work in collaboration with other Conference boards and agencies in the areas of staffing needs.

Holston Conference personnel include the directors of camps and the directors of Wesley Foundations on college campuses. They include those who provide leadership for missions, children, youth, clergy concerns, and church development. In addition, our staff works on behalf of the conference and local churches in support of finances, pensions, insurance, and other administrative responsibilities. The driving goal of the conference staff is to assist the Holston Conference to fulfill its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

Over the past year the Personnel Resource Committee has worked to support and equip the staff for the work of ministry. The committee worked to efficiently use available funds to give a staff raise of 2% for 2017. As we reach the end of another conference year, it is a time of transition for some of our staff. We will miss the strong and effective ministry of Randy Pasqua, Executive Director of Conference Camp and Retreat Ministries, Laura Shearer, Director of the Holston Center for Wellbeing (formerly the Holston Conference Pastoral Counseling Center), and Gaye King, Associate Director of Connectional Ministries for Children, Older Adult, and Advocacy ministries. These three will be retiring at this session of conference. We are pleased to announce the hiring of the Reverend Mary Thompson as the new Executive Director of Conference Camp and Retreat Ministries. While successors for the Center for Wellbeing or for Ms. King’s position have not been named, we look forward to working on behalf of the conference to secure competent leadership. In addition, we have supported the hiring of Mollianne Hubbs who will be leading a collaborative project with Appalachia Service Project to build housing in Sevier County for those who were impacted by the devastating fire last year.

There are many great ministries in the Holston Conference undergirded by all the staff. Together we all work to foster discipleship of Christ and to do our part for God’s Kingdom. As we look toward a new conference year, let each person and each local church do their part to support those who work on our behalf to answer the call of Christ to love God and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves!

~ Reed L. Shell, Chair
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PROPERTY

The Board of Trustees continues to refine its property management role and work to provide technical assistance and the implementation of the Conference Policy on the Discontinuance of Local Churches adopted at the 2011 Annual Conference, working closely with the district superintendents to assist in the management of this process in accordance with requirements in *The Book of Discipline 2016*, state governing laws, and the Annual Conference.

As of December 2016, the following discontinued and abandoned properties (with district) are currently being managed by the Board of Trustees until property is disposed of. We are actively working to resolve complex issues of local cemetery ownership, operations, oversight, loss control and general operating procedures along with the sales of parsonages. Properties are Cumbo (BS), Robinette (BS), South Coeburn (BS), Petros (OA), Mt. Olive (WY), and Olive Branch (WY). This work includes legal counsel reviewing titles and deeds on the following:

- **Clinch Valley Circuit Parsonage Property (Morristown District)**
  The sale of the Clinch Valley Circuit Parsonage property has been completed. The Clinch Valley Circuit consists of Dotson’s Campground UMC, Mount Pleasant UMC, Beeler’s Chapel UMC, and Fairview UMC. Each of the churches with the exception of Fairview UMC are active churches in the Holston Conference. Each church received $16,237.41 as their share of the proceeds from the sale and accumulated maintenance funds. Since Fairview UMC is currently not meeting, it is appropriate that its share of the proceeds and accumulated maintenance funds be held in escrow until the church future is determined.

- **Mount Vernon UMC (Morristown District)**
  The real property of the former Mount Vernon UMC is for sale and has had some interest but no firm offers. There is an encroachment on the property by an adjoining property owner. The encroachment arises as a result of the property owner using a driveway on the church property to access their property. We are currently hoping to amicably resolve the situation.

- **Pleasant Hill UMC (Wytheville District)**
  There are two parcels of property. One parcel consists of a building and a cemetery and the other across the road has an additional building situated on the parcel. A cemetery association has been formed and an agreement reached to transfer the cemetery property to the association. Given the isolated location of the property and the difficulty of valuing properties in the area, the conference trustees have agreed to convey the remaining parcel of property to the cemetery association for the sum of between $1,000.00 and $3,000.00 which would be used to offset costs of the transaction. These details are currently being negotiated.
• Riceville UMC (Cleveland District)

There has been some active interest by purchasers in purchasing the parsonage property. However, the parsonage was rented starting in July 31, 2014. The tenants have not paid rent since June 9, 2015. It was for some time believed the tenants had abandoned the property. However, it has since been discovered that one of them is residing on the premises. We are currently taking measures to have him evicted.

INSURANCE

*Every time a claim is filed, it means that either one of God’s people or one of God’s buildings has been injured.* Bruce Lys, Church Mutual Divisional Manager

If you want to reduce the frequency of injuries, consider this: Two-thirds of our claims are slips, falls, and trips. Even our local church staff slip and fall. Holston’s average worker’s compensation cost is over nine thousand dollars per injury. Go through your building: make sure all steps are clearly marked. The vast number of our auto claims involve backing the church van. Rarely are you in a van by yourself; why not have someone get out and give guidance?

The Trustees continue their partnership with Church Mutual Affinity Program. 739 congregations are taking part in the worker’s compensation program, 140 churches and Hiwassee College are taking part in the property/liability/auto aspects of the program. The program offers discounted rates and annual dividends based on the cost of claims.

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2016 CHANGES

The General Conference 2016 altered the responsibilities of a local church’s board of trustees as it relates to their annual charge conference report. ¶2533.2 now states: *The board of trustees shall annually compare the existence and adequacy of the church’s insurance coverages to an insurance schedule annually published by the General Council on Finance and Administration. The purpose of this review is to ensure that the church, its properties, and its personnel are properly protected against risks. The board shall include in its report to the charge conference the results of its review and recommendations needed to timely bring the church into compliance with the published schedule.*

GCFA states, typical “a la carte” programs designed for businesses allow churches to pick and choose their coverage, which often leads to gaps in coverage. Churches need a package that covers all of the lines of coverage important to a ministry – i.e., sexual misconduct, employment practices, directors’, officers’ & trustees, employee benefits liability, and coverage for volunteers.

HIWASSEE COLLEGE LOAN

We rejoice that the 2016 graduating class was the largest in the last 11 years. We also rejoice that the college was able to pay $250,000 towards the July 2014 five-year line of credit. The 12/31/16 outstanding loan balance is $1,029,523.91.
WORKING ALONGSIDE CFA

This year, we were able to send a representative to CFA meetings; and CFA chair Jeff Lambert met alongside us. This partnership will be beneficial to the conference in the spring of 2018 when we address the $1,183,000 balloon payment due on the Alcoa Conference Center.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT ASSETS WITH THE FOUNDATION (AS OF 12/31/16)

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~ David McLain, Chair
~ Brian Burch, Secretary

HOLSTON CONFERENCE FOUNDATION

Despite the steep stock market decline at the beginning of the year, Zika virus fear, terrorism, police shootings, a contentious presidential race and other scary headlines, our Foundation actually enjoyed quite a successful year. We attracted 50 new investment accounts from churches and ministries and helped dozens of individuals create or plan legacy gifts, scholarships, endowments, and other special gifts. Assets under management grew 8.7% during 2016 to set a new all-time record high of $111,852,556.

Each investment option in the Foundation finished the year in positive territory. Our largest and most popular option, THE BALANCED GROWTH FUND was up 7.98% while THE EQUITY GROWTH FUND was up 10.63%. THE INTERMEDIATE INCOME FUND rose 2.59% and THE SHORT TERM INCOME FUND was up 1.31%.

THE BALANCED GROWTH FUND’s 10-year trailing average annual return of nearly 6% (including the market collapse in 2008) continues to make it an ideal option for all long-term funds and especially when combined with a rolling three-year average spending policy.

About 40% of all funds in the Foundation belong to local churches (513 accounts); 4% to Districts; 11% to the Conference; 10% to institutions/ministries; and 33% are trusts/endowments/scholarships/legacies created by Donors to benefit the churches and ministries they selected. While the Foundation has no say in the use of distributions from most of these accounts, several involve grants and scholarships awarded under the leadership of our Grants Committee. During 2016, $5,075,399 was distributed out of the Foundation, including $3.7 million to churches/ministries per their request; $709,526 in grants and scholarships; and $107,029 to individuals named as CGA/Trust beneficiaries. Information on our grants and scholarship opportunities plus applications and deadlines may be found at www.foundation.holston.org.

The Holston Conference Foundation’s mission is to serve the churches,
ministries, and people of the Holston Conference as a trusted and faithful servant and steward. We not only offer professional quality investment and trust management services, but are equipped with a trained and dedicated staff to assist churches and help people explore planned giving, endowments, and legacy options. The Foundation is governed by an all-volunteer board primarily made up of business and professional lay men and women who are all members of Holston Conference churches. We are eager to serve you and invite your call (865-690-8124) or other contact to see how we might explore the opportunities.

~ Roger Redding, Executive Director
~ Sam Coulter, Board President

**HOLSTON CONFERENCE FOUNDATION HOLDING COMPANY, INC.**

The Holston Conference Foundation Holding Company was formed in 2014 by the Holston Conference Foundation pursuant to the *Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* as a non-profit religious corporation for receiving, holding, managing, leasing, selling, conveying, and otherwise disposing of real estate and other assets received as charitable contributions. The first real estate gifts were received in 2015. Holding Company made great progress in 2016 in securing control of properties gifted by individuals that ultimately will be sold and converted to support mission and ministry in the Holston Conference. Real estate taxes, insurance protection, maintenance issues, and other operating expenses were all covered from residential rental income and commercial lease income generated by the properties held. Some property was listed with a real estate broker, but did not sell.

The total value of four properties held by the Holding Company at year-end 2016 is approximately $2.3 million. Projected annual income from real estate leases is just over $111,000. Most of the assets currently managed are connected to the Norwood Estate and are to be liquidated to achieve the maximum possible value with proceeds added to the Norwood Endowment, managed through the Holston Conference Foundation.

The Holding Company Board anticipates listing properties for sale in 2017, but realizes we may hold several of the properties for a period of time, if necessary, to try and maximize their value. In the meantime, each property requires attention and oversight.

~ Roger Redding, Treasurer
~ Sam Coulter, Board Chair
HOLSTON UNITED METHODIST HOME FOR CHILDREN

In keeping with the ideals of Mrs. Wiley when she established a home for dependent and neglected children in the Holston Conference and in accord with our mission statement, Holston Home “provides hope and healing for a brighter future by sharing the love of Jesus with children and families struggling with life’s challenges.”

Some highlights of 2016 include:

· During the year, 662 of the 880 churches in the Holston Conference responded to the ministry through Fifth Sunday offerings and Advance specials. 2,502 United Methodists heard the story of Holston Home through speakers to churches on Sunday mornings and special programs.

· We hosted special events on our cross country track.

· A group of our young people (1) worked on community mission projects to repair several homes in the nearby community; (2) joined Fairview UMC on a mission trip to Guatemala, and (3) traveled to Jackson, Mississippi.

· We use area media to share the story of Holston Home with the community.

· We are still working to implement a plan to build a campus worship center.

· Held Friends of Children events in Bristol, Cleveland, Knoxville, Tri-Cities and Greeneville to recognize persons who helped Holston Home during the year, to make new friends for the children and to raise funds for special projects.

What we do:

· During the year, care was provided for more than 740 children.

· At Beacon School (our accredited on-campus school), 27 children completed 12 years of school by receiving a high school diploma or GED. Over the last few years, through the Christian Life program, 32 children made a profession of faith in Jesus and eight were baptized.

· Brumit Center provided preparation for adult living services for 38 youth.

· Residential Centers provided nurture, care, education and treatment for 276 adolescent boys and girls.

· Home-to-Stay Program successfully reunited 41 children and youth with their families.

· Foster Parents provided loving care in a family setting for 205 children and youth. Six foster children were adopted by their foster families.
Family Service Centers in Tennessee served 135 children and 70 children were served in Southwest Virginia.

Inter-country Adoption Program placed six children. Our staff also assisted other families to complete adoptive home studies.

Early Childhood Education Centers in Greeneville served 219 preschool children in day care. Both centers continued to receive the state’s highest rating of three stars.

We thank you for what you are doing to participate in our ministry as you respond to God’s call to help the poor, downtrodden and vulnerable children, youth and families in our Conference. We are grateful to the Pastors and Ambassadors who are helping to promote Fifth Sunday offerings.

We believe that God has called us, in partnership with the members of Holston Conference churches, to be His ambassadors.

Plan to visit the Greeneville campus and experience firsthand the transformation and redemption taking place in children’s lives. Then share our story with others in your church. Remember to pray for the children, their families and our staff.

~ Rev. Charles A. Hutchins, ~ Bradley S. Williams,
Director of Church Relations and Estate President
James 1:27 Romans 8:28

LAKE JUNALUSKA ASSEMBLY, INC.

We are happy to report that Lake Junaluska once again ended the year “in the black”, wrapping up 2016 with a balance of over $200,000. We continue to accomplish this without any operational apportionment support from the Southeastern Jurisdiction. Lake Junaluska has embraced the new financial model that was approved by the 2008 SEJ Conference and we remain committed to not only “living within our means” but also to ensure the long term sustainability of our mission to be a place of Christian hospitality where lives are transformed through renewal of soul, mind, and body. 2016 was also a great year for charitable giving. We received $908,571.20 from 1,285 individuals. We are so grateful to continue to receive the support of new and returning donors each year affirming the mission of Lake Junaluska through their charitable giving.

As we continue to refine and implement our plans for improvements to our facilities, grounds, and programs, we are also continuing to solidify our commitment to one of our most important assets, our staff. Of the $200,000 “profit” from 2016, $50,000 was distributed, in the form of profit sharing, back to all current staff who worked in 2016 along with an across the board 1% pay increase for all current staff in 2017. The remainder, along with the generous support of our donors, is being used for a wide array of ongoing capital improvements that we will be looking forward to reporting on next
year. We are also proud to report that the Terrace has been consistently ranked among the top ten in Western North Carolina, alongside properties like the Inn on Biltmore Estate and Grove Park Inn on Trip Adviser. We are also working diligently to refine and improve our existing programming for youth and adults and continually seek to implement new innovative programs that align with our mission. The Lake Junaluska Singers will be back in 2017 under the direction of Mary Wannamaker Huff. Mary is the founding director of the New York City Children’s Chorus. We are also pleased to have Rev. Mitzi Johnson, an Elder in the North Carolina Conference of the UMC, as our new Director of Programming. 2017 is going to be a fabulous year for programming at Lake Junaluska.

As a member of the United Methodist Church within the Southeastern Jurisdiction we want you to know that “your” asset, Lake Junaluska, is doing very well. You can be very proud of this important organization within the jurisdiction and the larger United Methodist Church. We are striving to be good stewards of the resources with which you have entrusted us.

To learn more about what is going on at Lake Junaluska, we encourage you to pick up a copy of our 2017 Discover Lake Junaluska magazine. Peruse its pages to read about the impact of our programs, to learn about new projects we are working on, and to familiarize yourself with our calendar of events. We do hope you can come and visit us this year for a conference, a retreat, or a vacation to be transformed and renewed in soul, mind, and body.

~ Jack Ewing, Executive Director
cation Community Service Honor Roll recognizes schools that reflect the values of exemplary community service and achieve meaningful outcomes in their communities. In the education category, Emory & Henry was honored as a finalist, placing it among the top five schools or colleges in the nation. The College was also recognized “with distinction” in the category of general service. In 2010, Emory & Henry was named one of only six institutions from the national Honor Roll to receive the President’s Award, the highest federal recognition for service learning. Emory & Henry remains the only college or university in Virginia to ever win the President’s Award and is one of only a few institutions nationwide to win the award or be named a finalist for multiple years.

- Enrollment at Emory & Henry College climbed to another record high last year, in part based on the increasing number of graduate students at our new School of Health Sciences in Marion, Va. Total fall enrollment in 2016 stood at 1,167.

- Officials broke ground on a new $13 million housing project last fall that will enhance the residential student experience. New facilities, which will open in the fall of 2017, include six apartment-styled halls for upper class students and a community center. Funding was made possible through the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Direct Loan program.

- Our College Chaplain, the Rev. Mary K. Pope Briggs ’86, and our Associate Chaplain, the Rev. Sharon Wiley Wright ’94, continue spiritual outreach to faculty, staff and students of all Christian denominations and other faiths. Chaplain Briggs oversees Spiritual Life programming and continues her strong leadership with our Martin Luther King, Jr. Day activities. Associate Chaplain Wright works directly with our student groups and activities. And we are pleased that a number of our recent graduates are attending divinity school at such distinguished destinations as Candler School of Theology, Duke University, Illif School of Theology, and Wesley Theological Seminary.

- Chaplain Briggs continues to direct Defining Moments, the program initially funded by a $100,000 grant from the GBHEM’s Young Clergy Initiative. Now completing its second year, the program has provided mentors for nearly 40 young people in Holston Conference who are discerning a call to ministry. Pastors and lay person are encouraged to nominate persons for this program for rising high school juniors and seniors through young adults through age 25 by visiting www.discernmymcall.com. We continue to partner with the Holston Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and Conference Council on Youth Ministries, which continue to be invaluable to the success of this important endeavor designed to help transform the ordained ministry across our denomination.
• The Office of Spiritual Life has received a grant from the Interfaith Youth Corp to create an interfaith prayer space on campus and educate the campus community about the prayer practices of a variety of faiths. IFYC is working with several mainline denominations to encourage strengthened interfaith and inter-religious relations on church-related campuses. Eight persons from Emory & Henry attended “Called to be Neighbors,” a conference sponsored by the GBHEM, IFYC, and several United Methodist-related institutions, including Emory & Henry. President Jake Schrum was a presenter, and two E&H students led an interfaith devotion.

• An agreement between Emory & Henry and the Mel Leaman Free Clinic is improving delivery of health care services to low income and uninsured individuals in Smyth County, Va. The Free Clinic has moved into renovated space at the College’s School of Health Sciences campus which doubled the clinic’s space for examination rooms, lab space, pharmacy space, and offices. Graduate students will gain required clinical experience by working at the Free Clinic.

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

• Dr. Kelly Bremner, associate professor of theatre, was honored with the 2017 Outstanding Faculty Award given by the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia. Her award represents the 19th state or national award given to an E&H professor in the last 29 years, including nine major awards in the last ten years.

• Dr. Nicole Drewitz-Crockett was honored with the 2016 Rising Star Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching by the Virginia Foundation of Independent Colleges. She is the third E&H professor to be honored with this award since its creation in 2007.

• Adjunct professor of religion and former chaplain at Emory & Henry, Rev. David St. Clair ’73, received the Francis Asbury Award at the Holston Annual Conference last year. The award honors a person who has made a significant contribution to the fields of higher education and campus ministry at the local, district, or annual conference level of the United Methodist Church.

• Emory & Henry was rated as a Top 50 College for Study Abroad programs by LendEDU. E&H ranked #23 in the survey and was the only Virginia college or university featured. The article noted that “With the guidance of Emory & Henry, students are able to access 150 different study abroad programs in more than 40 countries via 10 separate organizations.” Recent programs have included studying the Holocaust in Europe, art in Italy, and language in Peru.
The independent ranking group Best College Reviews has chosen Emory & Henry as one of 50 most historically notable colleges in America, in large part because of the college’s experience during the Civil War and its place on the National Historic Register.

*Blue Ridge Outdoors* magazine has named Emory & Henry as a top outdoor adventure college following its success in the annual top adventure school challenge.

The EPA honored Emory & Henry in its 2016 Green Power Challenge for using more green power than any other school in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference. E&H beat its conference rivals by using nearly 8 million kilowatt-hours of green power, representing 100% of the school’s annual electricity usage. The College is producing a utility green power product from Collegiate Clean Energy and generating power from an on-site renewable energy system.

We continue to be proud of all of our alumni who are making contributions in our Conference and beyond. Some notable alumni include: Bishop Richard C. Looney ’54; Carol Wilson ’84, Executive Assistant to the Bishop; Brenda Carroll ’71, Chattanooga District Superintendent; Charles Maynard ’77, Maryville District Superintendent; Jeff Wright ’81, Big Stone Gap District Superintendent; Walter Weikel ’84, Johnson City District Superintendent; Mike Sluder ’83, Director of Connectional Ministries; and Laura Lambert McLean ’03, Associate Director of Youth & College Ministries; and countless other United Methodist ministers, music directors, and lay leaders. We are also excited about the contributions and service of other special alumni, including Gary Reedy ’78, CEO of the American Cancer Society, U.S. Representative Morgan Griffith ’80 (VA-9th), and Speaker Emeritus of the California Assembly, Toni Atkins ’84.

I think that Methodists of the Holston Annual Conference who founded Emory & Henry more than 180 years ago would be impressed that our mission and commitment to the intellectual, spiritual and physical growth of our students has not wavered. They would have to be proud that our relationship with The United Methodist Church remains strong. I know they would be appreciative of the continuing support we receive from the Holston Annual Conference and its pastors and congregations, just as we are.

Emory & Henry is a special place with a rich history. I hope that you will continue to support our mission, recommend us to others, and keep us in your thoughts and prayers, as we will all of you.

~ Jake B. Schrum, President
Greetings from Hiwassee College. The Spiritual Life Program at Hiwassee College begins each fall semester with Convocation and the distribution of Bibles provided by a donor. Last fall an AP for an electronic Bible was given for the first time rather than a bound copy of the Bible.

Students, faculty, and staff assemble each Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. for a time of spiritual renewal and topics relevant to the needs of students. A praise band leads in worship through music and students lead in prayer and often present the message. During this time, the Student Government Association recognizes a student each week who has demonstrated outstanding leadership on campus.

Several Hiwassee clubs and programs lead in campus and community service. Athletes volunteer at the Boys and Girls Club; Hiwassee Helping Hands’ project is campus beautification; and students joined with the local Kiwanis Club providing Christmas gifts for two local families in the community. Students and staff regularly visit friends, alumni, and students with medical needs in the hospital and at home with gifts and most of all inspiration.

Helping others is demonstrated by students in the Forestry Program building trails in the Cherokee National Forest – Tellico Ranger District; maintaining the Cranberry Bogs owned by the Tennessee Department of Conservation and managed by the TWRA – Turtletown, Tennessee; prepared Greenbelt Forest Management Plans for landowners in Monroe County; and manned deer and bear “check in” stations for TWRA.

Students and staff spent a week in Knoxville participating in Operation Backyard building handicap ramps for two families. Video of the week was shared during chapel with participants sharing what the projects meant to the families and to the team members who volunteered from Hiwassee.

Hiwassee’s Dental Hygiene students participated in service to others by providing dental care to patients at RAM Clinics and developing and implementing public health projects in an elementary school, a crisis pregnancy center, and a home for the mentally disabled. Several students served dinner to the needy at a local church. Students also screened patients for decay, oral cancer, and periodontal disease at health fairs in Knoxville and Madisonville.

The Mobile Dental Hygiene Unit was taken to Jefferson City to provide cleanings to adult patients who are uninsured and in need of dental care. The Unit is scheduled to go to an elementary school in Monroe County to provide cleanings and sealants to fourth graders.

Students, faculty, and staff exemplify the demonstration of giving to others both on and off the Hiwassee campus. So many give to fund scholarships at Hiwassee, we instill the principal “now that we have received so much, I pray for a grateful heart.”

~ Ernestine E. Lucas, Director of Church Relations
TENNESSEE WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Tennessee Wesleyan College changed its name in July of 2016 to Tennessee Wesleyan University. The change in name was prompted by the addition of several new academic programs including master’s degrees, online programs, and off site academic offerings. While the traditional, liberal arts, campus-based experience remains an important element of TWU, we have continued to expand our reach to serve new and older students in the region. The university designation better describes the emerging institutional structure and offerings.

New Academic Degrees

TWU continues to strengthen and expand its academic offerings. More recently, we received approval to offer bachelor’s degrees in communications, health and human performance, and social work. We expect to launch an engineering science degree in the fall, and we are working on the development of a master’s degree in occupational therapy for 2019.

Faith in Service Programming

TWU’s “Love Thy Neighbor Project” is a direct service initiative focused on addressing food insecurity issues as part of a greater mission to eliminate poverty in the Athens and McMinn County communities. Specifically, the Love Thy Neighbor Project includes a campus and community food bank for food insecure community members throughout McMinn County, a weekend back sacks program for impoverished K-12 students in McMinn County, and a mobile food pantry to serve low-income communities in food deserts.

The Love Thy Neighbor Project also serves community members through partnerships with multiple organizations throughout the community. Two AmeriCorps VISTA Members oversee the three components of the Love Thy Neighbor Project, and TWU students, faculty, staff, and friends serve as volunteers.

Families in need can “shop” the client-choice food bank once per week, which focuses on providing fresh produce, dairy, and bakery items. Items are also delivered to community partners each week to distribute to clients in need (ex: Women at the Well, Grace & Mercy Ministries, etc.). Status as a low-income household is determined by standards set by the USDA for household size and monthly income.

The Back Sacks program provides low-income students with food they might not otherwise receive for weekends and holidays. Each back sack contained a protein, canned vegetable, fruit cup, drink, breakfast item, and snacks. Students are identified by the guidance counselors and principals in our partner schools, McMinn County High School and Etowah City School.

The Mobile Food Pantry provides low-income families with up to 75 pounds of food, including 22 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables. The MFPs are set up...
like farmer’s markets and allow clients to “shop” for the items they want and will use. Status as a low-income household is determined by standards set by the USDA for household size and monthly income.

Tree Campus USA

Tennessee Wesleyan earned 2017 Tree Campus USA recognition from the Arbor Day Foundation. TWU 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:

- September 22, 2016: Olivia Holden, 2016 TWU alum, who spent the summer of 2016 in Sports Ministry in Northern Ireland
- September 29, 2016: Rev. Will Shelton, Associate Pastor, Keith Memorial UMC, Athens, TN
- October 6, 2016 – World Communion Celebration – A Celebration of Communion for World Communion Sunday, using a variety of breads, music, and worship styles
- November 3, 2016: Kelly Gordon, barista at a local coffee shop with an amazing testimony of conversion and discipleship
- November 10, 2016: Rev. William McDonald, TWU Religion professor and pastor of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Vonore, TN.
- February 2, 2017: Rev. Keith Moore, Director of the UTC Wesley Foundation
- February 16, 2017: Drew Barton, 2014 TWU alum and Assistant Youth Director, Signal Crest UMC, Signal Mountain, TN
- February 23, 2017: Don Washburn, Director of Camp Lookout
- March 13-14, 2017: “Methodism’s catholic Heritage” Dr. Ted A. Campbell, Professor of Church History at Perkins School of Theology, Dallas, TX. Spring Lecture and 2017 Heritage Day Speaker
- April 27, 2017: 2013 TWU alum, currently serving as Warehouse and Event Manager for Feed My Starving Children, Atlanta, GA

With God’s blessings, the spirit of Tennessee Wesleyan University remains vital as it strives to prepare students for a life of leadership and service in an ever-changing global community.
AFRICA UNIVERSITY

Africa University ended 2016 poised to celebrate its Silver Jubilee and eager to embrace new opportunities for transformative ministry over the next 25 years.

The university community acknowledges, with heartfelt gratitude, the faithfulness and generosity of the Holston Conference in helping Africa University to realize its mission. We thank the congregations of the Holston Conference for investing 78.63 percent of the asking to the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment in 2016.

Overall, the AUF achieved a high level of support within The United Methodist Church in 2016. Last year, the participation of local churches in connectional giving enabled 34 of the 56 United Methodist annual conferences in the United States to invest 100 percent or more of their asking to the AUF.

The support of the Holston Conference is of vital importance to Africa University. Through Africa University, United Methodist congregations help young people to discover and sharpen their gifts for leadership. Students are equipped and they respond to the call to transform the world. Thanks to your generosity, the disciple-making mission of the global United Methodist Church is alive in the contributions of the university’s 7,000+ graduates. More than 90 percent of these graduates are still in Africa, serving communities in 32 countries. Currently, more than two dozen Africa University graduates are missionaries in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe, under the auspices of the General Board of Global Ministries.

Great things are on the horizon for Africa University in the next quarter century. Your Africa University is continuing to evolve and serve by:

- Restructuring its academic units in order to remain relevant and provide a broader-based education to meet new demands in the African workforce.
- Providing leadership formation experiences and learning for more than 1,400 students from 25 African countries. *Contrary to the norm for African higher education institutions, women represented more than half of the student body.*
- Generating new knowledge and capacity to support peacebuilding and to improve food security, human rights, and leadership for the African continent.

As part of the observance of the 25th anniversary, we invite the individual members, congregations and districts of the Holston Conference to take time out in 2017 to celebrate their journey with Africa University. After all, this ministry draws its mandate, energy, and capacity to transform from The United Methodist Church. We sustain this ministry together — praying, loving, and sharing our blessings — and there is no other way that we could do it!

Please encourage your congregation to invest 100 percent of its asking to the
AUF and other general church funds. Engage in a season of daily prayer for Africa University. Join Africa University’s honorary alumni association. Consider hosting a special “AU@25” event or an Africa University Sunday in your local church or area. Use your event to increase awareness of Africa University’s ministry and invite attendees to each give $25 each in honor of the 25th anniversary. Let these celebrations affirm and re-energize the longstanding partnership between Holston Conference United Methodists and Africa University.

Thank you for your unwavering response to the call to faith, hope, and transformation in the world. We pray that blessings continue to abound for all who lead and serve in the Holston Conference.

~ James H. Salley
Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement
Africa University Development Office
P.O. Box 340007, Nashville, TN 37203-0007
Tel: (615) 340-7438; jsalley@gbhem.org
www.support-africauniversity.org

Candler School of Theology

For more than 100 years, Candler School of Theology at Emory University has prepared real people to make a real difference in the real world. Since our founding in 1914, over 10,000 students have graduated from Candler, where they have been shaped as thoughtful, principled, and courageous Christian leaders dedicated to transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

One of 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Candler is also one of seven graduate professional schools of Emory University, a top-tier research institution offering extensive resources and a rich context for study. Our location in Atlanta provides a learning environment that reflects the highly diverse communities of the 21st century. Simply put, there is no better place for ministry preparation that addresses our major denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and improving global health.

In order to keep pace with the needs of the church and the world, Candler offers 17 degrees: seven single degrees and ten dual degrees pairing theology with bioethics, business, international development, law, public health, or social work. One of our newest degrees is a Doctor of Ministry that is 90 percent online, so students can remain in their places of ministry as they study and apply what they learn in real time. We’ve also partnered with the University of Georgia’s School of Social Work to create an MDiv/MSW where students learn to maximize their effectiveness by combining pastoral skills such as spiritual counseling with social work practices such as family therapy and community assessment.
Our student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful. 475 students are enrolled, with 51 percent women, 34 percent people of color (U.S.), and a median age of 30. Students represent 39 denominations, with half coming from the Methodist family. 83 percent of students are seeking a degree to prepare them as ministry professionals.

Candler has a deep commitment to alleviating student debt and employs a multi-pronged approach to tackle this issue. In 2016-2017, we awarded nearly $5.75 million in Candler scholarships, with 95 percent of MDiv students receiving aid and the average scholarship covering 73 percent of tuition. Plus, our comprehensive “Faith & Finance” program teaches money management skills that serve our students now and will continue to serve them—and the churches they lead—well into the future.

In fall of 2016, Candler welcomed to the faculty Larry Goodpaster as Bishop-in-Residence, and Kendall Soulen as Professor of Systematic Theology. Also this fall, three Candler alumni began their terms as newly elected bishops in the Southeastern Jurisdiction: David Graves 90T in Alabama-West Florida, R. Lawson Bryan 75T 85T in South Georgia, and Sue Haupert-Johnson 95T in North Georgia.

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
Thank you for this opportunity to bring you an update from MTSO. Here are a few highlights from a busy year.

**Recognition as a “bright spot” in theological education**

Auburn Seminary recognized MTSO among a small number of seminaries in its September report, “Bright Spots in Theological Education: Hopeful Stories in a Time of Crisis and Change.” Auburn is a leadership development institute seeking to equip leaders of faith and moral courage to inspire positive change in the world. The report details the “leap of faith” that began with MTSO’s founding of Seminary Hill Farm and extends to an array of commitments to ecology and social justice.

**Major Luce Foundation grant**

The Henry Luce Foundation awarded MTSO a three-year, $425,000 grant in December to support the establishment of the Seminary Environmental Leadership Initiative. The grant is shared by MTSO, the Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development, and the Green Seminary Initiative, a project of Drew Theological School and GreenFaith. A growing number of seminary leaders recognize the moral imperative to play a role in the care of God’s creation, but they face significant challenges in addressing environmental issues on their own. The Seminary Environmental Leadership Initiative aims to establish best practices and offer resources for seminaries that wish to engage in environmental issues academically and institutionally.

**Faculty appointments**

MTSO welcomed two new faculty members in January. Elaine Nogueira-Godsey serves as assistant professor of theology, ecology and race. She comes to MTSO from the University of Johannesburg in South Africa, where she was a post-doctoral research fellow. Francesca Nuzzolese is associate professor of pastoral care and counseling. Most recently she was associate professor of pastoral care and spiritual formation at Palmer Theological Seminary and Eastern University in Philadelphia.

**New course at National Underground Railroad Freedom Center**

MTSO offered a special graduate course, “Race, Religion and Nation: From Black Power to Black Lives Matter,” at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in January. The class offered a historical exploration of the Black Lives Matter movement and its precursors, including Black Power activism, hip hop music and culture, and the presidency of Barack Obama. It was offered through MTSO’s cooperative relationship with the Freedom Center.

~ Danny Russell, Director of Communications
WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

At Wesley Theological Seminary, we are building on 135 years of faithful preparation of church- and world-changing leaders by continuing to innovate and grow. We are excited to partner with you in the ministry to which God has called you now – and wherever you may be called in the future. Keep reading for good news that you can use...

So you can grow as a leader (and share with others)

Wesley’s Lewis Center for Church Leadership continues to be the internationally respected go-to resource for actionable best practices for clergy and laity. The center’s free Leading Ideas e-newsletter provides well-researched, discipleship-growing ideas to more than 17,000 people. Sign up for Leading Ideas at https://www.churchleadership.com/category/leading-ideas/.

The new Wesley Theological Seminary Lay Academy offers 11 online courses covering a variety of topics including Methodist identity, early church history, Christian ethics, interfaith relations, and the intersection of faith and science. Laypeople can earn a certification in Wesleyan Studies by completing six of the courses online, or can choose to take courses individually for personal education and enrichment. More information about the Wesley Lay Academy and the certification in Wesleyan Studies can be found at http://www.beadisciple.com/wesley/.

Two new certificate programs allow individuals to take specialized classes without pursuing an entire degree. The Certificate in Faith and Public Life explores the foundations of public theology, religious freedom, and civil discourse through graduate courses. The African American Church Studies certificate is a non-degree option for local church leaders who want to enrich their ministry in African American communities. For more information, contact admissions@wesleyseminary.edu or visit www.wesleyseminary.edu.

So your congregation can live more fully in God’s mission

Wesley has received a grant of $1.5 million from the Lilly Endowment to help congregations design innovative ministries that support and enrich the religious lives of young adults. Through this grant, 20 local congregations will be selected to work with Wesley as an innovation hub that brings together church leaders, young adults, experts and practitioners for conversation, education, and exchange of ideas. The ultimate goal will be to help each congregation launch new partnerships with young adults, ages 23 to 29. Congregational applications will be open July 1 - October 31, 2017. For more information, contact the Rev. Beth Ludlum at bludlum@wesleyseminary.edu.

The Institute for Community Engagement at Wesley Downtown continues to help the church turn itself inside out. The Institute at Wesley now offers an innovative online Health Minister Certificate Program from Heal the Sick,
an initiative to prepare congregations for public health work in their parishes. Some scholarships are available for this program. Please contact Tom Pruski at tpruski@wesleyseminary.edu for more information or to register for future certificate classes.

The newest component of the Institute for Community Engagement is Wesley’s Center for Public Theology. Under the leadership of Distinguished Professor of Public Theology Mike McCurry, this center is equipping pastors, seminarians, people of faith, and the media to create spaces for civil dialogue at the intersection of religion and politics. The Center is also providing events, workshops, and resources to help faith leaders lead faithful, prophetic, open dialogue in their communities. To see upcoming opportunities, visit https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/

The Luce Center for Arts and Religion remains the only seminary-based program uniting arts and theology. The Luce Center invites the public to artist talks with each new exhibit and has regular classes and workshops with visiting artists. For information on past and upcoming opportunities, visit luceartsandreligion.org.

If you’re a current or future seminarian

Wesley’s Master of Divinity degree can now be completed via online, weekend, short-term intensive, and weeknight courses in 5 years. This format is designed to be more accessible to those with busy ministry, work, and/or family commitments throughout the region.

The new African American Church Studies Master of Divinity specialization gives contextual preparation for the unique opportunities and challenges our future leaders may encounter in African American churches, while the Public Theology specialization allows master’s degree students to gain skills for community leadership and advocacy.

Wesley continues to offer our 36-hour Master of Arts and a 60-hour Master of Theological Studies to equip those called to ordained deacon ministries or to other ministries beyond the pulpit.

Talk to someone at (202) 885-8659 or admissions@wesleyseminary.edu about how Wesley’s degree programs equip people to lead others to loving God and neighbor.

If you’re a pastor, alumnus, or just want to keep up on the news…

Wesley’s Doctor of Ministry program continues to offer the most practical and spiritually renewing tracks in theological education. We are excited to announce the launch of our third track based in Cambridge, England: Holiness, Effective Ministry and Engagement with the World, beginning in January 2018. Other 2018 tracks include Art and Theology, Church Leadership Excellence and Soul Care for Pastors, Chaplains and Clinicians. Find out more or apply now at https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/
The **Lewis Center for Church Leadership** moves to an exciting new phase in its **14-year history with the transition of leadership** from founding director, the Rev. Dr. Lovett Weems Jr., to new director, Wesley faculty member, the Rev. F. Douglas Powe, Jr., effective July 1, 2017. Dr. Weems will continue to be part of the Lewis Center as part-time Senior Consultant, continuing his ground-breaking work in denominational conference resourcing. Meet Dr. Powe and Dr. Weems in a video discussion at [https://www.churchleadership.com/news/lewis-center-announces-a-new-director/](https://www.churchleadership.com/news/lewis-center-announces-a-new-director/)

Wesley faculty members continually develop resources to advance theological scholarship and help Christians grow. This year we have celebrated **new books** by Drs. F. Douglas Powe Jr., Eileen Guenther, Shively Smith, Ryan Danker, Denise Dombkowski Hopkins, and Joseph Bush. In the past year, we have welcomed a **new Professor of Preaching, the Rev. Dr. Veronice Miles, and a new Chapel Elder and Visiting Professor of Worship, the Rev. Gina Campbell, and we are excited to announce the appointment of Dr. Rick Elgendy as Professor of Christian Ethics.**

**Stay in Touch**

Ready to join in our mission? Wesley provides **more than $2 million dollars annually in scholarships** to our students thanks to the consistent support of graduates, congregations and friends of the seminary. Find out more about how you can be part of the future of Wesley at [https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/support/](https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/support/)

We invite you to stay in touch through the year and learn more of the latest developments at Wesley by **signing up for our monthly electronic newsletter, eCalling, at www.wesleyseminary.edu/ecalling.**

Thank you for journeying with us through this update! We look forward to continuing to serve you and your community as we seek to live into God’s dream together. Blessings to you on a fruitful and faithful annual conference. We thank you for your service and hold you in prayer as you continue in ministry, wherever that may be.

~ **The Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson, President**
RESOLUTIONS, RESOURCES AND AMENDMENTS
RESOLUTION ON VACATION POLICY FOR THE HOLSTON CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Whereas the church whenever possible should differentiate itself from institutions of the secular world:

And whereas because of the nature of needing to be in the pulpit on Sundays ministers and their families cannot take three day weekend vacations as many other families can

And whereas ministers and their families are always living in the public eye and need the opportunity to rest and rejuvenate

And whereas the church should try to operate as a system of grace and not reward when possible

And whereas many of other conferences in the United Methodist Church as well as other denominations describe their vacation policy thusly.

And whereas all ministers serving in pulpit ministry whether in a station church or in a multiple church charge often work more than a 40 hour week with responsibilities and care for congregations that often pull them from their families.

Be It therefore resolved that: any minister of the Holston Annual Conference; regardless of the definition of their connection, be automatically given a minimum of four weeks of vacation from the time that they are first appointed/hired as a minister of a local church.

Be it further resolved that the SPRC/PPRC of each local church and the District Superintendent encourage that their minister take at least two of those four weeks vacation during a conference year which should include a Sunday with each week.

Be it further resolved that said vacations cannot be relegated to a time that has church responsibilities associated with it.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Stephen K. Yeaney Oakland UMC
Rev. Betty Furches Friendsville UMC
Rev. Kenneth Tucker Wears Valley UMC
Rev. James T. Hartley Sevierville Parrish
Rev. Richard Rudesill Tuckaleechee UMC
Rev. Frank J. Trexler Green Meadow UMC
Rev. Alvin Shaver Buckner Memorial UMC,
President Associate Members and Local Licensed Pastors Group
WHEREAS, the state of Tennessee is home to more than 322,000 immigrants*, 947,320 in Virginia are immigrants* and 970,979 Georgians are foreign-born* and these are individuals and families who have migrated to these states seeking safety, security, prosperity; and

WHEREAS, immigrants and refugees sit in the pews and are behind the pulpits in Holston Conference’s United Methodist Churches, provide the seasonal and temporary agricultural workforce, and labor in many different occupations such as construction, food service managers, housekeepers, and others; and

WHEREAS, we understand so well that we have benefited from their leadership and their presence and have seen their strong and faithful witness to Christ; and

WHEREAS, Our Social Principles states that “we recognize, embrace, and affirm all persons, regardless of country of origin, as members of the family of God.” (United Methodist Book of Discipline, III. The Social Community CII162 H Rights of Immigrants); and

WHEREAS, we are all connected to one another through Christ and are reminded by Paul that when “one part suffers, all the parts suffer” (1 Corinthians 12:26) and because we are all united in Christ, we are called to love our brothers and sisters, without fear of boundaries or barriers; and

WHEREAS, Jesus, a refugee, fully identifies with the migrant and tells us that to welcome the stranger is to welcome Jesus himself. (Matthew 25:35) Jesus teaches us to show love and compassion for the poor and oppressed who come to this country seeking survival and hope; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Bruce Ough, the president of the UMC Council of Bishops calls upon all of as members, “to see the face of Christ in the refugee”;
211  Holston Annual Conference

2 (Cont.)

Be it further resolved that the Holston Conference calls upon each church to engage and educate its members on the issue of immigration, immigration reform and ways to welcome the immigrant;

Be it further resolved that the Holston Conference calls upon our political leaders and policy makers to assure our laws affirm the dignity, worth, inherent values and rights of immigrants.

There is no financial impact to the Holston Conference for adopting this resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

The Holston Conference Hispanic Ministry Justice and Advocacy (subteam)

Susan Montgomery
Pat Bellingrath
Barbara Farmer
Debra Dickerson
David Ketchersid
Jim Bailes

*information from the American Immigration Council
3

REAFFIRMING OUR FAITHFUL CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS

WHEREAS: The United Methodist Church stands in the Sacramental tradition of the historic Christian Church, most particularly the Anglican tradition which formed John and Charles Wesley and which inspired the worship practices the Wesleys passed on to the Methodists in Britain and the United States; and

WHEREAS: Our Articles of Religion clearly prohibit individual and arbitrary emendation of our liturgies and practices¹; and

WHEREAS: All commissioned and ordained ministers of our Church, as well as those whose orders are recognized and those who are accepted into associate membership of an Annual Conference, vow to “be loyal to The United Methodist Church, accepting and upholding its order, liturgy, doctrine, and discipline”²; and

WHEREAS: The United Methodist denominational statements on the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion call upon all United Methodists to fully embrace the history, traditions, doctrine and liturgy of our Church³; and

WHEREAS: The Council of Bishops has issued a Church-wide moratorium on the practice of online communion⁴; therefore be it

RESOLVED: We, the laity and clergy of the Holston Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church commit ourselves to the faithful celebration of the Sacraments, and to using in our celebrations the orders and liturgies of our Church and the guidance of our denominational worship resourcing group Discipleship Ministries; and be it further

RESOLVED: We stand with the Council of Bishops in calling for a moratorium on the practice of online communion, and we enjoin our churches and affiliated ministries, as well as all ordained, commissioned, recognized, and licensed clergy not to participate in any service of online communion.

¹ Specifically, Article XXII (“Of the Rites and Ceremonies of Churches”) states: “Whosoever, through his private judgment, willingly and purposely doth openly break the rites and ceremonies of the church to which he belongs, which are not repugnant to the Word of God, and are ordered and approved by common authority, ought to be rebuked openly, that others may fear to do the like, as one that offendeth against the common order of the church, and woundeth the consciences of weak brethren.”

² Services for the Ordering of Ministry in The United Methodist Church, 2017-2020; as Revised by Action of the 2016 General Conference, page 20, lines 880-886; page 40, lines 1828-1834. Similar language is also included in the documents signed by those who are licensed as local pastors and appointed to a local church, as well as those who are, as ministers of another denomination, appointed to pastoral roles within The United Methodist Church.

³ By Water and the Spirit: A United Methodist Understanding of Baptism was adopted by General Conference 1996; This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion was adopted by General Conference 2004.

⁴ The moratorium was issued on October 1, 2013 and extended on November 7, 2014; more information may be found at the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry website: http://www.gbhem.org/about-gbhem/publications/online-communion.
Be sure to stop by the Harrell Center Auditorium for all things

Cokesbury!

Bibles
Disciplines
Guidelines
Bible Studies
Devotionals
Christian Novels
Robes
Clergy Stoles
Gifts
Resolutions and Resources

1. Who IS eligible to vote on proposed constitutional amendments?

   Clergy members (elders and deacons) in full connection (¶ 602.1.a)
   this includes clergy on sabbatical leave, voluntary leave of absence (¶
   353.7), family leave (¶ 353.7), transitional leave (¶ 353.7) or medical
   leave (¶ 356)

   Lay members of annual conference (¶ 602.6)

   Diac nal ministers and active deaconesses are lay members of
   annual conference and as such have the right to vote (¶ 33, Article II of
   Constitution)

2. Who IS NOT eligible to vote on proposed constitutional amendments?

   Provisional deacons and elders (¶602.1.b, Book of Discipline.)

   Associate and affiliate clergy members (¶602.1.c, Book of Discipline.)

   Full-time and part-time local pastors (¶602.1.d, Book of Discipline.)

   Clergy on Honorable Location (358.2) or Administrative Location
   (359.3)

   Lay Observers and Alternate Lay Members not certified as sitting
   for an absent Lay Member

3. May an annual conference amend a proposed constitutional amendment?

   No. Members may debate a proposed amendment, but they cannot
   amend it.

   The only voting option is to vote yes to approve the amendment or
   no to reject it. Each amendment has already been approved by the
   General Conference of The United Methodist Church, and every annual
   conference will be voting on the identical amendment.

4. What determines whether a proposed amendment is made to the Constitution?

   A constitutional amendment must be ratified by a two-thirds affirmative
   vote of the aggregate number of members voting in all annual
   conferences (¶59. Article I).

   The vote, after being completed, shall be canvassed by the Council of
   Bishops, and the amendment voted upon shall become effective upon
   their announcement of its having received the required majority (¶59.
   Article I).

All citations are from The United Methodist Book of Discipline 2016

Rev 4/13/17
2016 GENERAL CONFERENCE
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – I

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

In the 2012 Book of Discipline, Division One, add a new paragraph between current ¶¶ 5 and 6:
As the Holy Scripture reveals, both men and women are made in the image of God and, therefore, men and women are of equal value in the eyes of God. The United Methodist Church recognizes it is contrary to Scripture and to logic to say that God is male or female, as maleness and femaleness are characteristics of human bodies and cultures, not characteristics of the divine. The United Methodist Church acknowledges the long history of discrimination against women and girls. The United Methodist Church shall confront and seek to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, whether in organizations or in individuals, in every facet of its life and in society at large. The United Methodist Church shall work collaboratively with others to address concerns that threaten the cause of women’s and girl’s equality and well-being.

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

AND

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – II

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

In the 2012 Book of Discipline, Division One, ¶4, Article IV, amend by deletion and addition as follows:
After “all persons” delete “without regard to race, color, national origin, status, or economic condition”. After “because of race, color, national origin,” delete “status,” and add “ability”. At the end of the paragraph, add “nor shall any member be denied access
to an equal place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church because of race, color, gender, national origin, ability, age, marital status, or economic condition.”

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

The United Methodist Church is part of the church universal, which is one Body in Christ. The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection. In the United Methodist church, no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the Church because of race, color, national origin, ability, or economic condition, nor shall any member be denied access to an equal place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church because of race, color, gender, national origin, ability, age, marital status, or economic condition.

AND

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – III

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

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

After the first sentence, add, “Such elections shall include open nominations from the floor by the annual conference, and delegates shall be elected by a minimum of a simple majority of the ballots cast.”

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

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

AND

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – IV

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

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

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

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

The bishops shall be elected by the respective jurisdictional and central conferences and consecrated in the historic manner at such time and place as may be fixed by the General Conference for those elected by the jurisdictions and by each central conference for those elected by such central conference, provided that episcopal elections in central conferences shall be held at a regular, not an extra, session of the central conference, except in the case where an unexpected vacancy must be filled.

AND
PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – V

On May 17, 2016, at a session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Portland, Oregon, the following Constitutional Amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 715 Yes, 79 No (Calendar Item 446, DCA p. 2214). It is now presented to the Annual Conferences for vote.

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

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

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

The bishops, both active and retired, of The Evangelical United Brethren Church and of The Methodist Church at the time union is consummated shall be bishops of The United Methodist Church.

The bishops of The Methodist Church elected by the jurisdictions, the active bishops of The Evangelical United Brethren Church at the time of union, and bishops elected by the jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church shall have life tenure. Each bishop elected by a central conference of The Methodist Church shall have such tenure as the central conference electing him shall have determined.

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

These provisions shall not preclude that adoption by the General Conference of provisions for the Council of Bishops to hold its individual members accountable for their work, both as general superintendents and as presidents and residents in episcopal areas.
RATIONAL FOR PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
VOTED GENERAL CONFERENCE MAY 2016

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

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

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

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

V. (¶ 50) Judicial Decision 475 ruled unconstitutional the Council of Bishops holding its individual members accountable for their work, referencing ¶ 50 of the Constitution. This legislation follows Judicial Decision 1275 requirement of a legislative resolution from General Conference so the Council of Bishops may provide oversight of its members.
### Holston Annual Conference 2017
The United Methodist Church

**BALLOT**

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Cokesbury Mobile Bookstore Will Be Open For Business In Harrell Center Auditorium!

- Bibles
- Disciplines
- Bible Studies
- Robes
- Clergy Stoles
- Guidelines
- Devotionals
- Gifts
- Christian Novels

Please Visit These Exhibitors In Harrell Center Auditorium
And Outside Under The Tents:

- Appalachian Trail Chaplaincy
- Holston Methodist Federal Credit Union
- Audio/Visual Library
- Holston UM Renewal Fellowship
- Be A Disciple
- Intentional Growth Center
- Black Methodists for Church Renewal
- Jubilee Project
- Brook-Howell Home (UMW)
- Morgan Scott Project
- Camping and Retreat Ministries
- Muslim Outreach Team
- Church and Community - Big Stone Gap
- Older Adult Ministry
- Children’s Ministry
- Order of Deacons
- Church Mutual
- Outreach/Advocacy
- Deaconess/Home Missioner
- Partners in Crisis
- Disaster Response
- Peace With Justice
- Discipleship Ministries
- Project Crossroads
- Emory & Henry Defining Moments
- Reconciling Ministries
- General Board of Higher Ed and Ministry
- Society of St. Andrew
- Grace Inside
- South Sudan
- Henderson Settlement
- Strength for the Journey
- Holston Administrative Professionals
- Susannah’s House
- Holston Conference Finance/Insurance
- United Theological Seminary
- Holston Conference Foundation
- Wesley Leadership Institute
- Holston Conference Missions
- Youth Ministry
- Holston Conference Clergy Spouses
- Young Adult Ministry
- Holston Home for Children

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Paragraph 251.2 of *The Book of Discipline 2016*: ...“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 2017. 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 Moments:**

*Monday morning:*

  

*Tuesday morning:*

  

**Notes on Business Reporting Sessions:**

*Monday morning:*

  

*Monday afternoon:*

  

*Tuesday morning:*

  

*Tuesday afternoon:*

  

**My impression of the Business of the Annual Conference:**

  

My impression of Evening Sessions:

Sunday evening Worship:

Monday evening Night of Inspiration:

Tuesday evening Mission Celebration:

My impression of the Memorial Service:

My impression of the Retirement Recognition:

My impression of the on-site mission event:

My impression of the Sending Forth Service:

My overall impression of Holston Annual Conference 2017:
FORM FOR MOTION OR AMENDMENT TO REPORT
HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2017

“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, 2016 Journal

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Other

Thank you for assisting the Secretarial staff by the completion of this form!
HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2017

SPECIAL EVENTS

SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2017

2:00 p.m.  Registration begins
Reynolds Conference Center, Foundation for Evangelism

MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2017

7:00 a.m.  Cabinet Breakfast
Terrace, Room 316

12:00 p.m.  Candler Alumni Luncheon
Foundation for Evangelism

12:00 p.m.  Ministers’ Spouses Luncheon
Long’s Chapel UMC, Waynesville

12:00 p.m.  Peace with Justice/Outreach/Advocacy Luncheon
Terrace, Room 316

12:30 p.m.  Order of Deacon and Diaconal Ministries Luncheon
Terrace, Room 319

5:00 p.m.  Council on Finance and Administration - Q&A
Terrace, Room 316

5:00 p.m.  Black Methodists for Church Renewal
Lambuth International

5:15 p.m.  Missions Dinner
Terrace Auditorium

8:30 p.m.  CCYM/Youth Night
Shackford Hall

TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2017

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 Breakfast
Lambuth Inn Saville

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.  Board of Higher Education Luncheon
Foundation for Evangelism

12:00 p.m.  Holston Retirees Luncheon
Terrace Auditorium

12:30 p.m.  On-site Mission - Rise Against Hunger
Kern Youth Center

6:30 p.m.  Duke Divinity Alumni Fellowship
Harrell Center, 2nd level porch

This listing of Special/Fellowship Events is also on page 16 in the Book of Reports.