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Holston Conference

Pastoral Support Ministries

“I’m thankful for the congregations that have nurtured me along the way.”
~ Kim Goddard



There are many ways Holston Conference provides support for the 716 United Methodist pastors serving east Tennessee, southwest Virginia, and north Georgia. From the time a person first feels called to be a pastor in Holston, he or she is prepared and nurtured through a system that includes education, counseling, health insurance, salary and retirement support.

The Rev. Kim Goddard can reflect on several times when this pastoral support made a difference in her 29 years of ministry.

She was 23 years old, a seminary student at Duke Divinity School in 1985, when she received her first appointment. She became the new preacher for, not one, but the four churches of Pearisburg Circuit.

“They had never had a woman pastor before,” says Kim. “But they were so, so good to me.”

A native of Giles County, Va., the former Kim Mustard started her education at Virginia Tech, studying animal science. She decided to become a pastor after her lay-leader uncle, Buford Mustard, took her to the Holston Annual Conference for the first time.

“I saw a bigger picture of the church, and I thought I would like to be a part of that,” she said.

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Kim went to seminary, receiving tuition aid from the Ministerial Education Fund. She went to Local Pastors School, provided by Holston Conference. Then she went to Pearisburg Circuit, where her salary was supplemented by Holston funding.

Kim would receive many other appointments over the years, including director of Wesley Leadership Institute and Abingdon District Superintendent. She married another pastor, Jim Goddard, and had two daughters. Today, Annie is 18 and Lindsey is 15.



Local Pastors' School

Her whole family has always been cared for through Holston's health plan.

"The only health insurance I've ever had – since I came off my parents' – is Holston health insurance," says Kim. "The only pension plan I've ever paid into was Holston's."

Today, Kim Goddard is 52 years old and senior pastor at Mafair United Methodist Church in Kingsport, Tenn. She's looking forward to 20 more years of ministry before retiring. Jim is already retired. Both are counting on a Holston pension to support them after their many years of service.

"I am the product of some very small churches, and I'm thankful for those little congregations that nurtured me along the way," says Kim.

Through the tithes and offerings that Holston members give every Sunday,

pastors like Kim Goddard are nurtured in many ways and equipped to fulfill their calling from God.

Thank you, Holston Conference. You'll never know how many lives you've changed.

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Service of Ordination at Annual Conference



Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church
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