

Journal

of the TWENTY-THIRD SESSION of the

**SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL
CONFERENCE
of The United Methodist Church**

George. R. Stuart Auditorium, Lake Junaluska, North Carolina
November 2-4, 2022



THIS I KNOW

2022 SEJ Conference



THIS I KNOW

The logo for this conference features pieces of "stained glass" that are as diverse as we are: different colors, shapes, and sizes. These diverse pieces, when brought together, reveal a single symbol: the cross, the Church's primary symbol of God's love. If any one of these pieces is removed, the cross becomes more obscure. It takes every piece working together to reveal the cross most clearly.

JOURNAL

of the

TWENTY-THIRD SESSION

of the

**SOUTHEASTERN
JURISDICTIONAL
CONFERENCE**

of

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

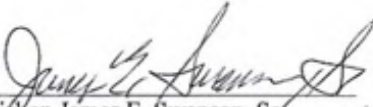
Held in
George R. Stuart Auditorium
Lake Junaluska, North Carolina

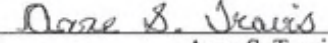
November 2-4, 2022

Edited for the Conference by
Anne Travis, Secretary

CERTIFICATION

This certifies that the following pages constitute the official Journal of the twenty-third session of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church held in the George R. Stuart Auditorium, Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, from November 2-4, 2022. Included are listings of officers, personnel, commissions and committees, proceedings of business, reports, legal documents, and other matters ordered printed by the Jurisdictional Conference.


Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr.
Senior Bishop, College of Bishops


Anne S. Travis
Conference Secretary

CONTENTS

Certification ii

SECTION I. 2016-2022 Southeastern Jurisdiction Quadrennial Organization 3

Committee on Appeals 3

Committee on Coordination and Accountability 4

Committee on Finance and Administration 4

Committee on Investigation 5

Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order 5

Committee on Program and Arrangements (2016 Session) 5

SECTION II. Personnel of the 2022 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference 7

2022 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference Membership and Staff 7

The College of Bishops 7

Southeastern Jurisdiction Judicial Council Member 7

Secretarial Staff and Ballot Tellers 8

Committee on Episcopacy 10

Delegates from the Annual and Missionary Conferences 11

Chairs of Delegations 18

2022 Administrative Committees 18

Committee on Agenda 18

Committee on Journal 18

SECTION III. 2022-2024 Quadrennial Organization 19

College of Bishops (2022-2024) 19

Jurisdictional Conference Secretary and Secretary Designate 19

Jurisdictional Conference Treasurer 19

Committee on Appeals (Effective January 1, 2023) 20

Committee on Coordination and Accountability 20

Committee on Episcopacy 21

Committee on Finance and Administration 21

Committee on Investigation (Effective January 1, 2023) 22

Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order 22

Committee on Program and Arrangements 22

SECTION IV. Daily Proceedings of the 2022 Session 23

Conference Program 23

Daily Minutes 27

Ballot Summaries 60

Presiding Officers 61

Administrative Nominations Report 64

Resolutions Submitted to 2022 SEJ Conference 67

 1. Leading with Integrity 67

 2. Queer Delegates’ Call to Center Justice and Empowerment 68

 3. Support of a U.S. Regional Conference 70

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Monitoring Report	72
SECTION V. Reports	75
Committee on Program and Arrangements	75
Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order	78
Committee on Coordination and Accountability	79
Gulfside Association	83
Hinton Rural Life Center	85
Lake Junaluska Assembly	88
Commission on Archives and History (Heritage Center)	92
Intentional Growth Center	95
United Methodist Volunteers in Mission	98
Emory University Board of Trustees	100
Committee on Finance and Administration	101
2021-2024 Proposed Budget	103
2021-2024 Annual Conference Apportionments	104
Committee on Episcopacy	105
COE Episcopal Residence Guidelines	109
Seminary Reports	111
Candler School of Theology	111
Duke Divinity School	112
Gammon Theological Seminary	114
Episcopal Area Reports	116
SECTION VI. Historical Material: Sessions of the Jurisdictional Conference	147
SECTION VII. Jurisdictional Documents	149
2022-2024 Plan of Organization and Rules of Order (as approved)	149
Covenant Agreements Between SEJ CCA and SEJ Agencies and Ministries	169
Official Documents of the SEJ	
SEJ Articles of Incorporation	182
SEJ Bylaws	192
Group Tax Exemption Ruling from GCFA	203



THE COLLEGE OF BISHOPS – 2022 SEJ CONFERENCE

(Photo credit Ben Smith, HOL)



Newly Elected Bishops (l-r) Connie Mitchell Shelton, Robin Dease, and Tom Berlin



Pictured with Bishop Marshall Meadors are Bishop Connie Shelton,
Bishop Robin Dease, and Bishop Tom Berlin

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SECTION I. 2016-2022 Southeastern Jurisdiction Quadrennial Organization

AWF = Alabama-West Florida
 FL = Florida
 HOL = Holston
 KY = Kentucky
 MEM = Memphis (legacy)
 MS = Mississippi
 NAL = North Alabama
 NC = North Carolina

NGA = North Georgia
 RBM = Red Bird Missionary
 SC = South Carolina
 SGA = South Georgia
 TN = Tennessee (legacy)
 TWK = Tennessee-Western Kentucky
 VA = Virginia
 WNC = Western North Carolina

Committee on Appeals
(Effective January 1, 2017)

Chairperson: *Ron Schultz*
 Vice-Chairperson: *Laura Fine Ledford*
 Secretary: *Sue Raymond*

Primary Members

(4 Clergy in Full Connection)
Laura Fine Ledford NC
Ron Schultz NAL
Ed Walker VA
Maxine Bolden MS

(1 Diaconal Minister)
 Mark Christy WNC

(1 Full-Time Local Pastor)
Valrei Tyson NC

(3 Laity)
 Linda King KY
 Sue Raymond NGA
 Lisa Carson TN

Alternate Members

(4 Clergy in Full Connection)
Emily Kincaid AWF
Kathy James SC
Jay Therrell FL
Bryan Brooks TN

(1 Diaconal Minister)
 Sue Ellen Nicholson NC

(1 Full-Time Local Pastor)
Ricky Bishop MS

(3 Laity)
 Donald Love SC
 Kelly Roberson SGA
 John Eldridge HOL

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Committee on Coordination and Accountability

Bishops		Directors of Connectional Ministries	
<i>Bishop William McAlilly</i>	TWK	<i>Sharon Austin</i>	FL
<i>Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor</i> (2016-2021)	HOL	<i>Julie Hager Love</i> (2016-2019)	KY
<i>Bishop Debbie Wallace-Padgett</i> (2021-2022)	HOL	<i>William Moore</i> (2019-2022)	KY
<i>Bishop Sharma Lewis</i>	VA	<i>Denise Walton</i> (2016-2017)	SGA
Conference Lay Leaders		<i>Nita Crump</i> (2017-2021)	SGA
Steve Lyles	NAL	<i>Kelly Roberson</i> (2021-2022)	SGA
Gary Locklear (2016-2020)	NC		
John Hall (2020-2022)	NC	At-Large Members	
Jane Wood (2016-2020)	WNC	<i>Robert Amundsen</i>	RBM
John Crane (2020-2022)	WNC	<i>Roger Hopson</i>	MEM
		<i>Jeremy Pridgeon</i>	AWF
		<i>Timothy Rogers</i>	SC
		<i>Phil Schroeder</i>	NGA

Committee on Finance and Administration

Frank Dunnwind	AWF	<i>Bob Moon</i> (2016-2020)	SGA
Tony Prestipino (2016-2020)	FL	<i>Derek McAleer</i> (2020-2022)	SGA
<i>David McEntire</i> (2020-2022)	FL	<i>Max Mayo</i> (2016-2018)	TN
Rick Cherry	HOL	Lyn Taylor (2018-2021)	TN
Eric Bryant (2016-2022)	KY	<i>Jeff Mickle</i>	VA
<i>Autura Eason-Williams</i> (2016-2022)	MEM	<i>Jan Brittain</i>	WNC
<i>Tim Prather</i>	MS		
Charlie Carlton	NAL	Ex-Officio:	
Emily Innes	NC	David Dommissie	VA
Gary Fuller (2016-2022)	NGA	SEJ Conference Treasurer	
Marilyn Osborne	RBM		
Barbara Ware	SC		

2022 Journal of Proceedings

Committee on Investigation

(Term Ends December 31, 2022)

(¶2703)

Chairperson: *John Brooks*

Vice-Chairperson: *Cynthia Davis*

Secretary: Lynn Taylor

(7 Clergy in Full Connection)

<i>Edgardo Colón-Emeric</i>	NC
<i>Sherrill Clontz</i>	NAL
<i>Joe Landrum</i>	MS
<i>Ken Murray</i>	TN
<i>Cynthia Davis</i>	MEM
<i>John Brooks</i>	AWF
<i>Tim Rogers</i>	SC

(6 Alternate Members)

<i>Tammy Estep</i>	VA
<i>Jean Hawxhurst</i>	KY
<i>Nita Crump</i>	SGA
<i>Jay Therrell</i>	FL
<i>David Walters</i>	NGA
Pat Luna	AWF

(2 Professing Members)

Angela Griffin	MS
Lynn Taylor	TN

Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order

<i>Cory Smith</i>	AWF	Ex Officio	
<i>Vicki Landrum</i>	MS	David Dommissie	Conference Treasurer
Jan Brown Thompson	KY	Anne Travis	Conference Secretary
<i>Rob Martin</i>	TWK	Frank Dunnewind	Chair of CFA
Became vacant	NGA		

Committee on Program and Arrangements

(for 2021 and 2022 Sessions)

<i>Bishop Hope Morgan Ward</i> , Senior Bishop (2016-2021)	NC	Betty Helms, SEJ UMW (2016-2020)	AWF
<i>Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr.</i> , Senior Bishop (2021-2022)	MS	Steve Lyles, Assoc. Lay Leaders	NAL
Anne Travis, Conference Secretary	HOL	Barbara Ware, Comm. on Episcopacy	SC
David Dommissie, Conference Treasurer	VA	At-Large Members:	
<i>Ray Broadwell</i> , District Superintendent	NC	<i>June Jernigan</i>	AWF
Gary Locklear, Coord. & Accountability (2016-2020)	NAL	<i>Rini Hernandez</i>	FL
Hank Dozier, SEJ UMM (2016-2021)	WNC	<i>Susan Leonard</i>	SC
		<i>Juan Quintanilla</i>	NGA
		<i>Stephanie Hand</i>	WNC

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SECTION II. Personnel of the 2022 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

2022 CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP AND STAFF

The College of Bishops
(in order of election)

Carlton P. Minnick, Jr. (1980)	Retired	James E. Swanson, Sr. (2004)	Mississippi
Thomas B. Stockton (1988)	Retired	Alfred W. Gwinn, Jr. (2004)	Retired
H. Hasbrouck Hughes, Jr. (1988)	Retired	Richard J. Wills, Jr. (2004)	Retired
Richard C. Looney (1988)	Retired	Mary Virginia Taylor (2004)	Retired
Clay F. Lee (1988)	Retired	Paul L. Leeland (2008)	Retired
Robert E. Fannin (1992)	Retired	L. Jonathan Holston (2012)	Columbia
Kenneth L. Carder (1992)	Retired	Kenneth H. Carter (2012)	Florida and Charlotte
Marshall L. Meadors, Jr. (1992)	Retired	William T. McAlilly (2012)	Nashville
G. Lindsey Davis (1996)	Retired	Debra Wallace-Padgett (2012)	Birmingham and Knoxville
Joe E. Pennel, Jr. (1996)	Retired	Young Jin Cho (2012)	Retired
Charlene P. Kammerer (1996)	Retired	Sharma D. Lewis	Richmond
J. Lawrence McCleskey (1996)	Retired	David Graves	Alabama-West Florida and South Georgia
Ray W. Chamberlain (1996)	Retired	Leonard E. Fairley	Louisville and Raleigh
Larry M. Goodpaster (2000)	Retired	R. Lawson Bryan	Retired
B. Michael Watson (2000)	Retired	Sue Hauptert-Johnson	North Georgia
James R. King, Jr. (2000)	Retired		
Timothy W. Whitaker (2001)	Retired		
Hope Morgan Ward (2004)	Retired		
William H. Willimon (2004)	Retired		

**Southeastern Jurisdiction
Judicial Council Member**

Warren Plowden (SGA)

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

2022 SEJ Conference Secretarial Staff

(Names of clergy appear in italic type)

Secretary

Anne Travis (HOL)

Associate Secretary

Julie Hager Love (KY)

Conference Minutes Assistant

Celeste Eubanks (AWF)

Delegate Relations

Susan Arnold (HOL)

Episcopal Spouses

Christine Selleck (NGA)

Editor of the *Daily Christian Advocate*

Sybil Davidson (NGA)

Elections and Tellers

Meredyth Earnest (SGA)

Balloting

Otto Harris (WNC)

Jurisdictional Conference Treasurer

David Dommissie (VA)

Media Relations

Jasmine Haynes (MS)

Monitoring

Jennifer Davis (WNC)

Worship Coordinator

Sam Parkes (AWF)

Assistant Worship Coordinator

Kathy James (SC)

Retirement Service

Micheal Selleck (NGA)

Staging and Sound Assistance

Becky Hall (HOL)

News Coverage

SEJ Association of Conference Communicators

Nominated to Serve as Head Tellers

Constance Barnes (SC)

Michael Watts (KY)

2022 Journal of Proceedings

2022 Ballot Tellers

(Names of clergy appear in italic type)

Conference	Name
AWF	<i>Matt Mobley</i> John Moneyham
FL	<i>Robin Hager</i> Carlene Johnson
HOL	<i>Caleb Frazier</i> Dawson Kitts
KY	<i>Kelly McClendon</i> Michael Watts
MEM	<i>Sara Corum</i> Solomon Christian
MS	<i>Stephen Cook</i> Kathleen Smith
NAL	<i>Brian Erickson</i> Liz Bowlin
NC	<i>Laura Wittman</i> Caleb Parker
NGA	<i>Eric Lee</i> Tina Kirkland
RBM	<i>Robert Amundsen</i> Cindy Stamper
SC	<i>Constance Barnes</i> David Salter
SGA	<i>Alaina Harrison</i> Steve Rumford
TN	<i>Monica Mowdy</i> Rachel Hagedwood
VA	<i>Jennifer Coffey</i> Jaydee Hanson
WNC	<i>Ben Carson</i> Dana Lyles

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

2016-2022 Committee on Episcopacy

(Names of clergy appear in italic type)

Conference	Name
AWF	Furr, Steve
AWF	<i>Bryars, Larry</i>
FLA	McEntire, Molly
FLA	<i>Shanks, Alex</i>
HOL	Holley, Del
HOL	<i>Goddard, Kim</i>
KY	Nicholls, Lew
KY	<i>Arnold, Bill</i>
MEM	Reed, David
MEM	<i>McCracken, Sky</i>
MISS	Crisler, Timothy
MISS	<i>Gipson, Mattie</i>
NAL	Lyles, Steve
NAL	<i>Scott, Robin</i>
NC	Innes, Emily
NC	<i>Southern, Gray</i>
NGA	Pinson, Mathew
NGA	<i>Schroeder, Phil</i>
RBM	Osborne, Marilyn
RBM	<i>Amundsen, Robert</i>
SC	Ware, Barbara
SC	<i>McClendon, Tim</i>
SGA	Hatcher, Bill
SGA	<i>Adams, Don</i>
TN	Allen, Jim
TN	<i>Bryan, Harriet</i>
VA	Stokes, Martha
VA	<i>Berlin, Tom</i>
WNC	Davis, Jennifer
WNC	<i>Ingram, Kim</i>

2022 Journal of Proceedings

Delegates from the Annual and Missionary Conferences
Voting delegates are listed in lay and clergy groups in order of election.
Names of clergy are in italic font.

ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA (16)
Section 9, Rows A-C

DELEGATES

Clergy – General Conference

**Larry Bryars*
Lisa Ausley
Sung Kuk Hong
Lester Spencer

Laity – General Conference

Steve Furr
Beverly Maddox
Gene Floore
George Mingledorff

Clergy – Jurisdictional Conference

Allen Newton
Rurel Ausley
Virginia Kagoro
Doug Pennington

Laity – Jurisdictional Conference

Frank Moore
Notalsia Whiting
John Moneyham
Bobby Brooks

Clergy Reserves

Misty Barrett
Matt Mobley

Laity Reserve

Antonius Barnes

FLORIDA (32)
Section 2, Rows A-I

DELEGATES

Clergy – General Conference

**Alex Shanks*
Cynthia Weems

Brett Opalinski
Magrey deVega
Clarke Evans
Corey Jones
Sharon Austin
Esther Rodriguez-Perez

Laity – General Conference

Molly McEntire
Derrick Scott
Alice Williams
Heather Pancoast
Carlene Johnson
Judith Pierre-Okerson
Matt Dailey
Antony Larry

Clergy – Jurisdictional Conference

Candace Lewis
Justin LaRosa
Melissa Cooper
Jenn Stiles-Williams
Debbie Allen
Matthew Williams
Vicki Walker
Clare Chance

Laity – Jurisdictional Conference

Riley Standifer
Martha Gay Duncan
Steve Gardner
Will Cooper
Jessica Scott
Rushing Kimball
Heidi Aspinwall
Kim Lee

Clergy Reserves

Vidalis Lopez
Mary Downey
Emily Hotho
Mike Luzinski
Robin Hager
Daphne Johnson
Ivan Corbin

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Laity Reserves

Bob Grizzard
Caryn Royer
Britt Holdren
Raymond Pandley
Elizabeth Preston-Hughes

**HOLSTON (24)
Section 2, Rows I-N**

DELEGATES

Clergy – General Conference

Kim Goddard
Wil Cantrell
Paul Seay
Mary Thompson
Randy Frye
Sharon Bowers

Laity – General Conference

*Emily Ballard
Del Holley
Anne Travis
John Eldridge
Donna Mosby
Becky Hall

Clergy – Jurisdictional Conference

Lauri Jo Cranford
Josh Kilbourne
David Graybeal
Kristen Burkhart
Sarah Varnell
Mark Flynn

Laity – Jurisdictional Conference

Amanda Onks
Charlie McEntyre
Reagan Kelly
Jim Gass
Nate Roark
Burl Lawson

Clergy Reserves

Amy Sumrall
Caleb Frazier

Laity Reserves

Sam England
Dawson Kitts

**KENTUCKY (20)
Section 9, Rows E-H**

DELEGATES

Clergy – General Conference

**Bill Arnold*
Tami Coleman
Iosmar Alvarez
David Grout
James Williams

Laity – General Conference

Alan Beuscher
Sandra Gray
Mark Stallons
Michael Watts
Bethany Harting

Clergy – Jurisdictional Conference

Tom Grieb
Andrew Singh
William Moore
Kelly McClendon
Rebecca Heid

Laity – Jurisdictional Conference

Maggie Hoffman
Delace Canada
Elaine Daugherty
John Denham
Larry Wells

Clergy Reserves

Matt Seel
Michael Sweeney
Esther Jadhav

Laity Reserves

Linda King
Jan Brown-Thompson
Adam McCormick

**MEMPHIS (8)
Section 6, Rows N-O**

DELEGATES

Clergy – General Conference

**Rob Martin*
Cynthia Davis

2022 Journal of Proceedings

Laity – General Conference

David Reed
Josh Shaw

Clergy – Jurisdictional Conference

Amanda Hartmann Westmoreland
Sara Corum

Laity – Jurisdictional Conference

Solomon Christian
Elyse Bell

Clergy Reserve

None

Laity Reserve

Melba Mitchell

**MISSISSIPPI (20)
Section 8, Rows A-F**

DELEGATES

Clergy – General Conference

**Fred Britton*
Mattie Dickens Gipson
Stephen Sparks
Zach Beasley
Mitchell Hedgepeth

Laity – General Conference

David Stotts
David Beckley
LaToya Thompson
Anne Harrington
Jim Ainsworth

Clergy – Jurisdictional Conference

Connie Shelton
Leanne Burris
John Branning
Amy Daniels
Embrea Jackson

Laity – Jurisdictional Conference

Connie Walters
Jaci Murden
Jan Hitt
Steve McAlilly
Ann LaSalle

Clergy Reserves

Fitzgerald Lovett
Karie McCaleb
Stephen Cook

Laity Reserves

Kathleen Smith
Tywanda Johnson

**NORTH ALABAMA (16)
Section 6, Rows A-E**

DELEGATES

Clergy – General Conference

**Dedric Cowser*
Kelly Clem
Robin Scott
Sherri Reynolds

Laity – General Conference

Steve Lyles
Pat Meadows
Precious Kufarimai
Elizabeth Ann Lee

Clergy – Jurisdictional Conference

Tiwirai Kufarimai
Vaughn Stafford
Mary Henley
Sheri Ferguson

Laity – Jurisdictional Conference

Gail Hiatt
Liz Bowlin
Randall Ham
Rew Howard

Clergy Reserves

Paul Lawler
Brian Erickson

Laity Reserve

Jackie Riggs

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

NORTH CAROLINA (32)

Section 7, Rows A-F

DELEGATES

Clergy – General Conference

Belton Joyner
Lisa Yebuah
Edgardo Colón-Emeric
Amie Stewart
Eddie Gleaves
Sara Beth Pannell
Liz Roberts
Ben Williams

Laity – General Conference

*Christine Dodson
Ellen Beasley
LaNella Smith
Steve Taylor
Emily Lain
Susan Graebe
Caleb Parker
Mark Schneider

Clergy – Jurisdictional Conference

Kevin Baker
Ismael Ruiz-Millan
Laura Stern
Doug Lain
Chris Brady
Laura Wittman
Harriet Taylor
Tim Catlett

Laity – Jurisdictional Conference

Danny Peck
Claire Cox-Woodlief
Catherine Stallsmith
Cathy Thompson
Lee Rodio
Louise Mitchell
Miles Baker Hunt
Denise Baker

Clergy Reserves

Sangwoo Kim
Ben Roberts
Donna Banks
David Beam

Laity Reserves

Phillip Jefferson
Martha Caves
Mack Parker

NORTH GEORGIA (44)

Section 3, Rows A-H

DELEGATES

Clergy – General Conference

**Byron Thomas*
Phil Schroeder
Alice Rogers
Jasmine Smothers
Bernice Kirkland
Shannon Karafanda
Beth LaRocca-Pitts
Nora Colmenares
Dalton Rushing
Eric Lee
Terry Walton

Laity – General Conference

Jane Finley
Randy Brown
Jeff Jernigan
Odell Horne
Chuck Savage
Debby Stikes
Janet Sligar
Tonya Murphy
Rachel Fullerton
Bill Martin
Ray Cann

Clergy – Jurisdictional Conference

Quincy Brown
Jim Cantrell
Joya Abrams
Dana Everhart
Karen Kagiyama
Will Zant
Amy Valdez Barker
Millie Kim
Yvette Massey
Blair Setnor
Jessica Terrell

2022 Journal of Proceedings

Laity – Jurisdictional Conference

Nate Abrams
David Gray
Leon Jourolmon
Lee Highsmith
Amy King
Jay Horton
Ben Fletcher
Gwen Hamill
Liza Kittle
Maxine Easom
Dan Parr

Clergy Reserves

Catherine Boothe Olson
Dave Allen Grady
Carolyn Stephens

Laity Reserves

Beth Corrie
Tina Kirkland
Joel Taylor

**RED BIRD MISSIONARY (4)
Section 9, Row D**

DELEGATES

Clergy – General Conference

**Robert Amundsen*

Laity – General Conference

Marilyn Osborne

Clergy – Jurisdictional Conference

Jim Savage

Laity – Jurisdictional Conference

Cindy Stamper

Clergy Reserve

Dan Griffiths

Laity Reserve

Tim Crawford

**SOUTH CAROLINA (32)
Section 8, Rows G-M**

DELEGATES

Clergy – General Conference

Ken Nelson
Robin Dease
Keith Hunter
Susan Leonard
Emily Sutton
Will Malambri
Tiffany Knowlin Boykin
Karen Jones

Laity – General Conference

**Jacquelyn Jenkins*
Jim Salley
Michael Cheatham
Herman Lightsey
Christopher Lynch
Martha Thompson
David Braddon
Emily Evans

Clergy – Jurisdictional Conference

Timothy Rogers
Cathy Mitchell
Fran Elrod
Constance Barnes
Mary Teasley
Kathryn Hunter
Elizabeth Murray
Stephen Love

Laity – Jurisdictional Conference

Betty Void
David Salter
Valerie Brooks-Madden
Marlene Spencer
Jennifer Price
Tony Watson
Lou Jordan
Doug Coffeen

Clergy Reserves

Sara White

Laity Reserves

Marvin Horton
Vicki McCartha

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

SOUTH GEORGIA (16)
Section 4, Rows L-N

DELEGATES

Clergy – General Conference

**Robert Beckum*
Doreen Smalls
Scott Hagan
David Thompson

Laity – General Conference

Bill Hatcher
Richard Shinhoster
Brenda Kay Adams
Chuck Cowart

Clergy – Jurisdictional Conference

Scott Tucker
Alaina Harrison
Vacant
Vacant

Laity – Jurisdictional Conference

Steve Rumford
Vacant
Vacant
Vacant

Clergy Reserve

None

Laity Reserves

None

TENNESSEE (16)
Section 6, Rows K-N

DELEGATES

Clergy – General Conference

**Harriet Bryan*
Stephen Handy
Marie King
Sam McGlothlin

Laity – General Conference

Jim Allen
Maggie Taylor
George Brown
Tom Lee

Clergy – Jurisdictional Conference

Jeff Furtado
Paul Purdue
Laura Brantley
Monica Mowdy

Laity – Jurisdictional Conference

Leslie Hotzfeld
Rachel Hagewood
Vacant
Vacant

Clergy Reserves

Steph Dodge

Laity Reserve

None

VIRGINIA (44)
Section 5, Rows A-H

DELEGATES

Clergy – General Conference

**Tom Berlin*
Lindsey Freeman
Meredith McNabb
Rob Vaughn
Rhonda VanDyke
Mark Ogren
Grace Han
Beth Givens
Jason Stanley
Kirk Nave
Jonathan Page

Laity – General Conference

Warren Harper
Martha Stokes
Shirley Cauffman
Alison Malloy
Marshall Bailey
Jill Gaynor
Jake Paysour
Mark Elder
Karen McElfish
Andrew Kissell
Kim Johnson

Clergy – Jurisdictional Conference

Jeff Mickle
Doug Forrester
Leigh Anne Taylor
Dan Kim
Tim Ward
Chenda Lee
David Vaughan
Lyndsie Blakely
Lauren Lobenhofer
Brian Johnson
Jennifer Coffey

Laity – Jurisdictional Conference

Debbie Cali
Deb Bowers Angerman
Shawn Kiger
Amanda Holmes
Kenn Speicher
Neal Wise
Richard Underwood
Kip Robinson
Brenda Brooks
Carl Moravitz
Marie Hawks

Clergy Reserves

Drew Colby
Esther Agbosu
Gordon Pruitt
Joshua King
Rachel Gilmore
Drew Willson
Lynne Alley-Grant
Sarah Locke
Matt Benton

Laity Reserves

Jane Wilson
Jerry Taylor
Jaydee Hanson
Maureen McKay
Michelle Hettman
Carlos Liceaga

**WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA (40)
Section 4, Rows A-K**

DELEGATES

Clergy – General Conference

**Kim Ingram*
Amy Coles
Jeremy Troxler
James Howell
In-Yong Lee
Ashley Crowder Stanley
Shelly Webb
Carter Ellis
Darryl Dayson
Josh Sherfey

Laity – General Conference

Jennifer Davis
Amy Johnson
Greg Huffman
Lynne Gilbert
Emma Austin
Havaleh Havelka
Helen Ryde
Lynette Whitaker
Linda Linfors
Tonya Lanier

Clergy – Jurisdictional Conference

David Hockett
Sally Queen
Sam Moore
Veranita Alvord
Uiyeon Kim
Lory Beth Huffman
Elizabeth Coppedge-Henley
Stephanie Hand
Julia Trantham Heckert
Sarah Belles

Laity – Jurisdictional Conference

Dana Lyles
Sandy Hieronymus
Caroline Wood
Kathy FitzJefferies
Amy DeVore
Matt Sink
Erin Betlej
Tom Jordan
Tim Kincaid
Wade Loftin

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Clergy Reserves

John Boggs
Lynda Ferguson
Ben Carson

None

Laity Reserve

Chairs of Delegations
(2022 Jurisdictional Conference)

Alabama-West Florida

Larry Bryars

Mississippi

Fred Britton

South Carolina

Jacquelyn Jenkins

Florida

Alex Shanks

North Alabama

Dedric Cowser

South Georgia

Robert Beckum

Holston

Emily Ballard

North Carolina

Christine Dodson

Tennessee

Harriet Bryan

Kentucky

Bill Arnold

North Georgia

Byron Thomas

Virginia

Tom Berlin

Memphis

Rob Martin

Red Bird Missionary

Robert Amundsen

Western North Carolina

Kim Ingram

2022 Administrative Committees

Committee on Agenda

Bishop James Swanson
Anne Travis, Conference Secretary
Dedric Cowser (NAL)
Karen Kagiya (NGA)
Del Holley (HOL)

Committee on Journal

Carlene Johnson (FL)
Uiyeon Kim (WNC)
LaToya Thompson (MS)

**SECTION III. 2023-2024 Abbreviated
Quadrennial Organization**

The College of Bishops (2023-2024)

(in order of election)

Carlton P. Minnick, Jr. (1980)	Retired	Alfred W. Gwinn, Jr. (2004)	Retired
Thomas B. Stockton (1988)	Retired	Richard J. Wills, Jr. (2004)	Retired
H. Hasbrouck Hughes, Jr. (1988)	Retired	Mary Virginia Taylor (2004)	Retired
Richard C. Looney (1988)	Retired	Paul L. Leeland (2008)	Retired
Clay F. Lee (1988)	Retired	L. Jonathan Holston (2012)	Columbia
Robert E. Fannin (1992)	Retired	Kenneth H. Carter (2012)	Charlotte
Kenneth L. Carder (1992)	Retired	William T. McAlilly (2012)	Nashville
Marshall L. Meadors, Jr. (1992)	Retired	Debra Wallace-Padgett (2012)	Birmingham and Knoxville
G. Lindsey Davis (1996)	Retired	Young Jin Cho (2012)	Retired
Joe E. Pennel, Jr. (1996)	Retired	Sharma D. Lewis	Mississippi
Charlene P. Kammerer (1996)	Retired	David Graves	Alabama-West Florida and South Georgia
J. Lawrence McCleskey (1996)	Retired	Leonard E. Fairley	Louisville
Ray W. Chamberlain (1996)	Retired	R. Lawson Bryan	Retired
Larry M. Goodpaster (2000)	Retired	Sue Hauptert-Johnson	Virginia
B. Michael Watson (2000)	Retired	Thomas M. Berlin	Florida
James R. King, Jr. (2000)	Retired	Connie Mitchell Shelton	North Carolina
Timothy W. Whitaker (2001)	Retired	Robin Dease	North Georgia
Hope Morgan Ward (2004)	Retired		
William H. Willimon (2004)	Retired		
James E. Swanson, Sr. (2004)	Retired		

Jurisdictional Conference Secretary

Julie Hager Love (KY)

Jurisdictional Secretary Designate

Kathy L. James (SC)

Jurisdictional Conference Treasurer

David Dommissie (VA)

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Committee on Appeals
(Effective January 1, 2023)
(Book of Discipline, ¶2716.1)

Chairperson: *Emily Kincaid*
 Vice-Chairperson: Celeste Eubanks
 Secretary: *Magrey deVega*

Primary Members

Alternate Members

(4 Clergy in Full Connection)

<i>Emily Kincaid</i>	AWF
<i>Joy Melton</i>	NGA
<i>Magrey deVega</i>	FL
<i>Morris Waymer</i>	SC

(4 Clergy in Full Connection)

<i>Kevin Burney</i>	KY
<i>Ron Schultz</i>	NAL
<i>Kary Sue McCaleb</i>	MS
<i>Angela Hardy Cross</i>	HOL
<i>Robert King</i>	NGA

(1 Diaconal Minister)

To be named

(1 Diaconal Minister)

Joy Carr	MS
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(1 Full-Time Local Pastor)

<i>Emma Ward</i>	MS
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(1 Full-Time Local Pastor)

<i>Jimmy Carter</i>	TWK
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(3 Laity)

(At least 6 years successively members of UMC)

Malcolm White	VA
Celeste Eubanks	AWF
David Salter	SC

(3 Laity)

Alice Williams	FL
Cathy Thompson	NC
Nate Abrams	NGA

Committee on Coordination and Accountability
 (continues from 2016)

Chairperson: *Bishop Bill McAlilly*
 Vice Chairperson: To be elected
 Secretary: *Tim Rogers*

Three Bishops

<i>Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson</i>	VA
<i>Bishop Bill McAlilly</i>	TWK
<i>Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett</i>	HOL

Three Conference Lay Leaders

Steve Lyles	NAL
John Hall	NC
John Crane	WNC

Three Directors of Connectional Ministries

<i>Sharon Austin</i>	FL
<i>William Moore</i>	KY
Kelly Roberson	SGA

At-Large Members

<i>Jeremy Pridgeon</i>	AWF
<i>Robert Amundsen</i>	CAM
<i>Zachary Beasley</i>	MS
<i>Phil Schroeder</i>	NGA
<i>Tim Rogers</i>	SC

Ex Officio Members

David Domnisse	SEJ Treas.
Frank Dunnewind	CFA Chair
<i>Julie Hager Love</i>	SEJ Sec.

2022 Journal of Proceedings

Committee on Episcopacy

Chairperson: *Kim Ingram*
Vice Chairperson: Christine Dodson
Secretary: *Alex Shanks*

<i>Larry Bryars</i>	AWF	<i>Belton Joyner</i>	NC
Steve Furr	AWF	Christine Dodson	NC
<i>Robert Amundsen</i>	CAM	<i>Byron Thomas</i>	NGA
Marilyn Osborne	CAM	Jane Finley	NGA
<i>Alex Shanks</i>	FL	<i>Ken Nelson</i>	SC
Molly McEntire	FL	Jacquelyn Jenkins	SC
<i>Kim Goddard</i>	HOL	<i>Robert Beckum</i>	SGA
Emily Ballard	HOL	Bill Hatcher	SGA
<i>Bill Arnold</i>	KY	<i>Harriet Bryan</i>	TWK
Alan Beuscher	KY	Josh Shaw	TWK
<i>Fred Britton</i>	MS	<i>Lindsey Freeman</i>	VA
David Stotts	MS	Warren Harper	VA
<i>Dedric Cowser</i>	NAL	<i>Kim Ingram</i>	WNC
Steve Lyles	NAL	Jennifer Davis	WNC

Committee on Finance and Administration
(continues from 2016)

Chairperson: Frank Dunnewind
Vice Chairperson: Charlie Carlton
Secretary: To be elected

Frank Dunnewind	AWF	Barbara Ware	SC
Marilyn Osborne	CAM	<i>Derek McAleer</i>	SGA
<i>David McEntire</i>	FL	To be supplied	TWK
Rick Cherry	HOL	<i>Jeff Mickle</i>	VA
To be supplied	KY	<i>Jan Brittain</i>	WNC
<i>Tim Prather</i>	MS		
Charlie Carlton	NAL	Ex Officio	
Emily Innes	NC	David Dommissie	SEJ Treas.
To be supplied	NGA		

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Committee on Investigation

(Effective January 1, 2023)

(Book of Discipline ¶2703.1)

Chairperson: *Beth Sanders*
Vice Chairperson: *Sherill Clontz*
Secretary: To be elected

(7 Clergy in Full Connection)

<i>Beth Hood</i>	NC
<i>Sherill Clontz</i>	NAL
<i>Joe May</i>	MS
<i>Beth Sanders</i>	NGA
<i>Robert Gardner</i>	TWK
<i>Latricia Scriven</i>	FL
<i>Meredith Martin</i>	WNC

(6 Alternate Members)

(5 Clergy in Full Connection; 1 Professing Member)

Alternates: Clergy	
<i>Raigan Miskelly</i>	MS
<i>Michelle Kim</i>	VA
<i>Susan Groseclose</i>	HOL
<i>Jae Lee</i>	WNC
<i>Jeremy Pridgeon</i>	AWF

(2 Professing Members)

<i>Lyn Taylor</i>	TWK
<i>Christy Crow</i>	AWF

Alternate: Professing Member	
<i>Tom Jordan</i>	WNC

Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order

<i>Jasmine Smothers</i>	NGA	Ex Officio	
<i>Chris Brown</i>	HOL	<i>David Dommissie</i>	SEJ Treas.
<i>Trey Harper</i>	MS	<i>Julie Hager Love</i>	SEJ Sec.
<i>Jonathan LeMaster Smith</i>	WNC		
<i>Candace Lewis</i>	FL		

Committee on Program and Arrangements

Senior Effective Bishop: *Bishop Jonathan Holston*
Conference Secretary: *Julie Hager Love* (KY)
Secretary Designate: *Kathy L. James* (SC)
Conference Treasurer: *David Dommissie* (VA)
District Superintendent: To be supplied
Chair, Committee on Coordination and Accountability (or designee): To be supplied
President, United Methodist Men: *Andrew Kissell* (VA)
President, United Women in Faith: *Sue Owens* (SC)
Chair, Association of Conference Lay Leaders (or designee): To be supplied
Chair, Committee on Episcopacy (or designee): *David Stotts* (MS)

At-Large Members:

<i>Judith Pierre-Okerson</i>	FL	<i>Liz Roberts</i>	NC
<i>Solomon Christian</i>	TWK	<i>Haywood Hannah</i>	MS
<i>Sherri Reynolds</i>	NAL		

SECTION IV: Daily Proceedings of the 2022 Session

**Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center
Projected Agenda as of November 2, 2022**

**First Day of Conference Session
Wednesday, November 2, 2022
(Schedule as adopted by the 2022 SEJ Conference Session)**

Opening Session

All Sessions in Stuart Auditorium

9:00 a.m. Opening Worship with Holy Communion – The Mission of The UMC
Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr., preaching
Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett, celebrant

10:15 a.m. Transition Break

Bishop James Swanson, Mississippi Area, Presiding

10:30 a.m. Opening Business Session
Gathering Hymn
Call to Order
Opening Prayer
Roll Call, Quorum Certification
Secretarial Staff and Agenda Committee Election
Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order
Adoption of Agenda
Welcome to Lake Junaluska
Nominations from COB: Secretary, Secretary Designate, Agenda and
Journal Committees
Balloting Instructions and Testing
Committee on Episcopacy
Centering Hymn and Prayer
Ballot
Report from Secretary on petitions submitted
Results of Ballot
Introduction of any new Nominee(s)
We will continue balloting as time permits until adjournment
Announcements

12:15 p.m. Lunch Break

12:30 p.m. Organizational Meeting for Journal Committee
Terrace Business Center (across from front desk)

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

**Wednesday, November 2, 2022
Afternoon Session**

Bishop Sharma Lewis, Richmond Area, Presiding

- 2:15 p.m. Reconvene Business Session
Gathering Music and Prayer
During this session, we will continue balloting and hear the following reports:
Committee on Coordination and Accountability
SEJ Archives and History Update
Committee on Finance and Administration
Videos will be shown and/or reports will be given in between ballots.
- 3:30 p.m. Break

Bishop David Graves, Alabama-West Florida Area and South Georgia Area, Presiding

- 4:00 p.m. Gathering Music
During this session, we will continue balloting and hear the following reports:
Committee on Program and Arrangements
Monitoring Exercise
Proposal to Change Name of Red Bird Missionary Conference
Nominations from the College of Bishops
Recognition of General Agency and Seminary guests present
Videos will be shown and/or reports will be given in between ballots.
Unfinished Business
- 5:15 p.m. Dinner Break

**Wednesday, November 2, 2022
Evening Session**

Bishop Leonard Fairley, Louisville Area and Raleigh Area, Presiding

- 7:30 p.m. Reconvene Business Session
Gathering Hymn
During this session, we will continue balloting and hear the following reports:
Monitoring Exercise
Panel Discussion with Young Adults – Building Toward the Future
Videos will be shown as time permits in between ballots.
Unfinished Business
- 8:45 p.m. Evening Recess

2022 Journal of Proceedings

**Second Day of Conference Session
Thursday, November 3, 2022**

Morning Session

9:00 a.m. Centering Morning Worship – Bishop R. Lawson Bryan, Preaching

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, North Georgia Area, Presiding

10:00 a.m. Gathering Hymn
During this session, we will continue balloting and hear the following reports:
Committee on Journal
Love Offering for At-Large Pages
Videos will be shown and/or reports will be given in between ballots.

10:30 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m. Service of Remembrance
Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor, preaching
Bishop Jonathan Holston, Liturgist

12:00 noon Break

Bishop Jonathan Holston, Columbia Area, Presiding

12:15 p.m. Gathering Hymn
During this session, we will continue balloting and hear the following report:
Agenda Committee report
Videos will be shown and/or reports will be given in between ballots.
Balloting will continue as needed
Unfinished business as needed

1:00 p.m. Lunch Break

**Thursday, November 3, 2022
Afternoon Session**

2:00 p.m. Committee on Investigation Organized
Terrace Hotel, Room 211

2:15 p.m. Committee on Appeals Organized
Terrace Hotel, Room 213

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

- 2:30 p.m. Business Session (If Needed)
- Committee meets to complete their work for final reports on Thursday evening.
- Committee on Episcopacy in Harrell Center, Room 202
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner Break

Thursday, November 3, 2022
Evening Session

Bishop Kenneth Carter, Florida Area, Presiding

- 7:15 p.m. Reconvene Business Session
Gathering Hymn
Monitoring Report
Celebration of Retiring Bishops
- 8:45 p.m. Committee on Episcopacy
Episcopal Assignments for 2023-2024
Adjourning Prayer
- 9:00 p.m. Area Receptions

Third Day of Conference
Friday, November 4, 2022

- 10:30 a.m. Consecration of Bishops
Bishop Paul Leeland, Preaching
Bishop Hope Morgan Ward, Consecrating

Daily Minutes

Wednesday, November 2, 2022

Opening Worship

9:00 a.m.

Delegates and guests gathered in Stuart Auditorium on the campus of Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center for an opening worship service of Word and Table. Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr., Mississippi Episcopal Area, was the preacher, and Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett, Birmingham and Holston Episcopal Areas, was the celebrant. Active and retired Bishops served the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Opening Session

10:30 a.m.

Bishop Swanson, Presiding

Gathering Hymn: Willie Kitchens and band led the conference in singing “And Are We Yet Alive” for the opening business session.

Presiding: Bishop James Swanson presided.

Call to Order: Bishop Swanson called the 2022 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference session to order at 10:39 a.m. Bishop Richard Looney, Retired, offered the opening prayer.

Statement Regarding Covid: Bishop Swanson gave a reminder of the COVID-19 protocol put in place by the Program and Arrangements Committee.

Roll Call, Quorum Certification, Setting Bar of Conference: Bishop Swanson called on Anne Travis, Conference Secretary, to lead the conference through roll call. Bishop Swanson gave thanks to Anne for serving in the absence of Rev. Dr. Brad Brady due to his unfortunate and unexpected passing.

Anne Travis recognized Bishops as well as delegates who have passed since the 2016 Conference. This was followed by a roll call of Bishops and delegations.

Those Bishops who have died since our last gathering in 2016 are Bishop Bevel L. Jones III, Bishop R. Kern Eutsler, and Bishop Robert H. Spain.

Those members of delegations who have died since their election in 2019 include the following:

Rev. Dr. Autura Eason-Williams from Memphis Conference; Turner Arant from Mississippi Conference; Rev. Dr. Glenn Ethridge from North Georgia Conference; Justice Cornelia “Connie” Clark from Tennessee Conference; Darlene Amon from Virginia Conference.

In addition to these delegates, we remember Rev. Dr. Brad Brady, who assumed the duties of SEJ Conference Secretary in September 2021 and served until his death in February of this year.

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

The following SEJ Bishops were present:

Bishop Richard Looney	Bishop Al Gwinn
Bishop Kenneth Carder	Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor
Bishop Joe Pennel	Bishop Paul Leeland
Bishop Charlene Kammerer	Bishop Jonathan Holston
Bishop Lawrence McCleskey	Bishop Ken Carter
Bishop Ray Chamberlain	Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
Bishop Larry Goodpaster	Bishop Young Jim Cho
Bishop Michael Watson	Bishop Sharma Lewis
Bishop James King	Bishop David Graves
Bishop Hope Morgan Ward	Bishop Leonard Fairley
Bishop Will Willimon	Bishop Lawson Bryan
Bishop James Swanson	Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson

Delegation leaders reported the delegate count from each of their Annual Conferences:

Alabama-West Florida – 17
Florida – 32
Holston – 23
Kentucky – 20
Memphis – 8
Mississippi – 19
North Alabama – 15
North Carolina – 30
North Georgia – 44
Red Bird – 4
South Carolina – 32
South Georgia – 11
Tennessee – 14
Virginia – 44
Western North Carolina – 39

Anne Travis certified the presence of a quorum.

Anne Travis moved that the bar of the conference be set as sections 2, 4, 6, and 8, Sections 3 (rows A-I), 5 (rows A-I), 7 (rows A-I), and 9 (rows A-I).

The motion passed. Bishop Swanson expressed that the bar was set.

Secretarial Staff: Anne Travis nominated the following persons to serve as members of the secretarial staff: Deaconess Celeste Eubanks (Minutes), Meredyth Earnest (Balloting), Rev. Otto Harris (Balloting Assistant), Rev. Susan Arnold (Delegate Relations), Jasmine Haynes (Media Relations), Jennifer Davis (Monitoring), Rev. Dr. Sam Parkes (Worship) and Rev. Kathy James (Worship), Rev. Micheal Selleck (Retirement Celebration), Sybil Davidson (DCA Editor), Becky Hall (Stage Manager), and David Dommissie (Treasurer). The nominees for secretarial staff were elected.

Other persons who are serving in assisting positions this week include the Delegation Pages and the Ballot Tellers. Anne Travis made note of replacement tellers. A motion was made to accept the tellers, and the motion passed.

Adoption of Agenda: Bishop Swanson called on Anne Travis to present the projected agenda for adoption. The agenda as presented was adopted by the conference.

Anne Travis reminded delegates to look at the SEJ website each night for updates. The DCA will be posted on the SEJ website daily. A link to the DCA will be emailed to heads of delegation each night and a scannable QR code for the DCA will be posted on the wall in the rear of Stuart Auditorium.

Welcome to Lake Junaluska: Ken Howle, Executive Director of Lake Junaluska, came and brought a welcome to Lake Junaluska.

Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order: Rob Martin presented the written report of the Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order, which included recommended changes. One change suggested by the committee was revising the number of members on the nominations committee and the number of tellers. The recommendation is to replace the previous wording of “thirty persons” with the wording of “two persons per annual conference.” Additional recommended editorial changes were shared.

The conference approved the changes.

Nominations from Bishops for Secretary, Secretary Designate, Journal Committee, and Agenda Committee: Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, President of the College of Bishops, North Georgia Episcopal Area, presented the slate of nominations originating from the College of Bishops, in accordance with *The Book of Discipline* and our Conference Plan of Organization and Rules of Order. Nominations included Rev. Julie Hager Love (KY) for Conference Secretary; Rev. Kathy James (SC) for Secretary Designate; and the administrative committees that will serve at this Conference: Journal Committee and Agenda Committee. The nominees were elected. (See Nominations Report, page 64.)

Instructions for Balloting and Testing: Bishop Swanson called on Anne Travis and Laura Poarch to lead the delegates through balloting and testing using their smartphone, tablet, or devices. Anne Travis offered the orientation, including testing on several sample ballots. GNTV facilitated the voting.

Committee on Episcopacy: Dr. Steve Furr, chair of the Committee on Episcopacy, presented the report on behalf of the committee. He reported the work of the Committee during the last six years (a quadrennium plus two additional years). Recognition was given to Bishops who were set to retire but served two additional years prior to their retirement –Bishop Hope Morgan Ward, Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor, Bishop Paul Leeland, and Bishop R. Lawson Bryan. Bishop Swanson was also included in this group as he is planning to retire at the end of this year. Dr. Furr asked the Conference to approve these retirements as a part of the COE report. It was shared that Bishop Bill McAlilly, Nashville Episcopal Area, went on medical leave on November 1,

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

2022. The recommendation from the Committee on Episcopacy was to elect three Bishops. The recommendation and the COE report were accepted by the Conference.

Video: A video from Gulfside Assembly was shown.

Sample Ballot: Another sample ballot was taken to ensure there were no outstanding issues with the voting system.

Ballot Prayer: Bishop Kenneth Carder, Retired, led the conference in prayer prior to the ballot.

Ballot One: Bishop Swanson guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for three persons. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Swanson closed the ballot.

Information Regarding Petitions Submitted (while ballot was being tabulated): Bishop Swanson called on Anne Travis to share about petitions received. Anne Travis shared that three petitions were received prior to the deadline. These petitions would be referred to the agenda committee for review per our Plan of Organization Section V.G.3.

Bishop Swanson shared that due to delays caused by write-ins on the first ballot, results would be shared after lunch.

Prayer Before Meal: Rev. Kim Ingram offered a prayer to close the session and bless the meal.

Lunch Recess: The conference was in recess.

Afternoon Session 2:15 p.m. Bishop Lewis, Presiding

Presiding: Bishop Sharma Lewis, Richmond Episcopal Area, presided.

Call to Order: Bishop Lewis called the session to order at 2:15 p.m. Bishop Joseph Pennel, Retired, offered prayer for the session.

Bishop Lewis gave an overview of the schedule for the session, sharing there would be a ballot report and an order of the day at 2:30 p.m. Following the order of the day, voting would continue.

Ballot Results: Bishop Lewis read the results for ballot one.

Number of ballots: 352

Number of valid ballots: 350

Needed to elect: 210

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Rev. Tom Berlin, 180; Rev. Ken Nelson, 144; Rev. Connie Shelton, 130; Rev. Iosmar Alvarez, 102; Rev. Edith Gleaves, 102; Rev. Byron Thomas, 96; Rev. Amy Coles, 90; Rev. Sharon Austin, 85; Rev. Sharon Bowers, 58; Rev. Zach Beasley, 27; Rev. Robin Dease, 16; Rev. Rob Martin, 11

Report of Committee on Coordination and Accountability (CCA): Bishop Lewis offered a prayer for Bishop McAlilly (who appeared via Zoom) prior to him giving his report. Bishop McAlilly asked for a point of personal privilege in which he gave an update on his recovery and shared some additional medical issues. (See CCA report in ADCA, pp. 55-80.) Bishop McAlilly acknowledged the death of Home Missioner Gary Locklear, Rev. Dr. Brad Brady, and Rev. Roger Hopson, all of whom were associated with CCA. Bishop McAlilly shared updates on the work done by this committee during the quadrennium. The SEJ CCA and SEJ Committee on Finance and Administration (CFA) propose that the work of their two committees be merged into one committee to be known as the Committee on Coordination and Accountability effective at the conclusion of the next 2024 Jurisdictional Conference session. Additionally, Bishop McAlilly shared proposed amendments to the relevant sections of the Jurisdiction's Plan of Organization. Revisions can be found on pages 59-72 of the Advance Daily Christian Advocate (ADCA).

The motion was made to approve these changes. The conference approved the motion.

Introduction of New Episcopal Nominees: Bishop Lewis asked Rev. Beasley, Rev. Dease, and Rev. Martin to each approach the podium to give a 10-minute speech. These individuals were write-ins on the ballot and received at least 10 votes. Each presented in the order previously listed.

1. Rev. Beasley is a clergy delegate from the Mississippi Conference serving two churches in Holly Springs, MS.
2. Rev. Dease is a clergy delegate in the South Carolina Conference serving at St. Andrew By-the-Sea in Hilton Head Island, SC.
3. Rev. Martin is a clergy delegate in the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference serving as the Assistant to the Bishop.

Bishop Lewis asked for clarity regarding Rev. Dease's nomination. Rev. Dease shared from the floor that she was, in fact, withdrawing her nomination.

Ballot Prayer: Bishop Charlene Kammerer, Retired, led the conference in prayer prior to the ballot.

Willie Kitchens and band led the group in a song as adjustments were made to the ballot removing Rev. Dease's name from the ballot.

Ballot Two: Bishop Lewis guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for three persons. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Lewis closed the ballot.

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Video: A video about the Hinton Center was shown while ballots were tallied.

Ballot Results: Bishop Lewis ruled ballot two invalid.

Willie Kitchens and band led the group in a song as the ballot was reset.

Ballot Three: Bishop Lewis guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for three persons. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Lewis closed the ballot.

SEJ Archives and History Update: Mike Feely gave an update on the SEJ Archives and History, sharing about upcoming activities related to the SEJ Heritage Center at Lake Junaluska. He shared that Nancy Watkins will be retiring in 2023. As a result of her pending retirement, the decision has been made to move the archives to Emory University to the Candler Pitts Library.

Video: A video about Lake Junaluska was shown as ballots were tallied.

Bishop Lewis called for a break until 4:05 p.m.

Late Afternoon Session 4:00 p.m. Bishop Graves Presiding

Presiding: Bishop David Graves, Alabama-West Florida Area and South Georgia Area, presided.

Call to Order: Bishop Graves called the session to order at 4:05 p.m. Bishop Will Willimon, Retired, offered a prayer for the session.

Ballot Results: Bishop Graves read the results for ballot three.

Number of ballots: 351

Number of valid ballots: 351

Needed to elect: 211

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Berlin, 210; Shelton, 185; Nelson, 166; Gleaves, 106; Alvarez, 96; Thomas, 92; Coles, 63; Austin, 53; Beasley, 32; Bowers, 22; Martin, 20

Ballot Four: Bishop Graves guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for three persons. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Graves closed the ballot.

Bishop Lawrence McCleskey, Retired, led the Conference in prayer after the close of the ballot.

Committee on Finance and Administration (CFA): Frank Dunnewind presented the report of the SEJ CFA. He gave thanks to the committee members for serving during this extended period. As a result of the pandemic, CFA provided some benefits to annual conferences to aid in

financially difficult times. They also provided COVID-19 grant relief to several agencies and also gave grants to agencies who requested funds to enhance their media presence. A detailed proposed budget can be found on ADCA pp. 83-84. CFA recommends a \$1,500,000 (15% reduction) budget. Frank Dunnewind moved the continuation of David Dommissie as SEJ Treasurer and extended thanks to David Dommissie for his service. Mr. Dunnewind also acknowledged the death of Rev. Dr. Autura Eason-Williams, who was serving as the secretary of SEJ CFA.

The Conference approved this report.

Red Bird Missionary Conference name change: Rev. Karen Stigall, District Superintendent in the Red Bird Missionary Conference, presented a resolution (ADCA, p. 85) to request a name change from Red Bird Missionary Conference to Central Appalachian Missionary Conference. She also announced the move of the conference center and a change to the structure to be more missionally focused. These requests have already been accepted by the annual conference but must now come before the jurisdiction. A video was shown highlighting this work. The Conference approved the Resolution (see the ADCA, p. 85).

Bishop Graves invited Bishop Leonard Fairley, Louisville Episcopal Area (which includes Central Appalachian Missionary Conference) and Raleigh Episcopal Area, to come forward and pray for the vision of this newly renamed Conference.

Ballot Results: Bishop Graves read the results for ballot four.

Number of ballots: 346

Number of valid ballots: 346

Needed to elect: 208

Election – Tom Berlin was elected with 213 ballots. He was escorted to the stage with members of his family and gave a brief acceptance speech.

The following balloting results were read:

Berlin, 213; Shelton, 201; Nelson, 161; Gleaves, 131; Alvarez, 94; Thomas, 83; Coles, 58;

Austin, 43; Beasley, 21; Bowers, 18; Martin, 13

Ballot Prayer: Bishop Larry Goodpaster, Retired, led the conference in prayer prior to the ballot.

Ballot Five: Bishop Graves guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for two persons. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Graves closed the ballot.

Nominations from College of Bishops for Administrative Committees and Disciplinary Committees and incoming Committee on Episcopacy (COE): Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson presented the remaining nominations report found in the DCA this morning. (COE nominations were shown on the screen as they were not included in the DCA.) There were some corrections that Bishop Hauptert-Johnson noted to the delegates were to be made to the Committee on Episcopacy. North Carolina: North Georgia – Rev. Byron Thomas is the Clergy Nominee (correct name from Bryon Nelson to Byron Thomas); Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

– Josh Shaw should be the Lay Nominee; additional spelling corrections were noted and are in the report. (See Nominations Report, page 64.)

Rule of Law: Bishop Graves recognized Jim Allen, lay delegate, legacy Tennessee Conference, who requested a ruling on a question of law, as follows:

I am Jim Allen. I was the first-elected lay delegate from the Tennessee Conference. As you notice, there is a Tennessee Conference and a Mississippi Conference that are represented here – excuse me, a Tennessee Conference and a Memphis Conference that have their names on the seats here – we all make mistakes, sorry [laughter]. The Tennessee and Memphis Conference delegations in 2019 and subsequently named their nominees to the SEJ Committee on Episcopacy pursuant to Para. 50 and Para. 524 of the Discipline. Those names have been submitted. I see they were not included in the list, but they have been submitted. In October, Bishop McAlilly requested us to elect two people from the combined, uh, representing the combined Conference, and those were the two names that were on the screen. The problem is, is that the Plan of Union for the Tennessee and Memphis Conference which was approved by the Southeast Jurisdiction last year specifically says that the delegates will continue to serve, so there is no Tennessee-Western Kentucky delegation who could nominate members to the SEJ COE. As a result, sorry for the long wind-up, request for the ruling of law is that the original nominees from the legacy Memphis and Tennessee delegations be presented to the Southeast Jurisdiction for election for the rest of the quadrennium the coming two years pursuant to Para. 50 and Para. 524 and Judicial Council decision 302 and further we would suggest that to effectuate the ruling that both sets of nominees be elected in the alternative so that there are persons representing the Nashville episcopal area until this works its way through the process and we have a ruling of the Judicial Council.

Bishop Graves: OK. We are a ... let me ask a couple of questions. I've got three questions I want to ask and then we'll see where we go.

So you reference Paragraph 50 in the Book of Discipline, which very clearly says that an annual conference can have only two representatives to the Jurisdictional Episcopal Committee, one lay, one clergy, so that is Disciplinary. The Tennessee, the Memphis and Tennessee Conference was ratified last July 2021 as one annual conference, which you read the Book of Discipline, Judicial Council rulings, says that you should only have one lay, one clergy. So do you still want to ask for a Rule of Law?

Jim Allen: I believe it would be instructive to look at Judicial Council 302, which addresses the issue from 1968 when there were many mergers of Annual Conferences between the 1968 uniting conference and the first General Conference in 1970, and they specifically said the original legacy conferences people would serve, delegates would serve unless the Annual Conference chose to elect a new delegation. In this case, the decision – and I think it was based on that 302 ruling – the decision was made that we would not choose new delegations so there is no delegation who could have named it and therefore the original nominees would still be in line, so, yes, I would still ask for a Ruling of Law.

Bishop Graves: OK

Jim Allen: And just to be clear, we need help. We don't know. We discussed it with Anne Travis and with others and nobody knew, so that is why we are putting it in your hands. [Laughter.]

Bishop Graves: Thank you, sir. I will want to give you a great deal of thanks, Jim, for sending this in probably a week or 10 days ago. That's very helpful, so I thank you for that.

So let me give you a Rule of Law, and remember this Rule of Law will go to the Judicial Council and we will go from there. Let's give it a ... that's why we have the checks and balances ... This is how I would rule on this Resolution:

Under Para. 50, the Committee on Episcopacy consists of "one clergy and one lay delegate from each annual conference on nomination of the annual conference delegation." Therefore, the Ruling of Law is that the merged annual conference may only submit one clergy, one lay delegate, and it would be out of order to elect legacy nominees either as the primary nominees or as an alternate for the Judicial Council to rule upon. The annual conference, and remember the annual conference really has great oversight in all of this, can only nominate one clergy and one lay delegate and anything else is contrary to Paragraph 50.

So that is my ruling. We will send it on, have Judicial Council look at it. They will either concur or they will do whatever they're going to do.

Alright? But thank you for raising it, thank you for the integrity in which you raised it, and you've heard my ruling, and we will pass it along and see what happens. You will have a chance to send in briefs, as well. I know all too well how the process works. But thank you, Jim, I appreciate it.

Here is the text of the printed Request for Rule of Law that was submitted by Jim Allen,

Request for a Ruling of Law Concerning the Eligible Nominees to the SEJ Committee on Episcopacy from the Nashville Episcopal Area:

The Presiding Bishop is asked to rule that the original four nominees from the Memphis and Tennessee Conferences are properly before the Jurisdictional Conference for election to the SEJ Committee on Episcopacy pursuant to ¶50 and ¶524.1 of the Discipline.

To effectuate this ruling, the Presiding Bishop is requested to allow the SEJ to elect both sets of nominees in the alternative with the expectation that the final Judicial Council decision will ratify either the legacy nominees or the new nominees

[SPEAK]

The Delegations from the former Tennessee and Memphis Annual Conference met together on Monday, October 24, 2022 and ratified four nominees and elected in the alternative two additional nominees to the SEJ Committee on Episcopacy: four from the Tennessee and Memphis legacy conferences, and two from the new Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Tennessee nominees: Harriet Bryan (clergy), Jim Allen (lay)
Memphis nominees: Rob Martin (clergy), David Reed (lay)

OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE

Tennessee-Western Kentucky nominees: Harriet Bryan (clergy), Josh Shaw (lay)

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Allen
Lay Delegate to 2022 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference
Elected by Tennessee Annual Conference

Bishop Hauptert-Johnson shared that with this ruling, the nominations report was properly before the body. The report was approved by the Conference. (See Nominations Report, page 64.)

Ballot Results: Bishop Graves read the results for ballot five .

Number of ballots: 349

Number of valid ballots: 349

Needed to elect: 210

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Shelton, 176; Nelson, 150; Gleaves, 132; Alvarez, 87; Thomas, 56; Coles, 41; Austin, 34;
Bowers, <10; Beasley, <10; Martin, <10

Rev. Rob Martin, Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference, shared his appreciation for being nominated but withdrew his name from consideration for bishop.

Ballot Six: Bishop Graves guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for two persons. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Graves closed the ballot.

Committee on Program and Arrangements: Stephanie Hand presented the report for this committee. (See ADCA pp. 42-44 for full report.) Special thanks were given to Bishop Ward, Bishop Swanson, and Anne Travis for their work with this committee.

Recognition of Visitors: Bishop Graves made special introductions of guests from seminaries, SEJ ministries, and general agencies.

Ballot Results: Bishop Graves read the results for ballot six.

Number of ballots: 349

Number of valid ballots: 349

Needed to elect: 210

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Shelton, 181; Gleaves, 153; Nelson, 152; Alvarez, 90; Thomas, 47; Austin, 36; Coles, 32;
Bowers, <10; Beasley, <10

Rev. Byron Thomas, clergy delegate from North Georgia, gave appreciation for his nomination from North Georgia, but respectfully withdrew his name.

Ballot Seven: Bishop Graves guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for 2 persons. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Graves closed the ballot.

Bishop Graves declared ballot seven invalid and requested that the ballot be reset.

Willie Kitchens and band shared music with the conference while the ballot was reset.

Ballot Prayer: Bishop Mike Watson, Retired, led the conference in prayer prior to the presentation of the ballot.

Ballot Eight: Bishop Graves guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for two persons. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Graves closed the ballot.

Announcements: Anne Travis gave announcements.

Bishop Graves expressed special thanks to Anne Travis and once again acknowledged the untimely passing of Rev. Dr. Brad Brady.

Blessing for Dinner Meal: Rev. Dedric Cowser, North Alabama Conference, gave a blessing over the meal.

Night Session
7:30 p.m.
Bishop Fairley, Presiding

Presiding: Bishop Fairley presided.

Presiding: Bishop Fairley called the session to order at 7:32 p.m. Bishop Al Gwinn, Retired, offered a prayer for the session.

Ballot Results: Bishop Fairley read the results for ballot eight

Number of ballots: 348

Number of valid ballots: 348

Needed to elect: 209

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Gleaves, 187; Shelton, 179; Nelson, 160; Alvarez, 85; Austin, 43; Coles, 33; Bowers, <10; Beasley, <10

Bishop Fairley called on Bishop Swanson to give a report from the Agenda Committee.

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Agenda Committee Report on Resolutions: Bishop Fairley recognized Bishop Swanson to represent the report of the Agenda Committee.

Bishop Swanson: Thank you, Bishop Fairley. My sisters and brothers, I am here to represent the Agenda Committee. Just in case you are not very familiar with the Agenda Committee, whenever there are what we would call petitions and resolutions that are presented, the Jurisdictional Conference does not have within her structure a petitions and resolutions committee, so that when petitions and resolutions are presented, they must go before what is called the Agenda Committee, and the Agenda Committee for the 2022 Jurisdictional Conference you voted to organize that Committee this morning. As a result of it, the Resolutions that were presented were only looked at during the lunch period because we had no Agenda Committee until you voted this morning (are you following me?) to organize that Committee, and so we started looking at those Resolutions this morning. Because the Agenda Committee is tasked with the responsibility of determining whether or not the resolutions are presented, whether or not they should come before the Jurisdictional Conference, and so we had to look at them and examine them and see whether or not they dealt with the business that is before – properly before – the Jurisdictional Conference, and so in order for us to do that, we had to go through all of those steps to get to this particular point. There are five members of the Jurisdictional Committee – of the Agenda Committee – with the Senior Effective Bishop and the Conference Secretary and then three other persons that are nominated by the College of Bishops, which you elected this morning. So we met during the lunch period to make that happen, and we met again during dinner. I'm going to call on Del Holley, one of your delegates, to come. He is from the Holston Conference, and he will explain to you what we did with these Resolutions, what we are recommending that you would do with these Resolutions at this particular time. So, Del, if you will, please come and make that presentation for us.

Del Holley: Thank you, Bishop Swanson. I would be remiss if I didn't thank my Bishop, Bishop Wallace-Padgett, for the distinct opportunity to serve as a member of the Agenda Committee, and I also thank Bishop Swanson for the opportunity to present a portion of our report.

Bishops, delegates, guests, the work of the Jurisdictional Conference Agenda Committee is outlined, identified, and authorized by Section V.G.3 of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Plan of Organization. [NOTE: with changes approved to the Plan of Organization, this reference is now Section V.F.3.] You can find that in your ADCA if you want to look at those words for yourself. The responsibility of – or one of the responsibilities of the Agenda Committee is to see that all items of business that are required by the Discipline are brought to the attention of the Jurisdictional Conference. Any items that have been offered for consideration by the Jurisdictional Conference which do not clearly refer to the business of the Jurisdictional Conference are the responsibility of the Agenda Committee to determine whether those matters will be presented to the Conference for its consideration. Therein lies the issue that Bishop Swanson identified that the Agenda Committee has the responsibility of considering general petitions or resolutions that don't relate to the specific work of the Jurisdictional Conference or one of its Standing or Administrative Committees. Further, the Plan of Organization states that the Agenda Committee has the obligation to report the disposition of matters that it considered to the Jurisdictional Conference, and that is the purpose of our report tonight. The Agenda Committee received by referral three Resolutions that had been offered in a timely fashion that

met the deadline required prior to our gathering this week. As we looked at those Resolutions, we reviewed the language of Rule V.G.3 [now Rule V.F.3] in the Plan of Organization about what our responsibilities, duties, and obligations were. We also reviewed Paragraph 27 of the Book of Discipline, which sets forth the powers and duties of the Jurisdictional Conference. After a discussion of the Resolutions that were offered, we determined that all three of the Resolutions either violated a Jurisdictional Conference rule or process or exceeded the authority granted to the Jurisdictional Conference by Para. 27. Specifically, one of the Resolutions we considered called on all Bishops of the Church to take action that was not authorized by the Book of Discipline. A second Resolution called on the Jurisdictional Conference to support and endorse episcopal nominees who were willing to make certain commitments. We determined that would be a violation of our Conference rules around our elections, particularly the rule that says there can be no speeches advocating on behalf of a particular episcopal nominee while the election process is ongoing. The third Resolution that was offered we determined called on the Jurisdictional Conference to take a position that exceeded the powers and duties of the Jurisdictional Conference as defined in Para. 27 of the Book of Discipline. So as a result of our deliberation over these Resolutions, we are not recommending that the Resolutions be distributed to delegates or published in the DCA or placed on the Agenda for consideration. We, in an effort to fulfill our additional obligations under Para. V.G.3 [now V.F.3], during the dinner hour we met with the authors of all three Resolutions and explained to them the process that we had gone through, the decision that we had reached, and what we anticipated we would be reporting at this time so that they would be aware of the decisions that we had made and could take steps to protect their interest if they decided they wanted to do that. Thank you.

Bishop Fairley thanked the team for their work on that and their prayerful conversations that they had on that during the supper time, and he asked if we wanted any discussion on that.

Carlene Johnson, lay delegate, Florida Conference. I would like to recommend not approving what the Agenda Committee has put before us. Respectfully, those Resolutions were submitted in a timely manner. If the concern is about any Resolutions impacting the elections, schedule it for after we are done with elections. Resolutions by nature are aspirational. They do not require us to do anything. It is very different than a petition so I think not having us do this work does an injustice to our Jurisdiction. These Resolutions were also submitted to all of the other Jurisdictions, they are in order there, they will be discussed at every other Jurisdictional Conference, and what does it say about the Southeast if we won't even talk about them.

Bishop Fairley asked Carlene Johnson to remain at the mic to help him out. He asked if she was asking for us to appeal the recommendation made by the Committee. Carlene Johnson said that is correct. The request for appeal was seconded. Bishop Fairley asked if others would like to share on this appeal.

Helen Ryde, Lay Delegate, Western North Carolina. Respectfully, I believe we followed all the process and procedures in order to have these Resolutions properly before the Jurisdiction. I understand there was some delay in appointing the Agenda Committee, which meant that we've now entered a short window of time in order for these to be considered. However, I believe that we did act in good faith in all these things. They are aspirational, and the elements that were presented as if we were trying to steer people to certain candidates or make them – these are not

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

true. These are clearly aspirational Resolutions. We understand that, and they are being presented at all the other Jurisdictions. This is – to not, to not allow us to vote on these Resolutions would silence the voices of all these delegates from the Southeast Jurisdiction, and when the story is told on Monday morning about these Resolutions in other places, our voices aren't going to be included, and you know we've all worked very hard as delegates over these last years, meeting together and staying up to date with everything that is going on, waiting for the time and the moment where we would be able to share our voice and have a vote. We are doing that obviously in electing our episcopal candidates, and we have an opportunity to also use our voice by debating and voting on these resolutions, which, by the way, I have no idea how people are going to feel about them, but we do have copies, there are paper copies available, they could be distributed, people could have an opportunity to read them tonight, and we could debate them and vote on them tomorrow, and I would respectfully ask that the body would vote to appeal the decision of the Agenda Committee and override – I don't think the word is overrule – but basically change the decision.

Bishop Fairley thanked Helen. He asked if there were others to speak.

Vaughn Stafford, Lay Delegate, North Alabama. There is an irony to me in the two lovely ladies who have spoken – to the two other delegates who have spoken (I'm just trying to be appropriate here). There is an irony here that the request is to let the voices be heard when one of the Resolutions is to silence the voices of many of us who are here. I think that's sad; I just find it ironic. I agree with the decision that has been reached by the Committee.

Bishop Fairley thanked him and thanked them for understanding as the body tried to help him. Bishop Fairley asked if there were others. He stated what we are actually going to be voting on at this moment – we have had speeches for it, and we're going to vote on the appeal; that is, to appeal the Committee on Agenda recommendation.

Matthew Sink, Western North Carolina, asked for a point of clarity on what would be the process if the appeal passed. Bishop Fairley stated that the Resolutions would be in front of the body, and the body would be allowed to discuss those tomorrow.

Bishop Fairley said the body is ready to vote and asked if the Agenda Committee had a word to share before the vote.

Del Holley spoke for the Agenda Committee: Thank you, Bishop. I would like to briefly respond to a couple of things that were said. With respect to the fact that the Resolutions that we considered today have been offered in the other Jurisdictional Conferences and may be considered by those Conferences, that is a matter that we discussed with the authors of the Resolutions this evening, and we pointed out to them that every Jurisdictional Conference operates under its own Standing Rules, Plan of Organization, and Rules of Order, and that in the Southeastern Jurisdiction the Agenda Committee elected by this Jurisdictional Conference was seeking to fulfill its duties, obligations, and responsibilities pursuant to our Rules and our Plan of Organization, and we couldn't speak to how other Jurisdictions rules might be different or how they might respond differently. The other thing that I would point out is that we also discussed with the authors of the Resolutions that we understood that these Resolutions are aspirational in

nature. They don't mandate any particular action or conduct. However, we did feel like the particular language of the Resolutions expressed an aspiration that found itself in conflict with the language of the Book of Discipline and the language of our Plan of Organization and Rules in the Southeast and our election process that we have adopted and are following in the Southeast, and those are the reasons why the Agenda Committee is not recommending that these matters be placed on the agenda or that the Resolutions be distributed for consideration by the delegates. Thank you.

Vote on the appeal: Bishop Fairley said that we would go ahead and vote; we have had the speeches and he has had the last word. Bishop Fairley stated that he was going to try to do this by hand vote, and if he sees that it is close, then we will go with an electronic vote. Bishop Fairley guided the conference through a hand vote on the matter. With a close vote, the decision was made to use the electronic devices. Bishop Fairley asked the body to allow time for the ballot to be set.

Bishop Fairley opened the ballot and then closed it once all votes were submitted. The vote passed to support the appeal of the Agenda Committee with 222 Yes votes and 128 No votes. The resolutions will be dealt with on Thursday. Pages handed out copies of the three resolutions to delegation heads to distribute to their delegation members.

Ballot Prayer: Bishop James King, Retired, led the conference in prayer prior to the ballot.

Ballot Nine: Bishop Fairley guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for two persons. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Fairley closed the ballot.

Video: A video about the Intentional Growth Center was shown.

Young Adult Panel: Rev. Lisa Yebuah, clergy delegate from NC Conference, moderated a panel discussion of young adults. The young adult panelists were delegates Maggie Taylor (Memphis), Darryl Dayson (Western NC), Bethany Harting (Kentucky), and Sam England (Holston).

Bishop Fairley paused the panel discussion to share results of ballot nine.

Ballot Results: Bishop Fairley read the results for ballot nine.

Number of ballots: 352

Number of valid ballots: 352

Needed to elect: 212

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Shelton, 198; Gleaves, 174; Nelson, 150; Austin, 62; Alvarez, 57; Coles, 41; Cruz, 11; Bowers, <10; Beasley, <10;

Introduction of New Nominee: Bishop Fairley called Rev. Rodrigo Cruz to approach the podium to give a 10-minute speech. Rodrigo Cruz serves a multiethnic church in the North

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Georgia Conference. Rev. Cruz expressed appreciation for the nomination but respectfully declined the nomination.

Ballot Ten: Bishop Fairley guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for two persons. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Fairley closed the ballot.

Young Adult Panel: The panel resumed discussion as ballots were tallied.

Bishop Fairley paused the panel to share ballot results and take another ballot.

Ballot Results: Bishop Fairley read the results for ballot ten

Number of ballots: 350

Number of valid ballots: 350

Needed to elect: 210

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Shelton, 197; Gleaves, 178; Nelson, 148; Austin, 74; Alvarez, 52; Coles, 43; Bowers, <10;

Beasley, <10

Ballot Prayer: Tom Lee, Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference, led the conference in prayer prior to the ballot.

Ballot Eleven: Bishop Fairley guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for two persons. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Fairley closed the ballot.

Young Adult Panel: The panel discussion resumed. Rev. Yebuah ended the panel discussion with a blessing over the four panelists. Bishop Fairley spoke about the work of the panelists, even though we were starting and stopping as we voted, the Holy Spirit was in our midst as we heard from the Young Adults.

Ballot Results: Bishop Fairley read the results for ballot eleven.

Number of ballots cast: 350

Number of valid ballots: 350

Needed to elect: 210

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Shelton, 206; Gleaves, 176; Nelson, 139; Austin, 77; Coles, 50; Alvarez, 42; Bowers, <10;

Beasley, <10

Monitoring Exercise: Bishop Fairley invited Jennifer Davis to share the monitoring exercise. Jennifer Davis introduced the monitoring team working with her this week. She led the delegates through seven questions in this exercise of self-monitoring.

2022 Journal of Proceedings

Ballot Prayer: Cynthia Davis, Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference, led the conference in prayer prior to the ballot.

Ballot Twelve: Bishop Fairley guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for two persons. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Fairley closed the ballot.

Video: Videos about Gammon Theological Seminary and Duke Divinity School were shown as ballots were tallied.

Ballot Results: Bishop Fairley read the results for ballot twelve.

Number of ballots: 350

Number of valid ballots: 349

Needed to elect: 210

Election – Connie Shelton was elected with 213 ballots. She was escorted to the stage with members of her family and gave a brief acceptance speech.

The following balloting results were read:

Shelton, 213; Gleaves, 173; Nelson, 128; Austin, 78; Coles, 52; Alvarez, 41; Bowers, <10;

Beasley, <10

Announcements: Anne Travis gave announcements.

Closing Prayer: Christine Dodson, North Carolina Conference, gave a closing prayer for the session.

Adjourn: The session adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Daily Minutes

Thursday, November 3, 2022

Centering Worship

9:00 a.m.

Delegates and guests gathered in Stuart Auditorium on the campus of Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center for centering worship. Bishop R. Lawson Bryan, Retired, was the preacher.

Morning Session

10:00 a.m.

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, Presiding

Presiding: Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, North Georgia Area, presided.

Call to Order: Bishop Hauptert-Johnson called the session to order at 10:22 a.m. Bishop Young Jin Cho, Retired, offered the opening prayer.

Statement from Conference Secretary: Bishop Hauptert-Johnson called on Anne Travis to make an announcement. Appreciation was expressed to the young adult panel participants and additional thoughts were shared regarding the panel. Some delegates had expressed concern that the panel presentation was interrupted for voting; Anne Travis explained that this was arranged ahead of time and panelists knew we would be working in this manner, which allowed more overall time for the panel discussion.

Committee on Journal: Carlene Johnson presented the report from the Committee on the Journal. The Journal Committee certified that the minutes of Wednesday's session are correct. The Conference received the report.

Ballot Prayer: Will Malambri, South Carolina Conference, led the conference in prayer prior to the ballot.

Ballot Thirteen: We are now ready to take our vote. Bishop Hauptert-Johnson declared ballot thirteen open when someone asked to be recognized.

Rev. Isomar Alvarez, Kentucky Conference, expressed his appreciation for being nominated but officially withdrew his name from the ballot.

Ballot Thirteen: Bishop Hauptert-Johnson ruled the ballot invalid and asked that the ballot be reset removing Rev. Alvarez's name from the ballot.

Video: A video tribute from Mississippi Conference for Bishop Hope Morgan Ward's retirement was shown while the ballot was reset.

2022 Journal of Proceedings

Ballot Fourteen: Bishop Haupt-Johnson began ballot fourteen but then ruled the ballot invalid and asked that the ballot be reset to correct an issue on number of votes accepted on the ballot, which had been brought to Bishop Haupt-Johnson's attention by Rev. Alaina Harrison, clergy delegate, South Georgia Conference. She asked delegates to take a breath and asked to have the problem with the ballots fixed before we take another vote.

Video: A video tribute from Holston Conference for Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr.'s, retirement was shown while the ballot was reset/corrected.

Love Offering for At-Large Pages: A collection was received for those serving the SEJ Conference in a volunteer capacity as pages. This offering will help defray costs incurred as a result of volunteering to serve.

Video: A video tribute from Holston Conference for Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor's retirement was played as the offering was collected.

Ballot Fifteen: Bishop Haupt-Johnson guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for one person. Upon conclusion of voting of voting, Bishop Haupt-Johnson closed the ballot.

Bishop Haupt-Johnson called the session to break until the start of the Service of Remembrance.

Service of Remembrance

11:00 a.m.

The conference gathered for worship to remember the lives and ministries of Bishops and Bishops' spouses who died during the last quadrennium (2016-2020 as well as 2021 and 2022).

Bishops remembered included Bishop Bevel L. Jones, III, Bishop R. Kern Eutsler, and Bishop Robert Spain.

Bishops' Spouses remembered were Thelma H. Newman, Dorothy S. Lee, Jean Stockton, Mary Ann Hunt, Linda Carder, and Rose King.

Bishop Jonathan Holston, South Carolina Conference, led in the naming of the honored dead. Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor, Retired, was the preacher for the service.

Recess: The conference was in recess until the 2:00 p.m. afternoon business session.

Afternoon Session

2:00 p.m.

Bishop Jonathan Holston, Presiding

Presiding: Bishop Jonathan Holston, Columbia Area, presided.

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Willie Kitchens and band provided gathering music prior to the start of the session.

Call to Order: Bishop Holston called the session to order at 2:00 p.m.

Prayer: Deaconess Dr. Judith Pierre-Okerson, Florida Conference, offered both an opening prayer for the session and a prayer for the ballot.

Ballot Results: Bishop Holston read the results for ballot fifteen.

Number of ballots: 351

Number of valid ballots: 351

Needed to elect: 211

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Nelson, 123; Austin, 48; Dease, 44; Thomas, 27; Coles, 10; Bowers, <10; Gleaves, <10; Beasley, <10

Rev. Amy Coles, Western North Carolina Conference, extended her appreciation for her nomination but asked that her name be withdrawn from the ballot.

Rev. Sharon Bowers, Holston Conference, gave her thanks for the support and appreciation during the process but conceded after expressing her concern for the lack of inclusivity in this process.

Rev. Byron Thomas, North Georgia Conference, gave a reminder of the Principles Agreement sent out to all candidates by the Committee on Episcopacy (COE). He spoke to acts contrary to the Principles Agreement that have contaminated the episcopal election process. He called on individuals to not pass on false and malicious information about nominees.

Ballot Sixteen: Bishop Holston guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for one person. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Holston closed the ballot.

Video: A video tribute from Alabama-West Florida Conference for Bishop Paul Leeland's retirement was shown as ballots were tallied.

Willie Kitchens and band provided music as the ballots continued to be tallied.

Ballot Results: Bishop Holston read the results for ballot sixteen.

Number of ballots: 349

Number of valid ballots: 347

Needed to elect: 209

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Nelson, 132; Gleaves, 84; Dease, 65; Austin, 35; Thomas, 28; Beasley, <10;

Rev. Thomas formally withdrew his name from the ballot.

Video: A video about Candler School of Theology was shown while the ballot was being reset.

Rev. Sharon Austin, Florida Conference, expressed her gratitude to the Florida Conference and expressed the unfortunate experience this process has been for persons of color. She shared that the process can be degrading and humiliating to individuals. She humbly withdrew her name from the ballot.

Ballot Seventeen: Bishop Holston guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for one person. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Holston closed the ballot.

Amy King, North Georgia Conference, raised a question about the validity of the previous ballot. Bishop Holston shared that the ballot was in fact valid.

Rev. Fitzgerald Lovett, Mississippi Conference, asked questions around point of order on the resolutions and standing rules. Bishop Holston shared that we were not yet addressing the resolutions and asked that he return to the microphone with his question at the appropriate time.

Willie Kitchens and band shared a song with the conference as the ballot was reset.

Ballot Results: Bishop Holston read the results for ballot seventeen.

Number of ballots: 348

Number of valid ballots: 348

Needed to elect: 209

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Nelson, 123; Dease, 107; Gleaves, 103; Beasley, 14

Ballot Eighteen: Bishop Holston guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for one person. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Holston closed the ballot.

Videos: Videos about Africa University and Florida Disaster Response were shown while ballots were tallied.

Ballot Results: Bishop Holston read the results for ballot eighteen.

Number of ballots: 342

Number of valid ballots: 342

Needed to elect: 206

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Nelson, 128; Dease, 118; Gleaves, 92; Beasley, <10

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Ballot Prayer: Rev. Scott Hagan, South Georgia Conference, led the conference in a prayer prior to the ballot.

Ballot Nineteen: Bishop Holston guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for one person. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Holston closed the ballot.

Bishop Holston invited Bishop Ken Carter, Charlotte Episcopal Area and Florida Episcopal Area, to offer a prayer following the showing of the Florida Disaster Response video. Bishop Carter acknowledged a few people prior to giving the prayer.

Video: A video about Kentucky Disaster Response was shown as ballots were tallied.

Bishop Holston invited Bishop Fairley to offer a prayer following the showing of the Kentucky Disaster Response video.

Ballot Results: Bishop Holston read the results for ballot nineteen.

Number of ballots: 347

Number of valid ballots: 347

Needed to elect: 209

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Nelson, 135; Dease, 132; Gleaves, 77; Beasley, <10

Bishop Holston recused himself from presiding as there were now two persons from the South Carolina conference on the ballot. Bishop Holston turned over presiding to Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett.

Bishop Debra Wallace Padgett, Presiding

Bishop Wallace-Padgett recognized someone at microphone 2.

Motion: Steve McAlilly, Mississippi Conference, shared that we are at an impasse that grieves him deeply. He moved to reconsider the recommendation to elect three bishops and to consider instead electing four to correct harm done to persons of color.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett paused to ensure that she was interpreting correctly a recommendation to reconsider,

Bishop Wallace-Padgett confirmed that Steve McAlilly had in fact voted in favor of electing three bishops. He confirmed that he did and was allowed to present his recommendation. His motion was to elect four bishops rather than three. There was a second to the motion. Steve McAlilly spoke to his motion.

2022 Journal of Proceedings

Bishop Wallace-Padgett noted that was a speech for the motion. Bishop Wallace-Padgett reminded the body there is no limit on the number of speeches for or against the motion, but there is a three-minute limit for each person to speak to this.

Robert Grizzard, Florida Conference, spoke against the motion sharing that he thought it was out of order because we have voted many times. If we were to consider three, it should have been done earlier when the election for three was first done. He raised the point of order that this motion was not in order.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett called for a break until 3:57 p.m.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett called the session back to order at 3:57 p.m.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett gave an update on where the session was and shared the rules again about limits on speeches for or against. The recommendation for reconsideration would be dealt with first.

Miles Baker Hunt, North Carolina Conference, requested a point of information. He requested that the COE provide the cost of electing an additional bishop over the next time period of election. Dr. Steve Furr, Alabama-West Florida Conference, chair of COE, shared that it could be \$1 million (\$250,000 per year). Bishop Wallace-Padgett clarified that this cost was \$1 million for a quadrennium or \$250,000 per year.

Rev. Kelly McClendon, Kentucky Conference, spoke for the motion to reconsider on the condition that we allow everyone who has withdrawn to come back into the voting, which is the only way he believes to be fair.

Helen Ryde, Western North Carolina Conference, requested a point of inquiry asking for clarification as to whether we will have to start from the beginning if we vote to elect four bishops, to which no response was immediately given.

Robert Grizzard, Florida Conference, appealed the motion and suggested it should be ruled out of order because the vote had already been made to elect three. Bishop Wallace-Padgett responded that the motion is not out of order.

Kathy FitzJefferies, Western North Carolina Conference, shared that while she appreciated the concern around where this motion came from, she does not think it would be a wise financial decision. She did say that this issue around harm to persons of color in the election process needs to be addressed.

Robert Grizzard, Florida Conference, again appealed the rule of the chair that the motion is out of order because we have had 18 votes already and would need to go back to the beginning and begin again.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett read Rule #27, gave clarity to this appeal to the ruling of the chair, and put forth a hand vote. If you agree with the ruling of the chair, that the motion

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

on the floor was in order, vote “yes,” and if you disagree with the ruling, vote “no.” Bishop Wallace-Padgett proceeded with conducting an electronic ballot and requested the ballot be prepared.

Rev. Constance Barnes, South Carolina Conference, ask for a point of inquiry and requested clarity around the rule Bishop Wallace-Padgett read.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett clarified that we are voting on the appeal of her ruling. The ruling of the chair was upheld. 343 ballots were cast with 227 voting yes and 116 voting no.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett said we have had two speeches for and two against.

Sam England, Holston Conference, called for the question. The body voted in favor of voting on Steve McAlilly’s motion.

Rev. Rob Martin, Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference, posed a question about the money needed now but the question had already been called.

Rev. Amanda Hartmann Westmoreland, Memphis Conference, asked for a point of information to get clarity about whether the conference will have to start from the beginning electing episcopal candidates if this recommendation passes. Bishop Wallace-Padgett shared that the body has elected two bishops, and they cannot be un-elected.

Lee Rodio, North Carolina Conference, had a parliamentary inquiry and/or point of information and Bishop Wallace-Padgett responded clarifying what was being voted on - whether to reconsider the motion that passed from the COE yesterday to elect three bishops. This is the only motion before the body. If the vote is “yes,” then the recommendation from the COE to elect three bishops yesterday will be before the body and there would then be the opportunity for amendments.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett called for the vote upon reconsideration of the recommendation from the COE. The vote to reconsider did not pass.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett thanked Steve McAlilly for his motion.

Ballot Prayer: David Beckley, Mississippi Conference, led the conference in a prayer prior to the ballot.

Ballot Twenty: Bishop Wallace-Padgett guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for one person. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Wallace-Padgett closed the ballot.

Video: Videos about the #BeUMC campaign and Global Ministries were shown as ballots were tallied.

Willie Kitchens and band shared a song with the conference as ballots continued to be tallied.

Ballot Results: Bishop Wallace-Padgett read the results for ballot twenty.

Number of ballots: 342

Number of valid ballots: 342

Needed to elect: 206

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Nelson, 139; Dease, 138; Gleaves, 63; Beasley, <10

Ballot Prayer: Rev. Vicki Walker, Florida Conference, led the conference in prayer prior to the ballot.

Ballot Twenty-one: Bishop Wallace-Padgett guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for one person. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Wallace-Padgett closed the ballot.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett expressed appreciation to the tellers for all their work with balloting.

Videos: An Abundant Health video was shown as ballots were tallied.

Willie Kitchens and band shared a song with the conference as ballots continued to be tallied.

Ballot Results: Bishop Wallace-Padgett read the results for ballot twenty-one.

Number of ballots: 346

Number of valid ballots: 346

Needed to elect: 208

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Dease, 158; Nelson, 148; Gleaves, 38; Beasley, <10

Ballot Prayer: Donna Mosby, Holston Conference, led the conference in prayer prior to the ballot.

Rev. Edith Gleaves expressed thanks for the nomination and expressed grief for how this election has gone. She spoke of the racism and sexism that is still a part of The United Methodist church, this sin, this evil, the injustice that is still part of who we are and how that grieves her. She withdrew her name in an effort to move forward to a better day and time.

Rev. Byron Thomas, North Georgia Conference, asked that we consider freeing ourselves from jurisdictionalism. He asked if there are any efforts to deconstruct the jurisdictional system. Bishop Wallace-Padgett shared there is legislation they are anticipating for the next General Conference, and the Connectional Table is working on this. Rev. Thomas asked for a more thorough response to the questions. Bishop Wallace-Padgett asked anyone on the Connectional Table to contact Anne Travis during the dinner break.

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Ballot Twenty-two: Bishop Wallace-Padgett guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for one person. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Wallace-Padgett closed the ballot.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett invited Bishop Swanson, Sr., to answer Rev. Thomas' question wanting more specifics around legislation going to General Conference and the work of the Connectional Table. Bishop Swanson shared about the work being done by Connectional Table around Rev. Thomas's question related to jurisdictionalism. Following his response, in a moment of personal privilege, Bishop Swanson pointed out that doing away with this system is not going to do away with the history that brought that into being.

Date for 2024 SEJ Conference: Bishop Wallace-Padgett announced that the next Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference will be held July 10-13, 2024, which was received today.

Motion: Rev. Jeremy Troxler, Western North Carolina Conference, made a motion that the conference would ask the Committee on Episcopacy to create a task force to study the impact of racial bias in the process of selection of episcopal candidates and recommend to the COE potential reforms to the process that might reduce the harmful effects of racial bias in the nomination and selection process for episcopal candidate. Furthermore, he moved that such a task force be composed of greater than 50% representation from under-represented groups and that the task force interview recent and past episcopal candidates to hear their experiences and solicit their input. The motion received a second, and Rev. Troxler spoke to the motion.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett heard a second and requested a copy of the motion in writing. Jeremy Troxler spoke to the motion.

Rev. Esther Rodriguez-Perez, Florida Conference, asked for an amendment to the motion to request compensation for those groups doing this work. Bishop Wallace-Padgett asked that she come back to the microphone once the motion is received in writing and properly before us.

Ballot Results: Bishop Wallace-Padgett read the results for ballot twenty-two.

Number of ballots: 349

Number of valid ballots: 349

Needed to elect: 210

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Dease, 186; Nelson, 155; Beasley, <10

Ballot Prayer: Rev. Kelly McClendon, Kentucky Conference, led the conference in prayer prior to the ballot.

Ballot Twenty-three: Bishop Wallace-Padgett guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for one person. Upon conclusion of voting of voting, Bishop Wallace-Padgett closed the ballot.

Announcements: Bishop Wallace-Padgett invited Anne Travis to make announcements. After her announcements were made, Bishop Wallace-Padgett extended thanks to Anne Travis and Julie Hager Love.

Willie Kitchens and band shared a song with the conference while ballots were tallied.

Ballot Results: Bishop Wallace-Padgett read the results for ballot twenty-three.

Number of ballots: 345

Number of valid ballots: 345

Needed to elect: 207

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Dease, 195; Nelson, 144; Beasley, <10

Ballot Prayer: Rev. Ashley Davis, Alabama-West Florida Conference, led the conference in prayer prior to the ballot and gave a blessing over the meal.

Ballot Twenty-four: Bishop Wallace-Padgett guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for one person. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Wallace-Padgett closed the ballot.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett gave time for people to socialize as the ballot was tallied.

Ballot Results: Bishop Wallace-Padgett read the results for ballot twenty-four.

Number of ballots: 341

Number of valid ballots: 341

Needed to elect: 205

There was no election.

The following balloting results were read:

Dease, 200; Nelson, 137; Beasley, <10

Ballot Prayer: Bishop Charlene Kammerer, Retired, led the conference in prayer prior to the ballot.

Ballot Twenty-five: Bishop Wallace-Padgett guided the conference through voting and shared that each delegate should vote for one person. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Wallace-Padgett closed the ballot.

Bishop Wallace-Padgett gave time for people to socialize as the ballot was tallied.

Ballot Results: Bishop Wallace-Padgett read the results for ballot twenty-five

Number of ballots: 343

Number of valid ballots: 343

Needed to elect: 206

Election – Robin Dease was elected with 206 ballots. She was escorted to the stage and gave a brief acceptance speech.

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

The following balloting results were read:
Dease, 206; Nelson, 133; Beasley, <10

Adjourn: Bishop Wallace-Padgett turned the session over to Anne Travis for announcements. The session was in recess until 7:45p.m.

Evening Session 7:45 p.m. Bishop Jonathon Holston, Presiding

Presiding: Bishop Jonathan Holston, Columbia Area, presided.

Call to Order: Bishop Holston called the session to order at 7:53 p.m.

Prayer: Marshall Bailey, Virginia Conference, offered an opening prayer for the session.

Motion: Bishop Holston revisited the motion previously presented by Rev. Troxler. The written motion was placed on the screen:

I move that the SEJ ask the Committee on Episcopacy to create a task force to study the impact of racial bias in the process of selection of episcopal candidates, and to recommend to the Episcopacy Committee potential reforms to the process that might reduce the harmful effects of racial bias in the nomination and selection process for episcopal candidates; furthermore, that such a task force be composed of greater than 50% representation from under-represented groups; and that the task force interview recent and past episcopal candidates to hear of their experiences and to solicit their input.

There was a second.

Rev. Esther Rodriguez-Perez, Florida Conference, proposed an amendment to the motion stating: The mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual burden of supremacy culture is disproportionately felt by marginalized populations and when it's time to work toward equity and justice, the undue burden is placed on these persons without consideration of this immeasurable toll or compensation. Understanding that there is funding available from the jurisdictional Committee on Coordination and Accountability special project task forces, we ask that the selected participants on this special project task force be given an honorarium and reimbursed for their travel expenses incurred during their work toward identifying and ending systemic racism and exclusion within the episcopacy process. This will move us in the direction of equity which by definition requires repair and change on how our systems operate and a consideration of different experiences and needs when working toward fairness." The motion was seconded. Rev. Rodriguez-Perez spoke to the amendment.

Bishop Holston clarified that the amendment included both honorarium and compensation for travel expenses.

The amendment was approved by show of hands and was therefore added to the original motion. However, because it is asking for a financial component, it must be referred to SEJ CFA.

Derrick Scott, Florida Conference, gave a point of information and shared that the COE may be able to include this in their budget. However, Bishop Holston shared that because of the financial component, it must be referred to SEJ CFA and will come back to us tomorrow.

Stephen Sparks, Mississippi Conference, requested a ruling of law: “Are the three petitions before the body out of order as a matter of law as laid out in the response of the Committee on Agenda presented to the body by Bishop James Swanson and Dale [sic] Holly [sic], which is included in the journal and is thereby incorporated herein by reference.”

Bishop Holston shared that he would receive the request for Rule of Law but has 30 days to rule on it and will follow up within that time.

Resolutions: Bishop Holston shared that the three resolutions presented last night are now before the body due to the body voting in favor of the appeal of the agenda committee’s recommendation to the body to not consider the resolutions. That being the case, Bishop Holston invited the authors of each of the resolutions to speak to the resolutions before the body.

Leading with Integrity Resolution: Tom Lee, Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference, spoke on behalf of Jim Allen (currently in Committee on Episcopacy meeting), the author of the “Leading with Integrity” resolution that was presented to the body. (See resolution on page 67 for details.) Mr. Lee spoke for the resolution.

Rev. Fitzgerald Lovett, Mississippi Conference, spoke against the amendment sharing that anyone who opposes the Book of Discipline should not be allowed to hold office.

Leigh Highsmith, North Georgia Conference, spoke in favor of the amendment expressing that the resolution offers a way to see things differently and more clearly.

Bishop Holston asked whether this resolution moved past being aspirational and into requiring an action. Tom Lee confirmed that it is aspirational and not mandatory or directive.

Michael Cheatham, South Carolina Conference, spoke against the amendment by stating the resolution violates the Book of Discipline.

The question was called.

Rev. Lovett, Mississippi Conference, made a point of clarification and clarified that he was not speaking against the motion when he first spoke but was trying to make an amendment to the resolution in paragraph 8.

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Bishop Holston apologized and said he thought Rev. Lovett was making a speech and allowed the amendment to be made. Rev. Lovett stated on the third “Be it resolved,” that it be revised by addition: “Be it further resolved that the Southeastern Jurisdiction ask all lay and clergy members who intend to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church *and those who intentionally plan to violate the Book of Discipline* to recuse themselves from leadership roles in all areas of the church including the local church, district, conference, jurisdictional, and general church level committees, boards, agencies, delegations, and episcopal leaders.” There was a second to the amendment. Rev. Lovett spoke to his proposed amendment.

Lee Rodio, North Carolina Conference, moved to postpone indefinitely Rev. Lovett’s amendment to the resolution. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken on the motion and the motion passed.

The house called for the question. The body was in favor of calling the question.

Bishop Holston took the vote by show of hands. The resolution passed.

Bishop Holston invited the author of the Queer Delegates resolution to speak.

Queer Delegates Resolution: Helen Ryde, Western North Carolina, one of the authors of the queer delegates resolution, spoke in favor of the resolution. (See resolution page 68 for details.)

Bishop Holston ruled this resolution out of order based on Judicial Council ruling 866.

After being approached by one author of the resolution, Bishop Holston called for a 15-minute recess to confer with authors of the resolution and other counsel.

Matt Dailey, Florida Conference, made a motion to amend point six of the resolution to say “aspires” as opposed to “commits,” thus making the resolution aspirational.

Carter Ellis, Western North Carolina Conference, spoke in favor of the resolution.

Bishop Holston took a vote by show of hands, and the motion to amend the resolution passed.

The body was ready to call the question. The call for question was approved by show of hands.

Bishop Holston took a vote by show of hands, and the resolution as amended was approved.

U.S. Regional Conference Resolution: Rev. Lisa Yebuah, North Carolina Conference, author of the U.S. Regional resolution, spoke to the resolution on behalf of Martha Stokes, also an author of the resolution. (See resolution p. 70 for details.) There was a second to the resolution.

2022 Journal of Proceedings

Tiwirai Kufarimai, North Alabama Conference, spoke against the resolution.

Magrey deVega, Florida Conference, spoke in favor of the resolution.

Odell Horne, North Georgia Conference, spoke against the resolution.

The body called the question by show of hands.

Bishop Holston put the resolution to vote by hand but moved to an electronic vote. Bishop Holston guided the conference through voting. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Holston closed the ballot.

Rev. Doug Forester, Virginia Conference, asked for prayer for Conference Treasurer David Dommissie as his wife, Carol, has been put on hospice. Bishop Holston asked if Mr. Forester would offer the prayer.

U.S. Regional Conference Resolution: The U.S. Regional Conference resolution passed with a vote of 203 votes yes and 115 votes no.

Bishop Holston expressed gratitude to the delegates for their work and transitioned the conference from the business session to the retirement celebration.

Retirement Celebration Bishop Ken Carter, Presiding

Bishop Ken Carter presided over the service of retirement celebrating those Bishops who have retired since 2016 – Bishop Hope Morgan Ward, Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor, Bishop Paul Leeland, and Bishop Lawson Bryan – as well as Bishop James Swanson, who will retire at the end of this year. Spouses were present on the stage with those Bishops who are retiring. The service included litany, prayer, and expressions of thanksgiving and videos recognizing these Bishops for their years of service.

Announcements: Anne Travis shared the schedule for Friday's session.

Bishop Carter asked that all be in prayer for the Committee on Episcopacy as they do their work this evening. He offered a closing prayer for our work.

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Daily Minutes

Friday, November 4, 2022

9:00 a.m.

Bishop Ken Carter, Presiding

Call to Order: Bishop Ken Carter called the session to order at 9:01 a.m.

Bishop Carter gave special thanks to lay delegates and shared an overview of the morning's schedule. Bishop Carter then gave an opening prayer.

Troxler Motion: Bishop Carter called on Frank Dunnwind, Chair of SEJ CFA, to give a report from SEJ CFA related to the amendment proposed, which required funding. Dunnwind shared the following points: (1) CFA believes there are funds available in the COE budget line to fulfill this amendment and (2) funding generally is available for 2021-2024. (3) He did clarify that compensation is only available to employees, but honorariums and reimbursements are allowable for volunteers. (4) For clarification, there are no budgeted funds for unnamed special projects. (See budget on p. 83 in ADCA). The CFA is in support of this amendment to the motion.

Rev. Rodriguez-Perez and Rev. Troxler expressed support of this.

The body approved the motion as amended with the response from SEJ CFA.

Committee on Journal: Carlene Johnson, Florida Conference, presented the report from the Committee on the Journal after first giving special acknowledgement to Celeste Eubanks for her work as recording secretary during the conference. The Journal Committee certified that the minutes of Thursday's session were correct. The conference received the report.

Monitoring: Bishop Carter invited Jennifer Davis, Western North Carolina, to share the monitoring report. Jennifer led the group through seven additional questions by way of electronic ballot. Upon conclusion of voting, Bishop Carter declared the ballot closed and shared that the results of this poll would be in the journal. Jennifer shared that other comments and recommendations shared with the monitoring committee would also be published in the journal.

Bishop Carter offered thanks to Jennifer Davis and her team for the work they had done.

Videos: Video tributes for Bishop Leeland's retirement and Bishop Taylor's retirement were shown again.

Bishop Carter expressed gratitude to GNTV, the Lake Junaluska staff, the worship team, and the secretarial staff.

Bishop invited Anne Travis to make announcements. Anne shared the amounts collected for the two offerings during the conference.

Report of Committee on Episcopacy: Dr. Steve Furr, Alabama-West Florida Conference delegate and Chair of the COE, shared the committee’s suggestions for assignments for the Bishops, effective January 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024. He presented the following report:

Alabama-West Florida Episcopal Area– Bishop David Graves
Florida Episcopal Area – Bishop Tom Berlin
Knoxville Episcopal Area (Holston Conference) – Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
Louisville Episcopal Area (Kentucky Conference) – Bishop Leonard Fairley
Mississippi Episcopal Area – Bishop Sharma Lewis
Birmingham Episcopal Area (North Alabama Conference) – Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett
Raleigh Episcopal Area (North Carolina Conference) – Bishop Connie Shelton
North Georgia Episcopal Area – Bishop Robin Dease
Columbia Episcopal Area (South Carolina Conference) – Bishop Jonathan Holston
South Georgia Episcopal Area – Bishop David Graves
Nashville Episcopal Area (Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference) – Bishop Bill McAlilly
Richmond Episcopal Area (Virginia Conference) – Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson
Charlotte Episcopal Area (Western North Carolina Conference) – Bishop Ken Carter

The COE made this motion and recommended its acceptance. Bishop Carter called for a vote. The motion was approved with a “yes” vote. Dr. Furr gave special thanks to the COE for their work.

Bishop Carter offered a blessing upon the Bishops to close the business session and adjourned following the Service of Consecration.

The Conference was in recess until the Service of Consecration at 10:30 a.m.

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Ballot Results

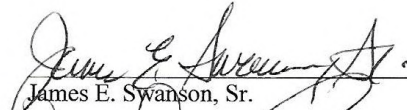
Ballot Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Cast	352	INVALID	351	346	349	349	INVALID	348	352	350	350	350	INVALID
Valid	350		351	346	349	349		348	352	350	350	350	
Invalid	2		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Needed	210		211	208	210	210	210	209	212	210	210	210	210
Alvarez, Ismar	102		96	94	87	90	94	85	62	52	42	41	Withdraw
Austin, Sharon	85		53	43	34	36		43	62	74	77	78	
Berlin, Tom	180		201	213-ELECTED									
Bowers, Sharon	58		22	18									
Coles, Amy	90		63	58	41	32		33	41	43	50	52	
Gleaves, Edith	102		106	131	132	152	153	187	174	178	176	173	
Nelson, Ken	144		166	181	150	152	160	160	150	148	139	128	
Shelton, Connie	130		185	201	176	181	179	179	198	197	206	213-ELECTED	
Thomas, Byron	96		92	83	56	47		Withdraw					
Beasley, Zachery	27		32	21									
Dease, Rob	16	Withdraw											
Martin, Rob	11		20	13		Withdraw							
Cruz, Rodrigo									11	Withdraw			
Ballot Number	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
Cast	INVALID	351	349	346	342	347	342	346	349	345	341	343	
Valid		351	347	348	342	347	342	346	349	345	341	343	
Invalid		0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Needed		211	209	209	206	209	206	208	210	207	205	206	
Alvarez, Ismar													
Austin, Sharon		48	35	Withdraw									
Berlin, Tom													
Bowers, Sharon				Withdraw									
Coles, Amy		10	Withdraw										
Gleaves, Edith		93	84	103	92	77	63	38	Withdraw				
Nelson, Ken		123	132	123	128	135	139	148	155	144	137	133	
Shelton, Connie													
Thomas, Byron		27	28	Withdraw									
Beasley, Zachery			14										
Dease, Rob		44	65	107	118	132	138	158	186	195	200	206-ELECTED	
Martin, Rob													
Cruz, Rodrigo													

2022 Journal of Proceedings


**Presiding Officers
2022 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference**

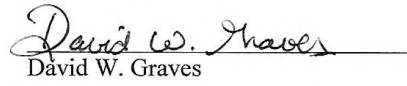
Wednesday, November 2, 2022

Morning Session

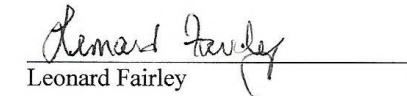

James E. Swanson, Sr.

Afternoon Session


Sharma D. Lewis


David W. Graves

Evening Session

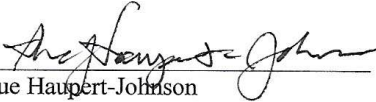

Leonard Fairley

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Presiding Officers
2022 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Thursday, November 3, 2022

Morning Session



Sue Hauptert-Johnson

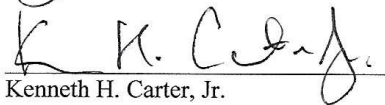
Afternoon Session


L. Jonathan Holston


Debra Wallace-Padgett

Evening Session


L. Jonathan Holston

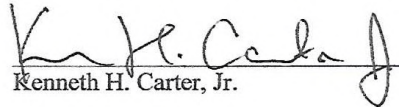

Kenneth H. Carter, Jr.

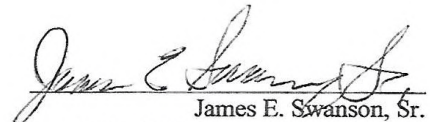
2022 Journal of Proceedings

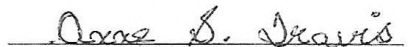
Presiding Officers
2022 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Friday, November 4, 2022

Morning Session


Kenneth H. Carter, Jr.


James E. Swanson, Sr.
Senior Bishop, College of Bishops


Anne S. Travis, Conference Secretary

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Administrative Nominations Report
Southeastern Jurisdiction College of Bishops
2022 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Conference Secretary

Julie Hager Love (KY)

Secretary Designate

Kathy L. James (SC)

Committee on Agenda

Bishop James Swanson

Anne Travis, Conference Secretary

Dedric Cowser (NAL)

Karen Kagiyama (NGA)

Del Holley (HOL)

Committee on the Journal

Carlene Johnson (FL)

Uiyeon Kim (WNC)

LaToya Thompson (MS)

Committee on Episcopacy

Chairperson: *Kim Ingram*

Vice Chairperson: Christine Dodson

Secretary: *Alex Shanks*

<i>Larry Bryars</i>	AWF	<i>Belton Joyner</i>	NC
Steve Furr	AWF	Christine Dodson	NC
<i>Robert Amundsen</i>	CAM	<i>Byron Thomas</i>	NGA
Marilyn Osborne	CAM	Jane Finley	NGA
<i>Alex Shanks</i>	FL	<i>Ken Nelson</i>	SC
Molly McEntire	FL	Jacquelyn Jenkins	SC
<i>Kim Goddard</i>	HOL	<i>Robert Beckum</i>	SGA
Emily Ballard	HOL	Bill Hatcher	SGA
<i>Bill Arnold</i>	KY	<i>Harriet Bryan</i>	TWK
Alan Beuscher	KY	Josh Shaw	TWK
<i>Fred Britton</i>	MS	<i>Lindsey Freeman</i>	VA
David Stotts	MS	Warren Harper	VA
<i>Dedric Cowser</i>	NAL	<i>Kim Ingram</i>	WNC
Steve Lyles	NAL	Jennifer Davis	WNC

2022 Journal of Proceedings

Committee on Appeals
(Effective January 1, 2023)
(Book of Discipline, ¶2716.1)

Chairperson: *Emily Kincaid*
 Vice-Chairperson: *Celeste Eubanks*
 Secretary: *Magrey deVega*

Primary Members

Alternate Members

(4 Clergy in Full Connection)

<i>Emily Kincaid</i>	AWF
<i>Joy Melton</i>	NGA
<i>Magrey deVega</i>	FL
<i>Morris Waymer</i>	SC

(4 Clergy in Full Connection)

<i>Kevin Burney</i>	KY
<i>Ron Schultz</i>	NAL
<i>Kary Sue McCaleb</i>	MS
<i>Angela Hardy Cross</i>	HOL
<i>Robert King</i>	NGA

(1 Diaconal Minister)

To be named

(1 Diaconal Minister)

<i>Joy Carr</i>	MS
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(1 Full-Time Local Pastor)

<i>Emma Ward</i>	MS
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(1 Full-Time Local Pastor)

<i>Jimmy Carter</i>	TWK
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(3 Laity)

(At least 6 years successively members of UMC)

<i>Malcolm White</i>	VA
<i>Celeste Eubanks</i>	AWF
<i>David Salter</i>	SC

(3 Laity)

<i>Alice Williams</i>	FL
<i>Cathy Thompson</i>	NC
<i>Nate Abrams</i>	NGA

Committee on Investigation

(Effective January 1, 2023)
(Book of Discipline ¶2703.1)

Chairperson: *Beth Sanders*
 Vice Chairperson: *Sherill Clontz*
 Secretary: To be elected

(7 Clergy in Full Connection)

<i>Beth Hood</i>	NC
<i>Sherill Clontz</i>	NAL
<i>Joe May</i>	MS
<i>Beth Sanders</i>	NGA
<i>Robert Gardner</i>	TWK
<i>Latricia Scriven</i>	FL
<i>Meredith Martin</i>	WNC

(6 Alternate Members)

(5 Clergy in Full Connection; 1 Professing Member)

Alternates: Clergy	
<i>Raigan Miskelly</i>	MS
<i>Michelle Kim</i>	VA
<i>Susan Groseclose</i>	HOL
<i>Jae Lee</i>	WNC
<i>Jeremy Pridgeon</i>	AWF

(2 Professing Members)

<i>Lyn Taylor</i>	TWK
<i>Christy Crow</i>	AWF

Alternate: Professing Member	
<i>Tom Jordan</i>	WNC

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order

<i>Jasmine Smothers</i>	NGA	Ex Officio	
<i>Chris Brown</i>	HOL	David Dommissie	SEJ Treas.
<i>Trey Harper</i>	MS	<i>Julie Hager Love</i>	SEJ Sec.
Jonathan LeMaster Smith	WNC		
<i>Candace Lewis</i>	FL		

Committee on Program and Arrangements

Senior Effective Bishop: *Bishop Jonathan Holston*
Conference Secretary: *Julie Hager Love* (KY)
Secretary Designate: *Kathy L. James* (SC)
Conference Treasurer: David Dommissie (VA)
District Superintendent: To be supplied
Chair, Committee on Coordination and Accountability (or designee): To be supplied
President, United Methodist Men: Andrew Kissell (VA)
President, United Women in Faith: Sue Owens (SC)
Chair, Association of Conference Lay Leaders (or designee): To be supplied
Chair, Committee on Episcopacy (or designee): David Stotts (MS)

At-Large Members:

Judith Pierre-Okerson	FL	<i>Liz Roberts</i>	NC
Solomon Christian	TWK	<i>Haywood Hannah</i>	MS
<i>Sherri Reynolds</i>	NAL		

Resolutions Submitted to 2022 SEJ Conference for Consideration

Resolution 1

Leading with Integrity

A resolution to the 2022 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Whereas, the vibrant future of The United Methodist Church requires deep commitment and loyal leadership at every level, and

Whereas, grounded in a sense of duty and loyalty to the mission of the church, leaders are counted on and expected to make decisions about the future of The United Methodist Church with the absolute best interest of Christ's church at heart, and

Whereas, the selection, election, and appointment of clergy and lay leaders throughout The United Methodist Church includes the implicit understanding that leaders will ethically serve in each of their leadership roles with the utmost integrity, and

Whereas, leaders who do not intend to remain in The United Methodist Church entangle themselves in a significant conflict of interest, and

Whereas, the service of a leader whose call to discipleship is aligned with The United Methodist Church is prevented by the continued leadership of an individual who has made a private decision and/or public declaration to leave The United Methodist Church.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Southeastern Jurisdiction expresses both respect and gratitude to those who have voluntarily stepped away from positions of leadership as they journey away from membership in The United Methodist Church.

Be it further resolved that, as we continue this period of transition the Southeastern Jurisdiction calls upon every United Methodist, as a disciple of Jesus the Christ, to move forward in fairness and with integrity.

Be it further resolved that the Southeastern Jurisdiction asks all lay and clergy members who intend to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church to recuse themselves from leadership roles in all areas of the church, including the local church, district, conference, jurisdictional, and general church level committees, boards, agencies, delegations, and episcopal leaders.

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Be it further resolved that we encourage Conference Boards of Trustees to develop codes of conduct to manage conflicts of interest that may arise around discussions of disaffiliation agreements.

Submitted by:

Jim Allen, Lay General Conference Delegate, Tennessee Conference
Rev. Dr. Robin Dease, Clergy General Conference Delegate, South Carolina Conference

Resolution 2

QUEER DELEGATES' CALL TO CENTER JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT FOR LGBTQIA+1 PEOPLE IN THE UMC RESOLUTION TO THE 2022 SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

Whereas, in a groundswell response to the passage of harmful legislation at the 2019 Special Session of General Conference, Annual Conferences elected queer clergy and lay persons to be General and Jurisdictional Delegates in record numbers, for the first time empowering queer delegates to speak and act from our diverse experiences, and

Whereas, the 2019 Special Session of the United Methodist General Conference passed the Traditional Plan, which increased penalties for United Methodists clergy who are LGBTQIA+ and for clergy who support the LGBTQIA+ community through officiating their weddings, and

Whereas, in an attempt to address the divide within The United Methodist Church, an abeyance or moratorium was proposed to the General Conference, referenced below,² by the authors of the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation, and

Whereas, we understand our call and responsibility as United Methodists to do good, do no harm, and stay in love with God, and

Whereas, we call straight and cisgender allies to do good by using their voice and vote to support, empower, and amplify the voices of the LGBTQIA+ community in The United Methodist Church,

Therefore be it resolved that the 2022 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church:

1. Supports and amplifies the queer delegates' call to justice and empowerment for the LGBTQIA+ community in our Jurisdiction, within and beyond our churches and agencies;
2. Affirms the spirit of the abeyance or moratorium as proposed to the General Conference, as referenced above, until changes can be made in *The United Methodist Book of Discipline*.
3. Implores our member Annual Conferences to either not pursue or resolve in an appropriately timely fashion through a non-punitive, just resolution process any

2022 Journal of Proceedings

complaints against clergy regarding their sexual orientation or clergy who officiate weddings of LGBTQIA+ persons;

4. Urges that as a Jurisdiction we either not pursue or resolve in an appropriately timely fashion through a non-punitive, just resolution process any complaints against Bishops regarding their sexual orientation or those who officiate weddings of LGBTQIA+ persons;
5. Supports the election of episcopal leaders who commit to upholding this resolution and who will further justice for and empowerment of LGBTQIA+ people in the annual conferences where they serve;
6. Commits to a future of The United Methodist Church where LGBTQIA+ people will be protected, affirmed, and empowered in the life and ministry of the church in our Jurisdiction, including as laity, ordained clergy, in the episcopacy, and on boards and agencies. *[NOTE: The word “Commits” was changed to “Aspires” on a motion by Matt Dailey, lay delegate, FL Conference, and approved by a show of hands.]*

Submitted by the following queer delegates from this Jurisdiction:

Jessica Barber Scott, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Southeastern
Matt Dailey, General Conference Delegate, Southeastern
Mark Elder, General Conference Delegate, Southeastern
Rushing Kimball, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Southeastern

Antony Larry, General Conference Delegate, Southeastern
Caleb Parker, General Conference Delegate, Southeastern
Helen Ryde, General Conference Delegate, Southeastern
Derrick Scott III, General Conference Delegate, Southeastern
Rye Standifer, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Southeastern

Supported by the following queer delegates from other Jurisdictions:

Walker Brault, Reserve Delegate, North Central
Bill Brownson, General Conference Delegate, North Central
Britt Cox, Reserve Delegate, North Central
Hidden Faithful, General Conference Delegate, North Central
Gregory Gross, General Conference Delegate, North Central
Alberto Hidalgo, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, North Central
Fred Lewis, General Conference Delegate, North Central
Bobbi Ruddock, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, North Central
Hannah Bonner, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Northeastern

Kaleigh Corbett-Rasmussen, General Conference Delegate, Northeastern
Ann Craig, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Northeastern
Rev. Dr. Becca Girrell, General Conference Delegate, Northeastern
Claire Holston, Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, Northeastern
Jorge Lockward, General Conference Delegate, Northeastern
Effie McAvoy, General Conference Delegate, Northeastern
J.J. Warren, General Conference Delegate, Northeastern
Rev. Dr. Jay Williams, General Conference Delegate, Northeastern

1. As delegates, we choose to describe ourselves using the umbrella term “queer,” but refer to the broader community of persons with the LGBTQIA+ acronym.

2. “Effective immediately upon adjournment of the 2020 General Conference, no complaint proceedings (including, without limitation, a bishop’s supervisory response, suspension proceedings, attempts to achieve a just resolution, or referral of a complaint) shall be initiated, and all current or pending complaint proceedings shall be suspended, insofar as the alleged Book of Discipline violation asserted in the complaint is that the respondent is a ‘self-avowed practicing homosexual’ (however that term may be defined, including, without limitation, living in a same-gender marriage, domestic partnership or civil union); that the respondent has conducted, officiated, performed, celebrated, or blessed a same-gender wedding or other same-gender union; that the respondent has certified, licensed, commissioned, ordained, consecrated, or appointed a ‘self-avowed practicing homosexual’; that the respondent has provided ‘funds to any gay caucus or group’ or used funds ‘to promote the acceptance of homosexuality’; or that the respondent has otherwise engaged in conduct that The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church currently states is ‘incompatible with Christian teaching’ as it pertains to LGBTQ relationships. This moratorium on all new and pending complaint proceedings concerning human sexuality provisions applies not only to charges that are explicitly based on ¶ 2702.1b, but also to any charge that the same alleged underlying conduct constitutes a chargeable offense under any other provision of the Discipline, including (without limitation) ‘immorality’ under ¶ 2702.1a; ‘disobedience to the order and discipline of The United Methodist Church’ under ¶ 2702.1d; and ‘dissemination of doctrines contrary to the established standards of doctrine of The United Methodist Church’ under ¶ 2702.1e. This moratorium is inclusive of charges related to the following paragraphs: ¶ 161, ¶ 304.3, ¶ 310.2, ¶ 341.6, ¶ 613.19, ¶ 806.9, and ¶ 2702.1b. This moratorium does not apply to charges under any of these provisions in which the underlying alleged actions address a different subject matter, including but not limited to sexual misconduct, sexual abuse, and sexual harassment. This moratorium shall remain in effect until the close of the first General Conference of The United Methodist Church

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

after other denominations separate. Any complaints pertaining to this paragraph filed during this period shall be held in abeyance, and no time limits shall commence until the above-referenced General Conference has concluded." -From the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation.

Resolution 3

Resolution in Support of a U.S. Regional Conference

WHEREAS the seven Central Conferences and five U.S. Jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church engage in mission together in 136 countries; and

WHEREAS the connectional ties between the church in the United States and the Central Conferences are significant and vital to the continued mission and ministry of the worldwide United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS the existing structure of The United Methodist Church at the general church level has historically impeded each region from effectively tailoring its ministry to its specific contexts; and

WHEREAS the existing structure of The United Methodist Church at the general church level diminishes our ability to be a vital and effective church and needs to be re-envisioned to achieve more fair and equitable church governance; and

WHEREAS the creation of a U.S. Regional Conference and the conversion of the Central Conferences to Regional Conferences, as outlined in the [Christmas Covenant](#), developed by Central Conference leaders in Africa and the Philippines, would establish structural parity throughout the worldwide church; and

WHEREAS the creation of a U.S. Regional Conference, as outlined in legislation put forward by [the Connectional Table](#) will establish the governance necessary to allow each region to design ministry for its particular contexts, and thus more effectively make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world; and

WHEREAS the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church continues to work toward inclusion and justice for all God's people; and

WHEREAS the Southeastern Jurisdiction aspires to vital, thriving, multicultural, and diverse ministries that are open to all people and can be a beacon of hope for the worldwide United Methodist Church;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southeastern Jurisdiction supports the expressed intents of the Christmas Covenant and Connectional Table legislation, including the creation of Regional Conferences in Africa, Europe, the Philippines, and the U.S., respectively; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Southeastern Jurisdiction recognizes and supports the leadership of our Central Conferences in the creation and furtherance of the Christmas Covenant as well the Connectional Table's future visioning on behalf of our worldwide fellowship; and

2022 Journal of Proceedings

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Southeastern Jurisdiction urges every Annual Conference within its boundaries to support both the Christmas Covenant and Connectional Table proposals to establish a fair and equitable general church structure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Southeastern Jurisdiction urges the Council of Bishops to expedite the process of voting on the constitutional amendments necessary to enact the regional conferences legislation, calling special sessions of annual conferences where necessary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Jurisdiction Conference Secretary shall send copies of this resolution to all delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences, including alternates, from the Southeastern Jurisdiction and to the Commission on the General Conference.

Submitted by:

Rev. Lisa Yebuah, Clergy General Conference Delegate, North Carolina Conference
Martha E. Stokes, Lay General Conference Delegate, Virginia Conference

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

MONITORING
Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference
November 2-4, 2022

On behalf of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church, the following is a report from the 2022 Monitoring Team.

The goal of monitoring is to help our Conferences, our delegates, and our plenary leaders to hold the most inclusive sessions possible, where every voice is respected and given the opportunity to be heard. Monitoring is not about policing, finger pointing, or embarrassing others. It is not about forcing people to participate in any discussion. Monitoring is about observing, reporting, and sharing with intentionality observations to assist us in increasing and developing self-awareness so that we can build meaningful relationships in the Body of Christ.

For the past several Conferences, we have engaged in a process of self-monitoring by asking each of us to pay attention to how we react and/or respond to the opinions, comments, and behavior of others. In 2022, delegates had two opportunities to respond to questions that allowed everyone to evaluate their comfort level with perceived or real differences. The questions and responses of those two exercises are included here but we would call your attention to the following observations.

- Participation was exemplary – no fewer than 282 persons responded to each question with the highest number of respondents being 333
- Most respondents indicated a willingness to engage in conversation with others whose opinions and feelings might be different than their own
- An overwhelming majority of respondents indicated a willingness to attempt to engage, listen, and seek to understand others and to be understood
- A significant majority recognized the efforts of the SEJ to be inclusive in worship and administration
- While participants indicated a willingness to self-monitor and overcome discomfort in engaging with others whom they may not know, it appears that we can improve on this process with additional help and explanation regarding the intent and benefit of a self-monitoring process.

We invite you to review the information carefully and welcome suggestions for enhancing this process as we continue to seek to build a more beloved community in this United Methodist Church.

Jennifer P. Davis
Lay Member – Western North Carolina Conference

**2022 SEJ Conference
Monitoring Questions and Results**

Monitoring Session 1	
Q1	How comfortable are you sharing your opinions in this electronic process?
1. Very Comfortable	257
2. Somewhat Comfortable	67
3. Not comfortable at all	8
Q2	Do you feel comfortable sharing your opinions and/or asking questions from the Conference floor?
1. Very Comfortable	57
2. Somewhat Comfortable	163
3. Not comfortable at all	112
Q3	Do you believe that your comments/questions are relevant for the church today and will be welcomed?
1. Yes	193
2. No	52
3. Not sure	87
Q4	Are you comfortable engaging in conversation with others whom you may not know and appear to be different than you?
1. Yes	290
2. No	42
Q5	Will you seek to meet new people and intentionally engage in conversation with them?
1. Yes, definitely	161
2. I will try	153
3. I am not interested in this	18
Q6	Will you seek to listen to understand those whose opinions and feelings are different than your own?
1. Yes, definitely	209
2. I will try	122
3. I am not interested in this	1
Q7	Are you willing to share your opinions and feelings with those with whom you may differ?
1. Very willing	203
2. Reluctant but will try	112
3. No. I think I should keep my opinions and feelings to myself.	7

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Monitoring Session 2	
Q1	Have you had an opportunity to engage in conversation with others you did not know?
1. Yes	273
2. No	15
Q2	Did you initiate the conversation or were you approached by someone else?
1. I initiated the conversation	198
2. I was approached by someone else	85
Q3	How comfortable were you during the conversation?
1. I was very comfortable	180
2. I was somewhat comfortable	88
3. I experienced some discomfort	14
Q4	Do you feel your thoughts and opinions were accepted and respected by others?
1. Yes	252
2. No	33
Q5	Did you learn something about yourself or others that will enhance your faith journey as a disciple of Jesus Christ?
1. Yes	199
2. Not really	88
Q6	Have you gained helpful knowledge about the issues facing the church today?
1. Yes	188
2. A little	84
3. No	14
Q7	Do you feel better equipped/prepared to share your knowledge, thoughts and feelings with others who may differ from you in appearance and/or beliefs?
1. Yes, Definitely	109
2. Somewhat	136
3. Not really	40
Q8	Will you seek to engage in difficult conversations when you return to your home setting?
1. Yes, Definitely	172
2. I will try	109
3. No	6
Q9	Have you been aware of our efforts to be inclusive and embrace the diversity of our Conference in Worship and Administration?
1. Yes	262
2. No	25
Q10	Lastly, do you consider this self-monitoring process to be helpful enough that we should continue its use?
1. Yes, Definitely	99
2. Possibly	138
3. No	52

SECTION V. Reports

COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM AND ARRANGEMENTS

The 2016 Committee on Program and Arrangements, under the able guidance and direction of Bishop Hope Morgan Ward (2019-2021) and Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr., (2022) and with support provided by Bishop L. Jonathan Holston, held multiple meetings during this extended quadrennium to plan first for the postponed 2020 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, then for the virtual 2021 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, and finally for the 2022 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference approved by the Judicial Council. All meetings of this Committee were held virtually by Zoom.

The work of this Program and Arrangements Committee was made much more difficult as we have prepared for not one, but three, Jurisdictional Conference sessions. Fortunately, much of the work done in preparation for the postponed 2020 session carried forward to 2022, but planning and preparing for a 2021 virtual Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference was a new experience for all of us. The committee is to be commended for its patience and perseverance in preparing for these meetings under ever-changing circumstances.

Membership on this committee included the following persons, for whose work we are most grateful:

Senior Effective Bishop 2016-2021: *Bishop Hope Morgan Ward*
Senior Effective Bishop 2021-2022: *Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr.*
Bishop Assisting with Planning and Agenda: *Bishop Jonathan Holston*
Conference Secretary (2016-2021): Anne Travis
Conference Secretary (2021-2022): *Brad Brady*
Conference Secretary (2022): Anne Travis
Associate Conference Secretary (2022): *Julie Hager Love*
Conference Treasurer: David Dommissie
District Superintendent: *Ray Broadwell*
Committee on Coordination and Accountability Chair: Gary Locklear
Jurisdictional President UMM: Hank Dozier
Jurisdictional President UMW: Patty Stricklin
Association of Conference Lay Leaders Chair: Steve Lyles
Committee on Episcopacy Representative: Barbara Ware

At Large:

<i>Stephanie Hand</i>	WNC
<i>Rinaldo Hernandez</i>	FL
<i>June Jernigan</i>	AWF
<i>Susan Leonard</i>	SC
<i>Juan Quintanilla</i>	NGA

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Decisions

Significant decisions made by the Program and Arrangements Committee included theme, plans for five worship services, teaching/learning time, panel discussion to include young adults from the delegations, agenda, method of balloting, housing protocol, and per diem. Most of this work was completed prior to March 2020, at which time the pandemic caused postponement of the planned 2020 Jurisdictional Conference.

As it became evident in 2021 that we would still not be able to have an in-person Jurisdictional Conference because of the ongoing pandemic, the Committee began planning for a called virtual session to be held in July 2021. As indicated by the call from the College of Bishops, the purpose of this session was to vote on the unifying of the Memphis and Tennessee Conferences to form the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference. This vote was time-sensitive because of work already done prior to 2020 and because of legal documents prepared to enact this transition. With only a handful of persons gathered in person at Lake Junaluska, the called session was held virtually on July 21, 2021, and the unifying vote was approved overwhelmingly.

Rev. Dr. Brad Brady, who was named by the College of Bishops to assume the role of Conference Secretary in September 2021, began the work of preparing for an in-person session. Following his untimely death in February 2022, Anne Travis was asked by the College of Bishops to serve for the remainder of 2022, with very able assistance from Rev. Julie Hager Love as Associate Secretary.

In summer 2022, the Program and Arrangements Committee and the Worship planning team picked up where they left off in March 2020 and carried forward with most of the plans that had been made in 2020 but with some minor adjustments. Had it not been for the very able work done by the Program and Arrangements Committee, under the leadership of Bishop Hope Morgan Ward, in 2019 and 2020, the planning for this 2022 Conference would have been done under even greater time pressure. We are grateful for the capable work done so that the 2022 session could be arranged on much shorter notice than is typical.

Balloting

The committee originally selected Option Technologies of Florida to guide our electronic balloting for 2020. Following the use of GNTV for streaming and balloting using smart phones for the virtual session in 2021, the decision was made to contract with GNTV from Macon, GA, for the 2022 session.

Per Diem and Travel

The per diem was recommended at \$165/day based on double occupancy onsite at Lake Junaluska using the American Meal Plan. The per diem will begin with lunch on Tuesday, November 1, and will conclude following breakfast on Friday, November 4. This extension of the per diem allows delegates to attend the Committee on Episcopacy activities on Tuesday afternoon, November 1.

2022 Journal of Proceedings

The travel allowance will be \$0.30 per mile for automobile travel. For delegates flying to Lake Junaluska, the delegate will be reimbursed at \$0.30/mile for the distance from home address to Lake Junaluska.

Delegate Seating

Delegate seating was assigned based on seating in 2016, with some rotation occurring to allow those who were further back in 2016 to be closer to the front in 2022. Delegate seating will allow for social distancing, with the amount of distancing based on Covid numbers at the time of the Conference. The Committee also developed a Covid protocol for the Conference as we care for the protection, health, and safety of each other when we gather together.

Paperless Work

Pre-Conference work will all be done using the SEJ Conference web site. The ADCA and other pertinent documents were posted on this web site (www.sejumc.org).

To further our efforts at being paperless, the 2022 SEJ Journal will be provided to all delegates in .pdf format via a link that will be emailed to delegates following the publication of the Journal. Any delegates desiring a paper copy of the Journal may obtain it via print on demand; the information for print on demand will be provided to delegates along with the link to the Journal in .pdf format.

Secretarial Staff

Anne Travis, Conference Secretary, and Julie Love, Associate Conference Secretary, have recruited a highly capable staff to assist with the many details associated with the planning and administration of the 2022 SEJ Conference. The following persons will be serving on the Secretarial Staff:

Celeste Eubanks (Conference Minutes)
Sybil Davidson (DCA Editor)
Susan Arnold (Delegate Relations)
Christine Selleck (Episcopal Spouses)
Meredyth Earnest (Elections and Tellers)
Otto Harris (Elections Balloting)
Jasmine Haynes (Media Relations)

Jennifer Davis (Monitoring)
Sam Parkes (Worship)
Kathy James (Worship)
Micheal Selleck (Retirement Service)
Becky Hall (Staging)
David Dommissie (Treasurer)

Many other persons will assist this secretarial staff as volunteers throughout the Conference to attend to all details and needs of the attendees. We are grateful to each of these persons for their willingness to serve.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Travis, Conference Secretary
2022 SEJ Conference

**COMMITTEE ON PLAN OF ORGANIZATION
AND RULES OF ORDER 2022**

In keeping with the responsibilities of the Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order, Division V, Section 4 (1), the committee conducted a review of the structure and rules of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference and proposed only minor changes to the Plan of Organization and no changes to the Rules of Order. However, a proposal to revise the structure of the Southeastern Jurisdiction, Plan of Organization Sections V.A and V.B, was presented later as a part of the report of the Committee on Coordination and Accountability.

The proposed changes included in our report include the following:

- 1) Ensuring the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order are consistent with the 2016 *Book of Discipline* and rules adopted by the 2016 SEJ Conference.
- 2) Continuing to adapt and refine the plan and rules of the structure that were approved in 2008, including significant review of a revision to the Plan of Organization that was brought as a joint recommendation of the Committee on Finance and Administration (CFA) and the Committee on Coordination and Accountability (CCA).

Overview of the Plan of Organization and the Rules of Order Proposed Changes

1. Making the Plan of Organization and the Rules of Order consistent with the 2016 *Book of Discipline*.

- a. In all references, 2012 is changed to 2016

2. Refining the Plan and Structure Based on Experience.

- a. This Committee reviewed in detail a proposed change to the structure of the Jurisdiction that was brought to the body by the Committee on Coordination and Accountability. This proposed structural change is a joint recommendation from the CFA and the CCA. The proposal revises Section V.A, eliminates the current Section V.B, and renumbers subsequent sections. After careful and thorough review, the Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order concurs with the proposed restructuring.

3. Change in Number of Nominating Committee Members and Tellers.

- a. We propose deleting reference to 30 members of Nominating Committee (Section V.C) and 30 Tellers (Section V.G.6), based on the decision of the 2021 Called Session of SEJ Conference to unite the former Memphis and Tennessee Conferences, thus changing our total number of conferences. References to “two persons from each annual conference” already in those sections will cover the number of members needed for these groups.

4. Editorial Edits Without Change of Intent or Practice.

- Without notation, the committee has included editorial changes to disciplinary paragraph numbers so we are in harmony with the 2016 edition of *The Book of Discipline*. We propose that the Conference Secretary be granted authority to update any disciplinary references when the 2024 edition is published.

We again asked the Conference Secretary to publish in the Advance Daily Christian Advocate the texts of all petitions and reports received by the publication deadline. The ADCA was provided as a PDF document on the jurisdictional website (www.sejumc.org). **Members and guests were responsible for downloading reports and documents from the website.**

We authorize the Conference Secretary to renumber the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order following this session of the Jurisdictional Conference based on action taken by the Conference.

We have no proposed changes to the Rules of Order as approved by the 2016 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

We moved the adoption of these Rules of Order as printed in the ADCA. We recommend consideration of the Plan of Organization as it will be presented for approval by the Committee on Coordination and Accountability in tomorrow's agenda.

Submitted,

Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order

Jan Brown Thompson (KY)

Vicki Landrum (MS)

Rob Martin (MEM)

Cory Smith (AWF)

Ex Officio

David Domnisse, Treasurer

Anne Travis, Secretary

***Editor's Note:** Please see the final version of the approved Plan of Organization and Rules of Order published later in this document (page 149), with the organizational change to be implemented with the nominations made at the 2024 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference.*

COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Introduction

In 2008, the SEJ Conference approved a structure that created the Committee on Coordination and Accountability (CCA), a group to oversee the work and ministry of The United Methodist Church across the Southeastern Jurisdiction. During the 2008-2012 quadrennium, the CCA worked to understand its role and function, the scope of its work, and its relationship with the agencies and ministries of the Jurisdiction.

Since 2012 under this structure, the CCA has continued living into its understanding of responsibilities, as outlined in the 2008 Journal and reported in the 2012 Journal:

1. Having limited power, but with authority, to act between sessions of the Jurisdictional Conference on matters such as elections of Trustees or Directors for entities requiring such action (e.g., Emory University Trustees and SEJ Agencies).
2. Being the legal body of the Jurisdiction and guardian of the SEJ title and logo.
3. Focusing on the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church within the Jurisdiction.

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

4. Coordinating and/or confirming the programs of the General Agencies within the Jurisdiction (§528).
5. Receiving regular reports from the Committee on Finance and Administration and jurisdictional groups for mission and ministry.
6. Relating to and holding accountable groups mandated by *The Book of Discipline*, Networking Groups, Monitoring Groups, and existing groups organized and functioning within the Jurisdiction.

During 2016-2022 according to the SEJ Plan of Organization, 15 persons (one from each Annual Conference) were elected to serve on this committee:

- Three Bishops: Bishop Sharma Lewis (VA), Bishop William McAlilly (TN), and Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor (HOL), who was then replaced by Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett (HOL).
- Three Conference Lay Leaders: Gary Locklear (NC), who was then replaced by John Hall in 2020; Steve Lyles (NAL), and Jane Wood (WNC), who was then replaced by John Crane in 2020.
- Three Directors of Connectional Ministries: Sharon Austin (FL); Julie Hager Love (KY), who was then replaced by William Moore in 2019; and Denise Walton (SGA), who was then replaced by Nita Crump in 2017 and by Kelly Roberson in 2020.
- At-Large: Robert Amundsen (RBM), Zachary Beasley (MS), Roger Hopson (MEM), Jeremy Pridgeon (AWF), Timothy Rogers (SC), and Philip Schroeder (NGA).
- Ex-officio (without vote): Anne Travis (Conference Secretary), David Domnisse (Conference Treasurer), and Frank Dunnwind (Chairperson of SEJ Committee on Finance and Administration).

Bishop William McAlilly was elected chairperson for the first two years of the quadrennium and Gary Locklear served as Vice-Chair. Bishop McAlilly and Mr. Locklear switched roles for the second two years of the quadrennium. Timothy Rogers assisted as the secretary.

Then in Fall 2020, the CCA was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Gary Locklear as a result of the COVID pandemic. Gary was serving so ably as the Chair of CCA at the time of his death. He was widely known, respected, and loved across the SEJ and, indeed, across the entire United Methodist Church. The Committee on Coordination and Accountability deeply mourned his loss, and Bishop McAlilly participated in Gary's Memorial Service on our behalf.

The SEJ CCA has met once each year in a face-to-face meeting until 2020, as needed via conference calls, and annually in zoom meetings since Spring 2020. Attendance and participation have been high throughout the quadrennium. The CCA met with the Director and chairperson (or representative) of the Board from each agency and ministry at our annual fall meeting. Each time we met with Directors of the agencies and ministries, the meeting was a joint meeting with SEJ Committee on Finance and Administration (CFA) so that all were hearing the reports together. Written reports were received and reviewed at these meetings, as well as financial information. SEJ CCA and CFA continue to find these joint meetings to be most helpful.

One major item of business that was accomplished during this quadrennium with the approval of the 2016 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference was the establishment of a Covenant Agreement with the Agencies and Ministries. These Covenant Agreements are included in the 2022 Journal of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, Section VII, “Jurisdictional Documents.”

Celebration of Ministries

The CCA affirms and celebrates the ministries of the Southeastern Jurisdiction. We are grateful for the faithful leadership that each ministry executive and governing board offers for the sake of these ministries. We appreciate the time and attention they give to annual reporting and financial accountability to our CCA and CFA.

In the pages following the CCA report, you will find individual reports from each of these jurisdictional ministries, which have been a part of CCA’s ongoing review:

Agencies

Gulfside Assembly
Hinton Rural Life Center
Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center

Disciplinary Group

Archives and History (Heritage Center)

Existing Ministries of SEJ

Intentional Growth Center
United Methodist Volunteers in Mission

We affirm the fruit of each ministry and invite local churches, districts, and annual conferences to explore more fully the resources each ministry offers. Some of their resources would enhance the disciple-making ministry in your local church, while other ministry offerings would expand the reach of your local ministry. Each of these ministries needs financial support to carry out their work, and most of that support comes from those who receive benefits and feel connected to these ministries.

As a celebration, the CCA wants to recognize the Board of Directors of the Intentional Growth Center (IGC) for the hard work they have done and difficult decisions they have made to address their finances. Additional information can be found in their report, but we commend the Board for their decisions and look forward to their future in ministry in the Southeastern Jurisdiction.

Support Provided to the Agencies and Ministries

During this quadrennium, the CCA has supported the Agencies and Ministries by affirming their work annually when meeting with the Executive Directors and a Board representative annually. We also express appreciation to the Committee on Finance and Administration for their support of the Agencies and Ministries through an annual grant of up to \$10,000 each to support an annual audit of their finances. In reading the CFA report, you will also hear of grants provided to each to assist with cash flow during the 2020 Covid pandemic shutdown.

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

One concern expressed to CCA and CFA meeting jointly in Fall 2019 was the need to upgrade their respective web sites to gain greater visibility for their ministries. Because of this expressed need, CFA made grants available to each agency and ministry for web site development. We appreciate the spirit of cooperation between CCA and CFA in recognizing needs and responding to those needs as we are able.

The CCA also is following closely the work of the Board of Directors of the SEJ Archives and History as they look with great discernment toward their future role in the SEJ. The CCA is supportive of the work being done by this Board in finding a suitable means to continue the work of Archives and History, as well as a repository for the collection.

Concerns of the CCA During this Quadrennium

A primary concern of the CCA during 2016-2020 has been with the fragile financial position of several Agencies and Ministries. We have sought to understand, support, and advise those Agencies and Ministries during this time, and we have seen growth in the work of their Boards of Directors in addressing their situations.

Recommendation from the 2016-2020 (extended to 2022) SEJ CCA

At the Fall 2019 joint meeting of SEJ CCA and SEJ CFA, a motion was made and passed unanimously to recommend to the 2020 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference that a Task Force made up of members of SEJ CCA and CFA be formed to recommend at the 2024 SEJ Conference a more streamlined structure for the oversight work of these two committees. The structure would combine the work of the two SEJ committees into one committee with a smaller membership. Requisite changes to our Plan of Organization and Rules of Order would also need to be a part of any 2024 recommendation from the Task Force.

Given the postponement of the 2020 SEJ Conference, this task force was formed and work was begun under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Brad Brady, who had assumed the responsibilities of the SEJ Conference Secretary on September 1, 2021. The Task Force met and reviewed the SEJ Bylaws and Plan of Organization and prepared the revisions, which are being presented to the 2022 SEJ Conference for approval; nominations to the new structure are to be enacted at the 2024 SEJ Conference.

Sadly, yet again, the CCA and CFA found themselves mourning a sudden passing when Brad died on February 7, 2022. He is deeply missed still, and the secretarial staff has spoken of him with fondness so often as we have prepared for this Jurisdictional Conference session because Brad was a leader, a mentor, a friend.

The revisions which Rev. Brady meticulously prepared and which were unanimously endorsed in a joint meeting of the SEJ CCA and CFA on March 7, 2022, were presented to the 2022 SEJ Conference for approval and were approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Bishop William McAlilly, Chair



Gulfside Association, Inc.
(also known as Gulfside Assembly)

Mission

Gulfside's mission of Advocacy is carried out through spiritual enrichment, education, youth development, community engagement for social justice and racial healing.

History

Gulfside Assembly was established in 1923 by Bishop Robert E. Jones one of the first African American Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Gulfside served the needs of the then southeastern Jurisdiction of the church during the years of segregation and beyond. Gulfside provided a place of safety, hope and restoration. Thousands of African Americans and others have been positively impacted by the "Gulfside experience". In 2005 Gulfside's 13 buildings were all destroyed by Hurricane Katrina, but it's ministry of advocacy has continued and is as relevant today as it was then.

Ministries

Gulfside continued to serve despite mandated quarantines during the recent COVID 19 Pandemic.

A leadership development webcast series was implemented for high school and college students. The webcasts included topics to assist students in preparing for high school, college and beyond. The audiences included students, youth groups, parents and others. This series was well received by those who participated.

This year, Gulfside sponsored for its' annual college tour ending in SEJ BMCR's Harambee event after a 2 year pause. This year's Harambee was held at Lane College in Jackson, Tennessee. Our students were met at Laine College by one of their administrators who was a former participant in Gulfside's college tour and Harambee experience. Our students described the experience as awesome!

January 2022, Gulfside was assigned Althea Belton, a missionary from Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. Her role is Coordinator of Local Missional Engagement. In this role, she focuses on educating and engaging individuals and communities to improve outcomes for populations in underserved, low-income areas of the Bay St. Louis-Waveland area.

An assessment of the community indicated a need to bring the community together as the first step in serving its' many needs. This resulted in the formation of two groups.

- **Gulfside Community Organization** composed of community leaders, non-profits and other organizations. The group's mission is to be an inclusive community of leaders who are intentional in striving to share information and service bringing empowerment, hope and healing to the community.

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

- **Gulfside faith-based Community Organization** composed of clergy and representatives of the faith-based community. The goal of this ministry is to expand participation in mission, foster spiritual growth, support families and empower the underserved in the community.

Other activities engaged in by Gulfside include:

- Safe Sanctuary Training.
- Partnered with the Veterans Administration to provide sessions to help clergy recognize and support individuals experiencing trauma and provide them with resources available to refer individuals.
- Sponsoring the program “It Takes a Village Church to Raise a Child Parent” in partnership with Discipleship Ministries.
- Labyrinth Walk scheduled for November 2023.
- Life Skills program for youth
- Community Garden
- Black History Month Celebration.
- Participation in the orientation of the 2022 MS ordinands during their visit to Gulfside including a presentation on Gulfside’s history.
- Partnering with a local women’s organization to offer four scholarships totaling \$4,000.00 to local African American female high school graduates.
- Provided 100 Uniform (shirt and pant set) Vouchers for needy elementary and high school students.
- Sponsored a Community Easter Egg Hunt with the City of Waveland.
- Presentation on the history of Gulfside to the Hancock County Historical Society.
- Sponsoring a Community Health and Resource Fair October 2023.
- Bi-monthly Lunch and learn series for seniors beginning January 2023.

Plans and goals for 2023

Gulfside Assembly will celebrate 100 years in 2023. We have exciting events planned throughout the year as we celebrate Gulfside’s history, it’s ministries and the impact it has had, and will continue to have on the lives of all have the “Gulfside experience”. Gulfside will develop fundraising strategies to support its ministries and secure its’ long-term sustainability.

Financial Status

Gulfside has continued to operate and be good stewards of its’ assets. We receive support from the Mississippi Conference, board members, the United Women of Faith, friends, grants and individuals. Gulfside has struggled financially for many years of its’ existence. As we increase our programming our expenses also increase. We also recently been required to pay tax on properties not directly involved in ministry.

We are solidifying and increasing our donor base, applying for grants and identifying ways we can sustain our ministry over the long term. We have also added a fund developer to our board of directors.

We ask your continued support and prayers as Gulfside looks to the future and strengthens its ministries to meet the needs of the underserved.

2022 Journal of Proceedings

**Gulfside Association, Inc.
Board of Directors
September 2022**

Cheryl Thompson, Executive Director	Louisiana Annual Conference
<i>Rev. Dr. Elijah Stansell</i> , President	Texas Annual Conference
<i>Rev. Dr. Vincent Harris</i> , Vice Chair	Texas Annual Conference
Vera Thomas, Vice Chair	Mississippi Annual Conference
Ora Franklin, Secretary	Mississippi Annual Conference
David Stotts, Treasurer	Mississippi Annual Conference
Eva Baham, PhD	Louisiana Annual Conference
<i>Rev. Nathaniel Barkum</i>	Mississippi Annual Conference
David Beckley, PhD	Mississippi Annual Conference
<i>Bishop Earl Bledsoe</i>	New Mexico Annual Conference
Delano Funches, JD	Mississippi Annual Conference
Erin Hawkins	California Annual Conference
<i>Rev. Lindsey Robinson</i>	Mississippi Annual Conference
Dr. James Salley	South Carolina Annual Conference
Cory Sparks, PhD	Louisiana Annual Conference
<i>Bishop James Swanson</i>	Mississippi Annual Conference
<i>Rev. Dr. Jacqui Rose Tucker</i>	North Georgia Annual Conference

HINTON RURAL LIFE CENTER
Hayesville, North Carolina

In 2021, Hinton Rural Life Center celebrated 60 years of serving annual conferences in the Southeastern Jurisdiction through equipping clergy and local churches (particularly small, rural churches) and offering opportunities for individuals and church groups to serve in Safe and Healthy Home Repair missions and/or come for retreats and renewal time, experiencing God's presence and blessing at our 33-acre campus in the Appalachian Mountains. The anniversary celebration provided a year-long opportunity to reflect on the many ways that Hinton, our local community, and generations of United Methodist clergy, retreat groups, and mission teams have experienced God's faithfulness, and which we continue to experience today!

Both during and after the pandemic, with the support of local volunteers and mission teams, as well as generous support from individual, organizational, and United Methodist churches (Board

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

of Global Ministries Advance Project #731372), Hinton was able to offer relational and impactful ministries. Highlights of 2021 include:

- Provided local and missional leadership training for more than 35 adults and young people.
- Provided over 300 children with new clothes at Christmas through Christmas Care.
- Began installation and enhancements of trails and Sanctuary Gardens on our campus for individuals and groups to experience rest and renewal for mind, body, and soul.
- Premiered our House on Wheels (HOW) mobile teaching unit to promote home safety awareness and practices in our local community and with our volunteers.

Highlights of 2022 include:

- Completed 177 home repair projects on 47 different homes, prioritizing and addressing the health and safety of homeowners.
- Hosted 725 mission participants.
- Provided almost 490 loads of firewood to families/individuals who heat primarily with wood.
- Continued our rural ministry webinar offerings, with *Thank God, He's a Country Boy*.
- Hosted a Rural Clergy Renewal Retreat, attended by clergy from across the Southeast and beyond.
- Hosted our second Residents in Ministry mission week.

Another exciting highlight was our March 2022 launch of Theotokos Confirmation Retreats. All four weekends filled, serving over 300 confirmands and their leaders. Groups came from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee. The retreats will be offered 5 weekends in 2023. Hinton also developed and now offers a digital confirmation resource, *Theotokos Connections*, designed to be small-church relevant and accessible, but available and meaningful for any size church.

These Confirmation ministries, which focus on the UM Connection and our shared mission to transform the world as Jesus followers, are just part of Hinton's intentional strategy to offer a continuum of discipleship ministries of retreat, renewal, and mission. This discipleship journey through Hinton begins with youth in Confirmation and summer missions, includes training and leadership opportunities for young adults serving as summer mission outreach staff, and continues with adult discipleship opportunities in retreat, mission, and leadership training, both locally and beyond. We believe this is a faithful model for living out our mission: *Inspired by Jesus Christ, Hinton Center serves individuals, congregations, and rural communities through retreat ministries, educational opportunities, and missional outreach.*

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Gottlieb
CEO and President
jackie@hintoncenter.org
www.hintoncenter.org

2022 Journal of Proceedings

**Hinton Rural Life Center
Board of Directors**

Ricky Beggs, Second Term, WNC Conference
Rev. Kevin Days, Second Term, NGA Conference
David Elder, First Term, NGA Conference
Mark Franza, First Term, WNC Conference
Christina Goings Russell, First Term, WNC Conference
Dr. Jacqueline Gottlieb (Ex Officio), WNC Conference
Don Homer, Jr., First Term, HOL Conference
Rev. Kathleen Kilbourne, First Term, FL Conference
Rev. Dr. Jae Lee, First Term, WNC Conference
Rev. Dr. Stephen Love, First Term, SC Conference
Harvey Lowd, First Term, WNC Conference
Bil Meldram, Second Term, WNC Conference
Rev. Dr. Tim Moore, First Term, WNC Conference
Brian Pace, Second Term, WNC Conference
Mary Jo Reeves, Second Term, NGA Conference
Blaine Russell, First Term, WNC Conference
Alexa Smarr, First Term, WNC Conference
Mollie Stewart, Third Term, NAL Conference
Matt Waldroup, First Term, Louisiana Conference
Jeff Stuerman (Honorary), Missouri Conference
Rev. Dr. Al Ward (Honorary), WNC Conference



Lake Junaluska

Report to the SEJ

November 2022

Living into Our Mission

If asked to identify one word to describe Lake Junaluska during the 2020 pandemic, the word would be “sanctuary.” Even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent economic impact, Lake Junaluska remained open and welcomed thousands of individuals, families and small groups seeking a safe haven during difficult times. We never stopped focusing on our mission.

Due to significant cost controls, charitable giving, forgivable federal loans and excellent work by the Lake Junaluska staff to adapt how we host guests, we were able to finish 2020 with a loss of \$94,000, which is amazing for an organization that lost more than \$4 million in revenue due to cancellations. Thankfully, we were able to minimize debt and maintain a strong foothold as we planned for the future.

This report overviews the work of Lake Junaluska over the past six years, including our strategic vision for the future and our deep appreciation for our historic connection to The United Methodist Church.

Covenant Agreement

Early in this quadrennium, the Southeastern Jurisdiction Committee on Coordination and Accountability (SEJ CCA) requested that a covenant agreement be created that would clarify the relationship between the SEJ and Lake Junaluska that was established in 2008. In July 2018, terms defining their relationship were agreed upon. The SEJ CCA serves as the liaison between the Assembly and the SEJ.

The covenant agreement was affirmed at the SEJ Conference in November 2022, and a copy of the agreement is available in this journal. Highlights include:

- The relationship of the Jurisdiction to the Assembly is not one of ownership, operation or control; the management of the operations of the Assembly is vested entirely in its Board of Trustees.
- Title to all Assembly property at Lake Junaluska, both real and personal, shall be held solely by the Assembly, for use consistent with the mission of The United Methodist Church, and shall be under the authority of the Board of Trustees of the Assembly.
- Neither the Jurisdiction nor the Assembly accepts or grants any legal or financial responsibility for the operations or affairs of the other.

- The Jurisdiction and the Assembly are independent entities, each having its own Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, governing bodies and IRS tax exempt status.
- The Jurisdiction and the Assembly acknowledge and agree that neither entity is now nor shall be legally responsible for any acts of omission, debts, contracts, or financial or legal obligations of the other.
- As an affirmation of the historic relationship of the Assembly to the SEJ and their shared commitment to assist the United Methodist Church in fulfilling its mission “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world,” the Assembly and the SEJ commit to the following:
 - The leadership of the Jurisdiction will encourage organizations within the Jurisdiction to utilize the Assembly as the location for events and activities for which the Assembly is appropriately qualified to provide.
 - The Assembly will share information with the Jurisdiction annually summarizing its current status and accomplishments. This information may include goals, strategic initiatives and plans, fundraising campaigns, building programs, and financial summaries, including its annual audit.

Envisioning the Future

As we continue to live into our mission “to be a place of Christian hospitality where lives are transformed through the renewal of soul, mind and body,” Lake Junaluska also continues to experience transformation.

In October 2018, the Board of Trustees directed staff to undertake a visioning process to develop a plan for moving Lake Junaluska forward. To ensure that people were vested in the visioning process, feedback sessions were held with various stakeholder groups, including UMC leaders, Lake Junaluska property owners, staff and conference representatives, during which input was collected relating to things that people value most and the direction that they would like to see Lake Junaluska move into the future. After collecting and analyzing over 1,800 comments, a vision statement was adopted “to become known as the most welcoming and inviting place for personal renewal in the United States.”

To ensure that we fully live into our mission and vision, the Board of Trustees adopted the following aspirations that came from the visioning sessions:

- **Aspiration 1:** To preserve and enhance the lake and grounds so that more people will recognize the natural beauty of God’s creation.
- **Aspiration 2:** To be a conference center that rivals hospitality industry leaders by exceeding guests’ expectations through excellence in staff and facilities.
- **Aspiration 3:** To be the place that connects more youth to Christ through meaningful ministry, recreation and education programs.
- **Aspiration 4:** To identify, uphold, and strengthen the Lake Junaluska tradition of implementing innovative, shared experiences – for both individuals and families – that celebrate faith, recreation, the arts and education.
- **Aspiration 5:** To be an involved, inclusive community that provides the highest quality of life for residents and guests.

A Place of Refuge in Times of Crisis

In August 2021, Haywood County experienced a devastating flood as a result of Hurricane Fred. Anticipating the storm, Lake Junaluska was in conversation with county officials and extended its facilities to all in need. Swift-water rescue crews arrived as rain was still falling. Lake Junaluska provided the first responders with lodging and meals. Prayer ministry leaders and members of the community prayed over every seat before each meal. The impact was phenomenal. The Lake Junaluska staff and community provided a sanctuary for the rescue workers while they helped those directly impacted by the storm. Lake Junaluska also partnered with Haywood County Department of Social Services to provide emergency shelter to residents who lost their homes as a result of the storm. The last of those residents moved out of temporary housing in December 2021.

Recovery and Fresh Expressions of Ministry

As we have emerged from the economic disaster caused by the pandemic, we continue to live into our mission. We have resumed hosting events and providing hospitality for individuals from all across the U.S.

Lake Junaluska has not escaped the impact of the nationwide hospitality industry staffing shortage, and supply-chain challenges continue to impact product availability, quality and cost. Our network of trusted providers to enhance product offering and guest experience continues to grow through strategic partnerships. It has been a bumpy road at times, but the organization has been able to do more with less staff. Before the pandemic, the staffing level was 275 or more employees in the summer season and 190 in the winter. During 2020 the staff level dropped to fewer than 100 employees. Throughout 2021 staff was rehired and, in August 2021, the level was at 217 employees. In 2022, we hosted 26 international students who served as summer staff. We continue to struggle with high turnover rates in key areas such as food service and housekeeping. Seven theologians participated in the inaugural Theologian in Residence program in the summer of 2022, and plans are already taking shape for next season. Summer worship attendance nearly doubled this year, and summer activity programs returned with offerings such as yoga, bonfires, devotions and special events.

Charitable Giving and Capital Improvements

Lake Junaluska continues to commit to improvements. Charitable giving remains strong, and giving to the 2022 Annual Fund is currently ahead of budget. Since generous charitable giving provides opportunities for Lake Junaluska to reinvest into its facilities and grounds, great strides have been made toward improving our infrastructure that will enable the conference center to continue to meet the needs of all guests.

Capital improvement projects continue, focusing on code compliance/safety as first priority and guest/revenue production areas as secondary. Campus-wide bandwidth has seen a 150% increase, and work is underway to double the number of Wi-Fi access points and replace network switches with new managed network switches in 10 buildings. Media Services has purchased new lightweight tables and chairs, upgraded Stuart Auditorium video production to 4K digital and expanded live-streaming services to include all locations on the grounds. In addition, there

2022 Journal of Proceedings

have been \$212,500 in utility improvements and \$140,000 in road improvements invested throughout the grounds in 2022.

In January 2021, we were surprised to learn that the World Methodist Council (WMC) had decided to move its museum and sell its two properties at Lake Junaluska. One of the properties was the museum, which housed an extensive collection of important artifacts to the Methodist heritage. This building had been a gift to the WMC by the Lake Junaluska community in 1955. The other property was the Reynolds World Headquarters Building. The exterior of this structure is a replica of the rectory at Epworth England where John Wesley was born. It had been gifted to the WMC by Royce and Jayne Reynolds. After several months of discussion with the WMC, Lake Junaluska was able to acquire these buildings for \$1.25 million. Plans to convert the former museum building to a multi-purpose event center, now renamed the Warren Center, are currently in development.

Conclusion

The board of trustees and staff celebrate our relationship with the SEJ and invite you to visit Lake Junaluska for a conference, retreat or vacation. The lake and surrounding mountains will provide the perfect setting for you to experience transformation and renewal. To plan your next visit, please visit lakejunaluska.com.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Howle, Executive Director

Mike Huber, General Manager; Rebecca Mathis, Director of Advancement; Sindy Crenshaw, Director of Finance and Administration; Dave Nicholson, Director of Assembly Works

Lake Junaluska Assembly, Inc. Board of Directors

D'Andre Ash, WNC Conference

Amy Bradley, NC Conference

Rev. Gina Gilland Campbell, Rio Texas Conference

Bishop Ken Carter, WNC Conference

Rev. Pam Carter, WNC Conference

Ryan Church, TWK Conference

Susan Slye Giles, WNC Conference

Rev. Stephanie Hand, WNC Conference

David Hanson, not United Methodist

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Camilla Hicks, Baltimore-Washington Conference

Bishop Jonathan Holston, SC Conference

Nancy Hood, WNC Conference

Dr. Ken Jenkins, SC Conference

Frances Jones, not United Methodist

George Kenney, WNC Conference

Charles W. Lipp, WNC Conference

Jody Lipscomb, WNC Conference

Bill Musgrave, WNC Conference

Rev. Mickey Rainwater, HOL Conference

John Scott, KY Conference

Rev. Dr. Connie Shelton, MS Conference

Melvin Spain, TWK Conference

Robert Taft, WNC Conference

Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett, HOL Conference

Anne Warren, NAL Conference

Southeastern Jurisdiction Commission on Archives and History

Since 1996, the SEJ Heritage Center has served as the official repository for the records of the SEJ and its agencies. We thank the SEJ and the United Methodists in the southeast for your ongoing financial support of our work in stewarding and preserving the history of Methodism in the SEJ and its member conferences. One of the key persons in helping to collect and preserve that history has been our archivist, Nancy Watkins. Nancy has been a wonderful archivist and has faithfully served in that position since May 2010. She has announced her retirement and will be retiring as of May 2023.

In light of her retirement, as well as some expected changes in our jurisdictional funding, our commission has made some decisions to help preserve our historical records and provide them with some long-term sustainability. We have made the decision to move the records and archives of the SEJ to Emory University's Pitts Theology Library in Atlanta. Decisions regarding collections not directly related to the functions of the SEJ will be made on a case-by-case basis.

We will close the Heritage Center to researchers in December of this year to have time to prepare the collections for the move.

2022 Journal of Proceedings

It is important to note that as part of our formal agreement with Emory, Pitts Library will continue to include open access for researchers and scholars to view and use the records of the SEJ and that Pitts will receive future SEJ records (including the records and journal of this conference).

We will report these changes to SEJ conference communicators and conference historical societies, as well as to our national United Methodist historical societies and groups.

The SEJ will continue to have an active Commission on Archives and History, and we will continue to lift up the ever-changing Methodist history of which we are all a part.

Thank you for your continuing support.

SEJ Commission on Archives and History SEJ Heritage Center Board of Directors 2021-2024

Alabama-West Florida Conference

Term (1)
Jackie Earnest
5957 Alabama Hwy. 153
Deatsville, AL 36022

Central Appalachian Missionary Conference

Term (1)
The Rev. Robert Amundsen
95 Red Bird Rd.
Thousandsticks, KY 41766

Florida Conference

Term (2)
Leah Pittard
4061 Taggart Cay North, Apt. 103
Sarasota, FL 34233

Holston Conference

Term (1)
Mike Feely – *Vice Chairperson*
9148 Colchester Ridge Rd.
Knoxville, TN 37922

Kentucky Conference

Term (2)
Foster Ockerman, Jr. – *Chairperson*
835 Glendover Rd.
Lexington, KY 40502

Mississippi Conference

Term (1)
The Reverend Marcus Thompson
736 Monterey Rd.
Pearl, MS 39208

North Alabama Conference

Term (2)
George Cobb, D.D.
4665 Neely Street
Cedar Bluff, AL 35959

North Carolina Conference

Term (1)
The Reverend Bryan Huffman
2315 Elizabeth Ave.
New Bern, NC 28562

North Georgia Conference

Term (1)
Ginger Hicks Smith - *Secretary*
2664 River Oak Dr.
Decatur, GA 30033

South Carolina Conference

Term (1)
A.V. Huff
30 Glenrose Ave.
Greenville, SC 29617

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

South Georgia Conference

Term (2)
Ellen Reynolds
617 Briarcliff Rd.
Warner Robins, GA 31088

Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference

Term (1)
Gratia Strother
520 Commerce St., Suite 205
Nashville, TN 37203

Virginia Conference

Term (2)
Laurie Preston
McGraw-Page Library
Randolph-Macon College
PO Box 5005
Ashland, VA 23005-5505

Western North Carolina Conference

Term (2)
Dr. Sandra T. Williamson
6024 Tamannary Dr.
Greensboro, NC 27455

At-Large Members

Term (2)
Larry Davis, MBA, CCA – *Treasurer*
Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services
Tennessee-Western Kentucky United
Methodist Conference
304 South Perimeter Park Drive
Nashville TN 37211

Term (2)
Natalie J. Hawkins
1465 South Lakeshore Dr., Unit B4
Lake Junaluska, NC 28745

Term (2)
Steve Lyles
81 Willow Rise
Alexander City, Alabama 35010

Term (2)
David Martin
PO Box 184
4474 Brick Church Pike
Whites Creek, TN 37189

Term (1)
Brandon Wason, PhD
Pitts Theology Library
Emory University
1531 Dickey Drive, #560
Atlanta, GA 30322

Ex-Officio Members

President, SEJ Historical Society
The Rev. Dr. Roger Gramling
31 Palmetto Wood Court
Irmo, SC 29063-2882

Director, SEJ Heritage Center
Nancy Watkins
SEJ Heritage Center
125 N. Lakeshore Dr., Suite 3
Lake Junaluska, NC 28745



The Intentional Growth Center

Empowering those in ministry

intentionalgrowthcenter.org

Intentional Growth Center

The years since the 2016 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference have been ones of transition for the Intentional Growth Center. Throughout 2019 and 2018 the Board of Directors realized that a programming model was no longer financially sustainable for the IGC. This resulted in intensive analysis, prayer, and discernment. The Board made the difficult decision to no longer offer program opportunities for church laity leaders and pastors. Instead, we would use our financial endowments and gifts to sponsor grants to others who are providing learning events and ministry opportunities that promote Christian Discipleship and/or Church Leader development throughout the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the UMC. Listed below are some of the major steps we have taken since October 2019.

Physical Location: After over forty years of being housed in the Atkins House at Lake Junaluska, we removed all IGC physical property from that location, donating or selling almost everything. We worked with Nancy Watkins of SEJ Archives and History to ensure that proper documents and records were archived. The Intentional Growth Center is now a virtual organization, with essential files held by our part-time Administrative Officer, Leslie Butters.

Financial: The Intentional Growth Center is now out of debt with a positive cash flow. This was made possible by a combination of using monies from the Morgan trust, IGC reserve funds, and gracious grants from the SEJ CFA. It was also enhanced by moving the Morgan Trust funds to Wespath from Wells Fargo. The management for the funds are now provided by TNB Financial, a South Carolina financial organization. Both decisions were mutually agreed upon by co-beneficiaries of the Trust. Already we have seen an increase in our distributions over previous years.

2019 Audit: Since our Board of Directors is now primarily operating as a “committee of the whole,” we asked our auditor, Sheila Gahagan, CPA, to participate in a Board meeting to discuss the findings of the 2019 audit. She was very supportive of the steps we have taken in the area of our finances and financial processes and commended the Board for a much improved financial situation. We are now working with our auditor to explore moving from an audit process to a financial review.

Redesigned website and social media presence: In alignment with our new direction, the IGC’s website was redesigned. We worked with a contractor to achieve this goal and are pleased with the results. This was made possible, again, with a grant from the SEJ CFA. We are also improving our social media presence with postings on Facebook and Instagram and are adding stories and pictures from grant recipients to our social media feeds.

Grant award processes: Major work was done in creating a system for awarding grants. This included establishing priorities, designing an online application form, creating an internal timeline,

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

and launching a communication plan to alert leaders and entities throughout the SEJ about the availability of grants. In our first year a spreadsheet was designed to process the grants and capture Board members comments to assist in decision making. A process was also put into place to ensure accountability and reporting from each entity that receives a grant.

Updated Bylaws: We updated our Board bylaws to reflect our new reality as a fund granting organization and to enable us to work as a “committee of the whole” when needed.

Added new Board members: We added several gifted members to our Board of Directors and are working to increase our diversity, particularly in the areas of ethnicity and geography.

Grants: Our grants are made possible due to the generosity of The Martha Frances Morgan and Ethel Elizabeth Morgan Trust, and the Bishop Edward Tullis Ministry Reserve Fund. IGC awards are designated to enable ministries in the areas of lay and clergy leadership, Christian discipleship, music, worship and/or the church’s witness and innovation across the community.

In 2021 the IGC opened its first round of grant applications and received 32 requests for funds from across the Southeast. We awarded 7 grants amounting to over \$46,000. The projects receiving funds ranged from a program designed to help local churches re-imagine their church space for mission to their community, to an after-school music program in a rural area, to several projects to help individuals and communities address racial justice, healing, and reconciliation.

In our 2022 grant cycle we received 33 applications. We awarded 13 grants for a total of \$80,505. These projects included Ebony Exploration at Gammon Theological Seminary; a Lake Junaluska Theologian-in Residence; a Race, Church, & Healing Workshop Series; and support for a Female Clergy of Color Cohort. Not only are recipients notified of their awards, but other major stakeholders as well. We have implemented a reporting process at the midpoint and the end of each project, and we assign a Board Member as a liaison to each grantee to insure good communication and accountability.

We still have work before us as we learn to be an effective grant funding organization. We are filled with hope that we may continue to partner with and empower others in their ministries of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Donna D. Gaither, Chairperson
Intentional Growth Center Board of Directors

P.O. Box 546, Lake Junaluska, NC 28745
828-452-4225

2022 Journal of Proceedings

**Intentional Growth Center
Board of Directors**

Elaine Robinson Beattie

5570 Victoria Place
Ellenwood, Ga 30294
Term: Began 2021
Laity

Mark Conforti

217 South Church Street
Salisbury, NC 28144
Term: Began 2022
Clergy, Western North Carolina Conference

Ellie Crain

2213 Fernwood Drive
Nashville, TN 37216
Term: Began 2021
Laity

Amanda Dean

4893 Preserve Drive
Chattanooga, TN 37416
Term: Began 2021
Clergy, Holston Conference

Donna Gaither

246 Henry Dingus Way
Maggie Valley, NC 28751
Term: Began 2014
Clergy, TWK Conference

Bill Gattis

585 Gilmore Rd. Chapel Hill, NC 27516
16 J.B. Ivey Ln. Lake Junaluska, NC 28745
Term: Began 2018
Clergy, North Carolina Conference

Alison Malloy

2233 Cartwright Place
Reston, VA 20191
Term: Began 2020
Laity

Derrick Scott

4158 Trieste Place
Jacksonville, FL 32244
Term: Began 2022
Laity

Marcus Stallworth

110 Linden Avenue
Cobbs Creek, VA 23035
Term: Began 2022
Clergy, Virginia Annual Conference

2022 IGC Board Officers

Board Chair: Donna Gaither
Vice Chair: Alison Malloy
Finance Chair: Bill Gattis
Secretary: Elaine Robinson Beattie

Staff

Leslie Butters

12514 Twelvetrees Lane
Huntersville, NC 28078
Email: lbutters@IntentionalGrowthCenter.org



SOUTHEAST JURISDICTION

PO BOX 276, BIRMINGHAM, AL 35201

Though COVID has drastically decreased levels of travel in the last several years, UMVIM, SEJ continues to empower projects worldwide, along with local church volunteers, by offering resources and training to those who wish to serve with those on the margins of society. As a result, we have been blessed to work with other UMVIM jurisdictional offices to achieve the following goals in the last several years:

- Created umvim.org which is a collaborative website for UMVIM resources and planning shared by all UMVIM Jurisdictional offices.
- Offer consistent branding and resources across all of UMVIM in order to strengthen our message and mission.
- Offer 'virtual missions' during the time of COVID which allowed projects all over the world, to engage with past and prospective volunteers and share their work and message.
- Creating a video series which serve as a conversation starter for teams and churches who are wrestling with the many facets of mission work and effectiveness.
- Significantly cut our administrative budget while expanding our resource offerings to churches, teams, and projects.
- Work on making the team leader training more accessible, by offering it online, and more interactive for trainees.
- Maintain and promote mission project lists which feature mission opportunities that have been vetted for child protection, financial responsibility, and have the approval of the Methodist bishop, or head of church equivalent, in the area of the project.

During this time of conflict in the United Methodist Church, UMVIM, SEJ remains committed to offer its resources to any church who wishes to engage with us, regardless of denominational affiliation, without sterilizing our message of respectful and mutual missions, empowering local communities, and offering God's love to each person and community we encounter.

We are grateful for the ministry of the Southeast Jurisdiction and the support it has provided us, especially during COVID, to help us continue our work.

-Matt

Rev. Matt Lacey, Executive Director, UMVIM, SEJ

visit umvim.org/give to donate

2022 Journal of Proceedings

**United Methodist Volunteers in Mission,
Southeastern Jurisdiction (UMVIM, SEJ)
Board of Directors**

Rev. Robert Craig, President
Memphis Conference

Mr. Derrick Scott, Vice President
Florida Conference

Rev. Shannon Baxter, Secretary
South Georgia Conference

Mr. Daniel Kasbohm, Treasurer
North Georgia Conference

Bishop James Swanson, Sr.
College of Bishops Representative

Rev. Nathan Arledge
North Carolina Conference

Rev. Lisa Pierce
Alabama-West Florida Conference

Mr. Brian Mateer
Western North Carolina Conference

Mrs. Abby Stanton
Tennessee Conference

Mr. Miles Baker Hunt
North Carolina Conference

Rev. Elizabeth Pollard
North Georgia Conference

Vacant Position (TBD)
Florida Conference

Rev. Vicki Walker
Florida Conference

Ms. Una Jones, Ex Officio
United Methodist Volunteers in Mission
Global Ministries

Rev. Matt Lacey, Ex Officio
SEJ United Methodist Volunteers in Mission

Pam Garrison, Liaison
United Methodist Committee on Relief
Global Ministries

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

**Emory University Board of Trustees
June 2022**

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COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The SEJ Committee on Finance and Administration (CFA) was created by the 2008 SEJ Conference in the Plan of Organization. The focus of the work of the SEJ CFA was to oversee jurisdictional finances. That included periodic review of the SEJ Agencies finances.

2021- 2024 Budget. While the 2017-2020 quadrennium budget remained in effect until a new budget is approved by the SEJ Jurisdictional Conference, the Jurisdiction is currently operating on the lower budget than is being presented to you today. The GCFA formula was used to establish apportionments to the SEJ Annual Conferences.

Apportionment. Your CFA recommends a reduction of approximately 15.44% for the 2021–2024 quadrennium, to **\$1,500,000**. This amount is projected to be sufficient for the ongoing operational costs of the Jurisdiction and its committees; covering expense of the 2021 called SEJ Conference; providing financial assistance for attendance at the Global Youth Event; as well as provide a cushion for unforeseen contingencies as the future unfolds; and should there be a need to fund emerging ministries or an additional special called session of Jurisdictional Conference during the quadrennium.

SEJ Treasurer. We wish to acknowledge and thank David Domnisse, Treasurer of the Southeastern Jurisdiction, for his service to the Jurisdiction since 2015. CFA is thankful for David’s gift of his service, experience and expertise to our Jurisdiction. CFA is nominating David Domnisse to continue as Treasurer for the SEJ.

SEJ Audits. Jurisdictional Financial Records have been audited each fiscal year. For the fiscal years ending December 31, 2019 and 2020, CFA engaged the services of Dixon Hughes Goodman (which recently changed its name to FORVIS, LLP) to audit our financials. The most recent financial report by SEJ’s auditors is posted on the SEJ website at www.sejumc.org.

Over the quadrennium, the SEJ CFA and the Committee on Coordination and Accountability (CCA) met jointly with representatives of the SEJ Agencies and reviewed their financial reports. We provided feedback to the agencies from our perspective on the ministries to the Jurisdiction. You will find more about that process in the CCA report found elsewhere in this Advanced Daily Christian Advocate.

During the quadrennium, additional financial assistance has been provided to the Episcopacy Committee and College of Bishops in the form of grants. We provided grants of up to \$4,000 to agencies and ministries for improving their media presence. We provided COVID pandemic relief grants to the agencies and ministries totaling \$125,000.

Recognizing the financial hardship the pandemic created for the churches in the jurisdiction and the resulting impact on the Annual Conferences, CFA provided an “Apportionment Holiday” to annual conferences during July through September 2020. The effect of this holiday was to give 100% credit to conferences that paid 75% of the annual apportionment.

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Additionally, in 2021 CFA returned to the annual conferences \$1,095,000, in the form of grants, from the net assets of the jurisdiction.

While CFA has provided reimbursement to agencies and ministries of up to \$10,000 each year for their completed annual audit of their financial records, CFA will end this support following the audit of fiscal year 2022. The 2021-2024 proposed budget reflects this decision.

CFA approved paying ongoing legal expense regarding cases against the SEJ in the Boy Scouts of America Abuse Litigation.

Both CFA and CCA were shocked and saddened to learn of the senseless murder of Autura Eason-Williams during a carjacking outside her home. Atura was a gifted and fearless spiritual leader. Atura was loved and admired across the United Methodist Church. She was serving as the Secretary of the SEJ CFA at the time of her death. She will be deeply missed.

A detailed Proposed Budget with Apportionments to the Annual Conferences follows this report. That report reflects a faithful commitment to the ministries of the Jurisdiction with collections on apportioned funds to a projected payment of over 98% in the current quadrennium.

The Committee on Finance and Administration of The Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church presents the following recommendations to the 2022 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference for action:

1. We recommend a budget for the 2021-2024 quadrennium in the total amount of \$1,500,000 allocated as provided in the Proposed Budget which follows.
2. We recommend that this amount be apportioned to the annual conferences as also provided in the Proposed Budget which follows.
3. In conjunction with the CCA, members of CFA have agreed that good stewardship of resources calls for a reduction in the structure of both the CCA and CFA. We support the CCA recommended changes to the SEJ Plan of Organization.
4. We recommend the election of David Domnisse as Treasurer of the Southeastern Jurisdiction for the 2021–2024 quadrennium.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Dunnewind, *Chair*

2022 Journal of Proceedings

Committee on Finance and Administration Proposed Budget and Apportionments 2021-2024

SEJ Proposed Budget

	2017-2020 Budget	2017-2020 Actual	2017-2020 Budget to Actual Variance	2021-2024 Proposed Budget
Income				
Apportioned	1,774,000	1,774,000	-	1,500,000
Less: Allowance for uncollected apportionments	(89,000)	(39,326)	49,674	(75,000)
Interest income	-	102,188	102,188	-
Total Income	1,685,000	1,836,862	151,862	1,425,000
Expenses				
Jurisdictional Conference Session	500,000	7,773	(492,227)	450,000
Called Sessions, Operations and Contingency	245,000	26,871	(218,129)	100,000
Committee on Coordination and Accountability				
Board expenses	69,000	28,584	(40,416)	60,000
Conference Secretary, taxes and travel	80,000	69,381	(10,619)	100,000
Pre-GC Educational program for SEJ Delegates	10,000	-	(10,000)	10,000
2020 Projected Grants-Pandemic Relief Grants		125,000	125,000	
Committee on Finance and Administration				
Board expenses	38,000	20,632	(17,368)	40,000
SEJ Treasurer	80,000	80,449	449	80,000
Audit	60,000	53,300	(6,700)	60,000
Insurance	10,000	6,099	(3,901)	15,000
Legal fees	-	-	-	10,000
Agency audit support/reimbursement	200,000	106,200	(93,800)	110,000
Young People's Global Convocation	-	-	-	5,000
Bishop's meeting support request		26,340	26,340	
Committee on Episcopacy	82,000	130,208	48,208	125,000
Committee on Appeals	25,000	4,229	(20,771)	25,000
Commission on Archives and History	240,000	257,138	17,138	260,000
Committee on Program and Arrangements	15,000	3,870	(11,130)	25,000
Miscellaneous administrative expenses	31,000	9,892	(21,108)	20,000
Total Expenses	1,685,000	955,966	(729,034)	1,495,000
Net Revenues/(Expenses)	-	880,896	880,896	(70,000)
Beginning fund balance	1,262,536	1,262,536		1,048,426
Total Fund Balance	1,262,536	2,143,432		978,426
Funds returned in 2021 to Conferences		(1,095,006)		
Remaining fund balance		1,048,426		

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Proposed Annual Conference Apportionments 2021-2024

**Proposed Annual Conference Apportionments
2021-2024**

	Per GCFA	2021-2024	Annual
Alabama- West Florida Conf	6.315%	94,720	23,676
Florida Conference	12.161%	182,410	45,600
Holston Conference	5.573%	83,590	20,904
Kentucky Conference	4.387%	65,800	16,452
Mississippi Conference	5.095%	76,430	19,104
North Alabama Conference	6.298%	94,470	23,616
North Carolina Conference	7.195%	107,930	26,976
North Georgia Conference	12.895%	193,430	48,360
Red Bird Missionary Conference	0.034%	520	132
South Carolina Conference	7.822%	117,330	29,328
South Georgia Conference	4.592%	68,880	17,220
Tennessee-West Kentucky Conference	7.125%	106,870	26,724
Virginia Conference	9.982%	149,730	37,428
Western North Carolina Conference	10.526%	157,890	39,480
Southeastern Total	100.000%	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 375,000

**COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY
2016-2022**

The *2016 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* describes the work of the Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy (COE) as:

1. Responsibilities of the Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy (§524)
2. Duties of the Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy (§524.3)
3. Assignment Process (§406)
4. Vacancy in the Office of Bishop (§407)
5. Termination of Office (§408)
6. Status of Retired Bishops (§409)
7. Leaves (§410)
8. Review and Evaluation of Bishops (§412)
9. Complaints Against Bishops (§413)

Typically, in a quadrennium, the Southeastern Jurisdiction (SEJ) COE and College of Bishops (COB) meet concurrently, in January of each year, and spend time meeting together. During the quadrennium, some of the January gatherings also included conference lay leaders and conference directors of connectional ministries.

On **July 15, 2016**, the COE met following the conclusion of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference to organize and elect officers: Steve Furr (Chairperson), Tom Berlin (Vice Chairperson), Kim Ingram (Secretary).

The **January 5, 2017**, COE meeting included time spent building relationships, creating a covenant, and establishing relational teams between the bishops and COE members. The COE met individually with each newly elected and assigned bishop and finalized the episcopal evaluation process for the quadrennium.

During the joint meeting of the COE and COB, participants reviewed the election and assignment process that had been used with suggestions and reflections; agreed to a process of onboarding new bishops in their conferences; and, discussed the episcopal evaluation process.

The SEJ Committee on Episcopacy Team Covenant

With God as our witness and help, we covenant together as the Southeastern Jurisdiction Committee on Episcopacy to labor for the whole good of the Southeastern Jurisdiction by:

- Prayer: committee members will pray for one another and for the Bishops by name each Friday.
- Participation: committee members will be fully present and fully attentive at each meeting. We will turn cell phones off or silent when in session as a committee. We will complete assignments between meetings in a timely fashion.
- Faithfulness: committee members will attend each meeting unless illness or crisis prevents participation. Notification of absence will be given to the Chairperson. The Executive Committee will give ample notification of meetings to committee members.

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

- **Accountability:** committee members will speak the truth in love and receive the truth in grace. When discussing situations in Annual Conferences and the work of each Bishop, we will be fully honest throughout the quadrennium when we meet. We will be transparent in our discussions, and enable other committee members to understand the state of each Annual Conference as well as the leadership of each Bishop.
- **Confidentiality:** committee members will practice discretion of speech and not discuss confidential matters outside of the committee so that we can be fully honest with each other. Matters that are to be shared with the Bishops or others will be made explicit so that committee members can share them freely.
- **Spiritual Discernment:** committee members will rely on a process of spiritual discernment for the assignment of Bishops. The needs and opportunities of each Annual Conference will be the priority of the assignment process while considering the gifts of each Bishop. This process will happen during the meetings of the SEJ COE. There will be no deliberations regarding episcopal assignments among committee members except during official meetings.

The **January 9-11, 2018**, COE meeting included relationship and trust building, meeting of relational teams, report of the episcopal evaluation process, conversation about the episcopal residence requirements, discussion regarding preparation of delegations for the 2019 Called Session of General Conference, and an SEJ COE financial update.

An extra meeting was called for **September 12, 2018**, that included the SEJ College of Bishops, Heads of Delegations, and Commission on a Way Forward Members, as well as the COE. The purpose of the meeting was as follows:

- Explore the values, principles and behaviors that will make General Conference 2019 a healthy gathering.
- Share and clarify the form and history of the report from the Commission.
- Provide resources.

Time together included reflections on *The Anatomy of Peace* from the Arbinger Institute, a presentation from Wespath, and further reflections/table conversations.

The **January 16-19, 2019**, COE meeting included reports from each annual conference, meeting and reports of relational teams, an overview of the pre-election process, discussion of the complaint process as it relates to bishops, and reports due by each conference in preparation for the 2020 Jurisdictional Conference.

On **February 27, 2019**, the SEJ COE and COB convened following the adjournment of the 2019 General Conference to process the experience and talk about implications for the SEJ.

The **January 7-9, 2020, meeting** included a report from the Jurisdictional Study Committee, a presentation about the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation, conversation and preparation for 2020 election of bishops, individual meetings with non-retiring bishops, and a review of the episcopal assignment process.

2022 Journal of Proceedings

Then COVID hit and there was not a 2020 General Conference or a 2020 SEJ Conference! The membership of the SEJ COE remained the same and the work continued. Throughout COVID, the SEJ COE has met by Zoom.

The **January 5, 2021**, COE meeting updated the episcopal evaluation process, received annual conference updates, and established a task force regarding episcopal leadership. The joint COE/COB meeting was facilitated by Claire Bowen (layperson from North Georgia) and included reports from the Council of Bishops' Sustainability Task Force, the SEJ task force on episcopal leadership, the COB officers, and the Protocol Mediation Team. Using Force Field Analysis, the group identified driving and restraining forces related to the retirement of bishops, the impact of the possibility of no elections, and interim episcopal area coverage. On January 4 in the evening, the 2020 Heads of Delegations were included in the work and on the evening of January 5, all 2020 delegates were invited into the work.

In addition to the annual January meetings, the COE continued to meet as needed by Zoom (**2020**: April 1, April 22, May 6, September 30; **2021**: March 3, May 5, August 26; **2022**: March 18, March 29, August 2) to assess the needs of the jurisdiction, hear reports from annual conferences, support the bishops, prepare for anticipated jurisdictional conferences, respond to complaints as outlined in ¶413, and provide communication to the jurisdiction.

In the spring of 2021, four bishops requested retirement effective September 1, 2021: Bishop Paul Leeland, Bishop Hope Morgan Ward, Bishop Mary Virginia "Dindy" Taylor, and Bishop Lawson Bryan. According to ¶407, the SEJ COE was consulted by the SEJ College of Bishops. The College of Bishops made a recommendation to the Council of Bishops who approved a plan for shared interim assignments for four bishops. These assignments were announced by the Council of Bishops in May of 2021 and became effective on September 1, 2021:

- Bishop Carter as resident bishop of Florida and Western North Carolina
- Bishop Fairley as resident bishop of Kentucky/Red Bird and North Carolina
- Bishop Graves as resident bishop of Alabama-West Florida and South Georgia
- Bishop Wallace-Padgett as resident bishop of North Alabama and Holston.

The **January 4, 2022**, COE meeting was a joint meeting of the COE and COB, and the meeting included review of the covenant and updates on the episcopal evaluation process. Then, through small group conversation, participants identified signs of hopes and concerns, considered questions related to disaffiliation, and reflected on the force field analysis and values from a previous meeting. The meeting included a report on the state of the Episcopal Fund, a report from the conferences and leaders who are sharing bishops, and engagement of next steps.

In preparation for the election of bishops at the 2022 Jurisdictional Conference, the COE established a pre-election process with clear guidelines to encourage fairness, equity, and consistency.

The COE approaches the episcopal assignment process collectively, with the missional needs of the Jurisdiction and each Annual Conference as the first priority. No episcopal assignment recommendations are made until all elections are complete (see ¶406). All recommendations for assignments will be reached by dialogue and prayerful consensus, with all assignments being considered. The COE will work until it seems good to the Holy Spirit and us and will bring its final

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

recommendations to the Jurisdictional Conference for final action during the Jurisdictional Conference in November.

The COE has engaged its work faithfully throughout the last 6 years. Members have been responsive and faithful; and the conversations and work have been full of the Holy Spirit. Relationships have developed in order to do hard work with love. The COE is grateful for the collegial relationship experienced with the College of Bishops.

Respectfully submitted:

Steve Furr, Chairperson

Tom Berlin, Vice Chairperson

Kim Ingram, Secretary

Additional Report of the Committee on Episcopacy Friday Morning, November 4, 2022

Dr. Steve Furr, Alabama-West Florida Conference delegate and Chair of the COE, shared the committee's suggestions for assignments for the Bishops, effective January 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024. He presented the following report:

Alabama-West Florida Episcopal Area– Bishop David Graves

Florida Episcopal Area – Bishop Tom Berlin

Knoxville Episcopal Area (Holston Conference) – Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett

Louisville Episcopal Area (Kentucky Conference and Central Appalachian Missionary Conference) – Bishop Leonard Fairley

Mississippi Episcopal Area – Bishop Sharma Lewis

Birmingham Episcopal Area (North Alabama Conference) – Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett

Raleigh Episcopal Area (North Carolina Conference) – Bishop Connie Shelton

North Georgia Episcopal Area – Bishop Robin Dease

Columbia Episcopal Area (South Carolina Conference) – Bishop Jonathan Holston

South Georgia Episcopal Area – Bishop David Graves

Nashville Episcopal Area (Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference) – Bishop Bill McAlilly

Richmond Episcopal Area (Virginia Conference) – Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson

Charlotte Episcopal Area (Western North Carolina Conference) – Bishop Ken Carter

The COE made this motion and recommended its acceptance. The SEJ Conference approved the report. Dr. Furr gave special thanks to the COE for their work.

2022 Journal of Proceedings

Episcopal Residence Guidelines Southeastern Jurisdiction United Methodist Church

Adequate housing for resident Bishops shall be provided by the Episcopal Area to which the Bishop is assigned. As per Paragraph #638 of the 2012 *Book of Discipline*, an Episcopal Residence Committee shall be formed as outlined in Paragraph #638, and the care and upkeep of the Episcopal Residence shall be monitored by this committee.

Adequate housing shall be defined as meeting or exceeding the following minimum standards:

The location of the house should be in reasonable proximity to the Conference office, airport and basic shopping venues should be within reasonable distance.

MINIMUM STANDARDS:

Three or more Bedrooms (It has been suggested that four bedrooms would be better to allow for out of town family and guests to stay as most Bishops are away from family.) **ONE OF THESE BEDROOMS SHOULD BE ON THE GROUND/MAIN LEVEL WITH DISABILITY ACCESS.**

Two or more full bathrooms

Family room

Living room

Adequate dining room

Kitchen with all appliances: Refrigerator; Stove; Dishwasher; Microwave

Laundry Room with Washer and Dryer

Hot Water Heater of at least 40 gallons

Dry and secure Storage area

Smoke alarms and Carbon monoxide detectors

Fire extinguishers

Storm window or insulated windows and doors

Quality window coverings in neutral colors that insure privacy

Quality floor coverings in neutral colors which are durable and easily maintained

Deadbolts on all exterior doors

Double Garage or Carport

Heating and Air Conditioning throughout the parsonage

When possible a room for an at-home study should be considered.

If parsonage is fully or partially furnished, furnishings should be in new or good condition, monitored for wear or discoloring and adequate for active family life and hosting visitors. When it is deemed necessary to replace furniture the Episcopal Family should be consulted in the process of the decision. It is also understood that some Episcopal families will have some personal furniture they may want to use which may require other furniture to be stored.

UTILITIES: (These should be in the name of the Conference as to not have lapses in transitions.)

Local phone service and Long distance call applicable to the Episcopal duties

Basic internet service

Basic Cable or Satellite television Service

Electric

Gas

Sewage

Water

Garbage

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

MAINTENANCE: (Scheduling of these maintenance areas should be done in consultation with the Episcopal Family)

Inspection and cleaning of ductwork as needed
Landscaping should be representative of the neighborhood
Regular schedule for both inside and outside painting
Timely repairs as needed
Regular carpet cleaning
Regular maintenance and cleaning of chimneys, if they exist
Windows maintained to be operative
Regular pest control inspection and provide any needed treatment
Annual termite inspection and provide any needed treatment
Suitable and maintained driveway
Regular inspection for mold and any needed treatment
Lawn maintenance shall be provided

NOTE: It is the responsibility of the Episcopal family to inform the Episcopal Residence Committee of any needed repairs or maintenance. The committee should also follow the guidelines of the Discipline and review the parsonage annually for needed updates, maintenance and repairs.

ADDITIONAL STANDARDS FOR NEW OR REPLACEMENT PARSONAGES:

- One room that can be used as a bedroom by a person with a disability, one fully accessible bathroom and fully accessible laundry facilities on the ground-floor level.
- A Fenced-in backyard is the preference (It is understood some subdivisions do not allow fencing.)

RECORDS:

- A file should be maintained by the Episcopal Residence Committee of all warranties, repair information and service records for the appliances, heating and cooling systems and plumbing.
- Adequate insurance shall be maintained for replacement value of the house and the furnishings. The Episcopal family is encouraged to maintain insurance for their personal property

TRANSITIONS:

- When there is a change of residents, the Episcopal family is personally responsible for repairs for any damage caused by a pet that has been kept in or around the parsonage. These expenses may include but not limited to: physical damage repair to lawn, structure, or furniture; environmental cleaning services including air filtration, painting, upholstery and/or drapery cleaning.
- The Episcopal Family is also responsible for damage caused by smoking inside the parsonage.
- Arrangements between the Episcopal Family and the Episcopal Residence Committee for thorough cleaning and repairs should be made prior to the move to determine if repairs are the responsibility of the Episcopal Family or normal maintenance and repairs.

SEMINARY REPORTS

CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY 2022 REPORT TO THE UMC SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION

Since 1914, **Candler School of Theology at Emory University** has educated faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries throughout the world. An official seminary of The United Methodist Church, Candler holds true to the Methodist value of ecumenical openness, enthusiastically welcoming students from more than 40 denominations, with nearly half of MDiv students coming from the Wesleyan tradition, including United Methodist, African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Christian Methodist Episcopal, Wesleyan, Free Methodist, Church of the Nazarene, and others. Our student body reflects the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 417 from 16 countries and 38 states, and 43% persons of color. This diversity is a blessing, enriching our life together and providing a "learning laboratory" for ministry in the 21st century—ministry that cultivates community across difference, welcomes all to contribute and belong, and embodies Christ's love in and among us.

Candler offers six single degrees and ten dual degrees, several of which are available in hybrid or online formats so students can remain in their places of ministry while earning their degrees. Our new hybrid Master of Divinity blending online classes and in-person intensives launches in Fall 2023, and our successful Doctor of Ministry—with its high 87% completion rate—is 90% online. Hybrid and online options are also available in the Master of Religious Leadership and the Master of Religion and Public Life programs. Plus, our Teaching Parish program supports students working as pastors in churches and earning contextual education credit as they pursue their degrees. We are excited that these flexible learning formats will make a first-rate Candler education possible for even more people who are called to ministry.

Alleviating student debt through generous financial aid is a top priority for Candler. In 2021-2022, we awarded \$7.3 million in scholarship support, with 100% of MDiv students receiving aid. All MDiv students who are certified candidates for ordained ministry in the UMC receive full-tuition scholarships, and all MDiv, MTS, MRL, and ThM students who are enrolled part-time or more receive a scholarship covering at least 50% of tuition. MDiv students also complete a financial literacy program to strengthen their financial and budgeting skills and reduce debt.

Candler was honored this year as one of 16 theological schools to receive a "Pathways to Tomorrow" grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. The \$5 million grant will allow Candler to establish a set of initiatives that creates an interconnected continuum of offerings for the education of pastoral leaders. This will position Candler as a hub of theological learning with multiple entry points, including The Candler Foundry, our innovative program to make theological education accessible to the public, Course of Study, undergraduate classes, and a new venture, La Mesa Academy for Theological Studies. Set to launch in Fall 2023, La Mesa Academy will offer diplomas in pastoral leadership via a two-year hybrid program with courses in both Spanish and English. An optional third year will be offered to those aspiring to continue on to a graduate professional degree at Candler.

This summer we welcomed the Rev. Dr. Brett Opalinski as Assistant Dean of Methodist Studies, a position made available by the recent retirement of the Rev. Dr. Anne Burkholder. Brett is an elder in full connection in the Florida Annual Conference and most recently served for nine years as senior

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

pastor of Christ Church United Methodist in Ft. Lauderdale. In addition to other pastoral appointments, he has held a variety of leadership roles in the Florida Conference, including the chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry, a member of the Anti-Racism Task Force, and a delegate to the 2020 General Conference. He is deeply committed to working with students in discerning their call, spiritual formation, and guiding them through the commissioning and ordination process.

Candler's ability to fulfill our mission to provide the church with the faithful and creative leaders it needs depends upon your prayers, partnership, and support. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this essential ministry in the life of our denomination. We invite you to visit us online at candler.emory.edu.

—Jan Love

*Mary Lee Hardin Willard Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics
Candler School of Theology, Emory University*

DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL 2022 SEJ REPORT

Duke Divinity School remains focused on our mission to engage in spiritually disciplined and academically rigorous education in service and witness to the Triune God in the midst of the church, the academy, and the world. For the Academic Year 2022-23 we have 654 students enrolled across 9 programs. This year's entering class includes a diverse group of 229 students from 35 different states and nine countries, with 30% of incoming students identifying as non-white.

Since our last report, the school has launched several new programs to provide support for current and future students. A new partnership with North Carolina Wesleyan College enables qualified undergraduates to take master's level courses at Duke Divinity School. **The Duke Accelerated Pastoral Formation Program** offers select juniors and seniors the option to begin coursework toward Duke's Hybrid M.Div. or Master of Arts in Christian Practice (M.A.) degree programs while completing their baccalaureate degree. Funded by the support of the Kern Family Foundation, the Accelerated Program helps students lower educational debt incurred in the preparation for ministry process and accelerate their timeline to engaging the field of ministry. The school has also launched the **Asian House of Studies**, a formational community that supports Asian and Asian-American students; builds a network of Asian and Asian-American students, alumni, and church leaders; and provides resources for Asian theological studies. Asian House of Studies is under the leadership of Sangwoo Kim, a consulting professor and senior director of the Methodist House of Studies, and Jung Choi, a consulting professor and senior director of Wesleyan Formation Initiatives.

Three new certificates have been approved, and all can be earned as part of the residential M.Div., Hybrid M.Div., M.T.S., and M.A. degree programs. The **Certificate in Methodist/Wesleyan Studies** is aimed at pan-Methodist/Wesleyan students who want to engage in robust and intentional training in Wesleyan theology and spiritual practice in preparation for leadership positions in Methodist and Wesleyan organizations and churches, such as the United Methodist Church, AME Church, AME Zion Church, and Korean Methodist Church. In the **Certificate in Latinx Studies**, students practice and hone skills for ministry while becoming part of a learning community that is committed to Hispanic/Latinx communities and seeks to learn from Hispanic/Latinx traditions and

cultures. The **Certificate in Worship** is designed to prepare Duke Divinity students to engage in practical formation and theoretical reflection on the worship of God in Christian congregations. The new certificate is one of several measures being introduced by the school in response to listening sessions on racial justice and cultural competency that revealed a desire and need for both formation and expression that would welcome, support, enhance, and celebrate worship from diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds.

In January of 2022, the school announced 12 full-tuition fellowships to support incoming residential Master of Divinity degree program students who pursue a certificate in Black Church Studies or Latinx Studies. In addition to providing full-tuition scholarships, the Black Church Studies and Latinx Studies Fellowships provide vocationally specific formation and mentoring opportunities for the fellows and up to \$24,000 in stipend support and internship opportunities through the Office of Field Education.

The Office of Wesleyan Engagement launched the “**Rediscovering the Heart of Methodism**” project. This project is a missional initiative of the Divinity School with the support of the Kern Family Foundation. It seeks to nurture innovative leadership within the Wesleyan tradition as a constructive and hope-filled response to a turbulent ecclesial landscape.

Supported by a gift from the Duke Endowment, the school launched **To Heal the Wounded Soul**, a project to strengthen Wesleyan pastors in the Carolinas who are Black, Indigenous, or people of color, including from the AME, AME Zion, CME, and UMC churches. Led by the Office of Black Church Studies and the Clergy Health Initiative, To Heal the Wounded Soul develops peer networks, support groups, and retreats to address the specific mental, emotional, and spiritual needs of this community.

Three new faculty members, with expertise ranging from the Reformation era in the history of Christianity, to Methodist and Lutheran studies, to Latinx theology, joined the faculty in 2021. **Polly Ha** is an Associate Professor of the History of Christianity whose work focuses on the history of Christianity and the construction of diverse confessional and ecclesiastical traditions in the Reformation and post-Reformation world. **Ronald K. Rittgers** is the Duke Divinity School Chair in Lutheran Studies and Professor of the History of Christianity, and his research interests include the religious, intellectual, social, and cultural history of medieval and early modern/Reformation Europe, focusing especially on the history of theology and devotion. **Daniel Castelo**, William Kellon Quick Professor of Theology and Methodist Studies, taught intensive Wesleyan theology courses in Mexico, Honduras, and Brazil, and then took a teaching post at a Mexican seminary for three years. He has been an active participant in the Central American Methodist Course of Study program and recently has served as a doctoral mentor for the Hispanic Theological Initiative.

We remain deeply grateful for the relationships among The United Methodist Church and Duke Divinity School. We look forward to working with you in the task of preparing men and women for Christian ministry. To learn more about Duke Divinity School, please visit our website at www.divinity.duke.edu.

Respectfully submitted by Edgardo Colón-Emeric
Dean of Duke Divinity School



GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY - 2022 REPORT

Gammon Theological Seminary, located in Atlanta, GA, is the Interdenominational Theological Center's United Methodist constituent member. The Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) is a Christian Africentric ecumenical consortium of seminaries and fellowships that educate students to commit to practicing justice and peace through a liberating and transforming spirituality to become leaders in the church and local/global communities.

Gammon was founded in 1883 by The Methodist Episcopal Church, with assistance from the Freedman's Aid Society. Today, Gammon Theological Seminary is the only predominately Black Seminary of the thirteen approved United Methodist-related Theological Institutions. The faculty and administration of Gammon at the ITC create an environment in which critical thinking, investigative reflection, decision making, and responsible action happen. The ITC's accreditation is with the Association of Theological Schools and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Gammon/ITC offers the following degree programs: the Master of Divinity, the Master of Arts in Religion and Education, and the Doctor of Ministry. Admission is open to qualified men and women. The support given to The United Methodist Ministerial Education Fund by United Methodist Conferences continues to enable Gammon students to be grounded in the Wesleyan tradition of theological education. The Gammon Board of Trustees elected our 17th President/Dean, Rev. Dr. Candace M Lewis, and she is the first woman to lead the Seminary in our 138-year history. Dr. Lewis began her tenure on April 1, 2021.

Our new initiatives and celebrations this year at Gammon include:

- **The Rev. Geraldine Williams-McClellan \$100,000.00 Endowment Fund launched** with Bishop Kenneth Carter and the Florida Annual Conference.
- **Commissioned our First Gammon Seminary National Research Project** focused on COVID-19's impact on Black United Methodist Clergy, Laity and Congregations – partnership w SBC21, BMCR, BCW, Discipleship Ministries & Convocation Pastors Black UMC. Please visit our website at www.gammon-itc.org for the findings.
- **Hosted a Virtual Church Leadership Training Event, "Navigating Next,"** in January 2022 to equip leaders for effective ministry 2022 with over 700 registered attendees.
- **Gammon student participates in the 2021 – 2022 Ecumenical Institute at Bossey** – Mr. Tavis Tinsley, a Gammon Senior, was invited by the United Methodist Council of Bishops (COB) the World Council of Churches. He completed the "Complementary Certificate in Ecumenical Studies" through the University of Geneva in Switzerland.

2022 Journal of Proceedings

- **Celebrated our 138th Anniversary** and Founder's Day. A virtual experience for Alumni, current students, board of trustees, staff and all partners and supporters to experience Navigating Next during a time of a pandemic!

The greatest challenge facing Gammon Seminary is the rising cost of theological education and the significant amount of debt our students are incurring as they answer their call to full-time ministry. Therefore, Gammon is committed to raising a million dollars in the next two years to offer full-tuition scholarships to students who are called and committed to full-time ministry in the United Methodist Church.

We are grateful to this Annual Conference for your support of theological education and your commitment to ensuring pastoral leadership that is theologically trained to lead us forward in the Wesleyan tradition.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Dr. Candace M. Lewis, President-Dean

EPISCOPAL AREA REPORTS

ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA AREA

Bishop David W. Graves

Over this past quadrennium, congregations of the Alabama-West Florida Conference have made great strides as they continue to focus on mission and ministry despite all that can distract them. With this have come times of great joy, and likewise times of great sorrow, especially as we have dealt with denominational struggles, a global pandemic, and natural disasters. However, out of times of uncertainty and tragedy, we have seen the birth of new ministries and rebirth of existing ministries. Additionally, we have seen ministries in our annual conference continue to expand and reach out to the outermost parts of the world.

There were four priorities that truly exemplify the work carried over from the previous quadrennium and helped guide our work over the first part of the current quadrennium. Those focus areas were:

- Growing God’s kingdom by making disciples and developing a multiplication mindset throughout the annual conference.
- Attracting and retaining exceptional talent that helps promote a culture of call for clergy and laity.
- Teaching, training, and coaching to support excellent preaching so that people encounter Jesus and live out the Great Commission.
- Being adaptive leaders through uncharted times emphasizing connectionalism and focusing on Kingdom work.

The COVID-19 pandemic and denominational issues caused a level of uncertainty and anxiety within the congregations of our conference midway through this quadrennium. As such, we found it necessary to readjusted and sharpen our focus with three words in mind – proclaim, grow, and adapt. More specifically, we committed to:

- Proclaim the gospel in new and innovative ways.
- Grow more like Christ as individuals and churches; help to expand the kingdom of God on earth.
- Adapt our approach and leadership strategies as necessary.

As we speak of growing the kingdom through discipleship and developing a multiplication mindset, there are several ministry areas that come to mind. Communities of Transformation (COT) was rebranded in 2016 and expanded its footprint in our Annual Conference branching into Florida and launching additional sites in Alabama. Over this past quadrennium COT has continued to diversify its financial portfolio and partnerships. This has aided them in becoming a sustainable ministry that is not solely dependent on conference funding. COT continues to hold true to their mission of breaking the cycles of poverty and taking people from simply surviving to thriving.

In October 2018, our annual conference was hit by Hurricane Michael leaving a trail of destruction along the Florida panhandle. Out of this tragedy, a sustainable disaster response ministry was birthed. It was our goal to see how we could fund a continual disaster response team that would be organized and ready for when the next storm threat arose. This team has done great work in the wake of Hurricane Michael and has continued to reaffirm the need for this ministry as our conference has

endured Hurricanes Sally and Zeta along with a string of tornadoes that affected several rural and underserved areas within our annual conference. As a result of creating this sustainable disaster response ministry, Abide Community, a new church start, was birthed. With this model we have experienced discipleship-making at its best while also using entrepreneurial strategies to make sure that funding is always available for disaster response.

The pandemic hit many ministries hard throughout our connection, especially camping ministries. Many camping ministries did not survive. Blue Lake Camp, our own camping ministry, had to undergo an in-depth strategic plan. We are excited to have hired a new director and focused on that plan in such a way that we are seeing our camp beginning to survive and thrive once again. Camping ministry is a vital place where people grow spiritually, where they rest and renew, and where young people and people of all ages often find a call to a specific ministry and full-time ministries. We need our camping ministries to be healthy!

During this extended quadrennium, one of the best decisions made by the Office of Connectional Ministries was the hiring of a contract full-time grant writer. She has helped us secure millions of dollars in disaster response funds as well as funds to revitalize extension ministries and local ministries within our conference that help to serve the marginalized.

At the start of the quadrennium we began to experiment with learning cohorts and soon found that this was a great model for us to follow. We have continued to live into this model and have started several cohorts that speak to various interest groups. We provide cohorts for pastors of rural churches, children's ministry leaders, youth ministry leaders, female clergy of color, and those serving in older adult ministries. While many of these cohorts came about during the pandemic, hosting these in primarily virtual environments have made them cost-effective and convenient for participants.

In addition to hosting the learning cohorts, there were a number of other learning opportunities hosted virtually. Jason Moore led a "Both/And" training, and we hosted "Bishop's Time Apart" events primarily for clergy. At these virtual gatherings, we gained insights from John Paul Lederach, Susan Beaumont, Olu Brown, Tod Bolsinger, April Casperson, Leah Schade, and Stephen Handy. These events spoke to our focus of teaching, training, and coaching to support excellent preaching, but also created times of connection for our clergy during a time of isolation. Like the learning cohorts, these events had a dual benefit in that they were both cost-effective and convenient.

Alabama-West Florida's priority to promote a culture of call for clergy and laity continues with its partnership with the Huntingdon Leadership Academy. This reaffirms the importance of helping youth discern calls to vocational ministry – both as clergy or laity. This also gives us the opportunity to support a thriving ministry at one of our local United Methodist institutions – Huntingdon College.

An Excellence in Preaching Team was also created during this quadrennium. In 2018 and 2019 the team led a series of events to aid pastors in teaching and preaching as well as proclaiming the gospel in new and innovative ways – two of our priorities. As part of this effort, the team did a survey for clergy and laity defining preaching and identifying the crucial tasks that make preaching effective. They then had several events to help with sermon preparation and development.

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

For the last four years we have continued to live into our commitment with the United Methodist Church of Tanzania through our Teaming with Tanzania partnership. This is one of the ways we have been proclaiming the gospel in new and innovative ways. Several teams have traveled to Tanzania to conduct trainings with new teams planning to go in 2023. The pandemic has taught us to be adaptive in our leadership, and we have held a virtual leadership development seminar this fall. This seminar was attended by 24 pastors from 25 churches across three districts in Tanzania.

Our commitment to grow more like Christ as individuals and churches as well as our focus on racial justice has caused us to continue work on developing our cross-cultural competency and addressing the issue of racism within our conference. In this last quadrennium we have gotten four new Qualified Administrators for the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) who have conducted several IDI trainings with churches within the conference. In this same vein, the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, and Breonna Taylor in 2020 charged us to live into our baptismal vows as United Methodists “to resist evil, injustice, and oppression.” That being so, the Coalition on Disrupting and Dismantling Racism was created to speak to the racial injustices happening both within our Conference and in the world. This coalition has hosted panel discussions, provided resources, and led a Lamentation of the History of Racism in Our Conference at the 2022 Annual Conference.

As mentioned at the start of this report, this quadrennium has had great moments of joy and celebration but has also had more than its fair share of trials, struggles, and uncertainty. But thanks be to God, we were equipped with all that we needed to weather this storm. While we are still in the midst of the storm, we are hopeful for the future of The United Methodist Church and specifically the Alabama-West Florida Conference.

BIRMINGHAM AREA Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett

During this extended quadrennium of 2016-2022, the North Alabama Conference has sought ways to increase our faith and witness. Our focus is on discipleship as we continue to navigate through this challenging season that has included the COVID-19 pandemic, racial injustices, political divisions, delayed General and Jurisdictional Conferences and continuing denominational conflict within our beloved United Methodist Church.

Here in North Alabama, we know that how we respond to these challenges is an opportunity to be a witness of God’s grace and love at work within us. Indeed, we believe that what we do and how we do it are of equal importance.

We have taken this time to pivot in ministry by using innovation, experimentation, and implementation of new strategies. This has included new experiences such as holding two virtual Annual Conferences due to COVID-19. The Cabinet and I have also partnered with the Multicultural Ministries Team, New and Renewing Church Team and Board of Ordained Ministry to sponsor an ongoing, online continuing education series called EVOLVE. These learning experiences

feature top-notch leaders who provide powerful tools, information and resources to help North Alabama Conference clergy and laity courageously lead into a future we cannot yet imagine.

We have also taken intentional steps to vision our future as an Annual Conference during this time of denominational uncertainty. Working with first the Context Team and now the NAC3 Team (a group of clergy and lay leaders committed to Christ, community and clarity) we are seeking to move forward together and develop a future where our differences allow us to reach more persons for Christ.

As we have been pivoting and experimenting, we have also continued our intentional focus on Conference ministry priorities and objectives. These have included:

- **New and Renewing Churches** – Through the leadership of our New and Renewing Church Team we have focused on developing “new places to reach new people” as an effective way to introduce new people to Jesus Christ. This has included numerous Fresh Expressions throughout our Annual Conference such as dinner churches, coffee house gatherings, summer waterfront worship services, accessible faith experiences at golf courses and many Celebrate Recovery groups across the Conference.
- **Multicultural Ministries** – We continue to strengthen and equip ethnic congregations in a variety of ways. For example, our new Multicultural Grant Cohort allows multiple congregations to walk with each other as they identify needs and work toward desired outcomes.
- **Ministry with the Poor** – This Conference priority is part of the heart and history of the North Alabama Conference. We have had numerous successful initiatives that enable us to be in ministry with our under-resourced neighbors. An example is the Bazillion Book Drive, during which all local churches were challenged to collect and donate new children’s books to agencies in their communities. In addition to working toward the goal of increasing childhood literacy, this drive also helped establish new ministry partnerships throughout our Conference. Since 2018 we have also provided life-changing summer mission experiences to college-age young adults exploring vocations of being in ministry with the poor. We have partnered with QuadW Missional Internship each summer to invest in our commitment to under-resourced communities.
- **Dismantling Racism** – During a time that has spotlighted racial injustices in our country, our Conference Leadership Team has committed to journeying together to increase our awareness, build interracial relationships, and develop a lifelong commitment to racial justice. These leaders have invited every local church to join them on this journey. As a Conference, we have developed resources and information to help our Christian witness include working for racial justice.
- **Discipleship Systems** – We recognize the local church is a primary venue for discipleship. Our Conference teams continue to resource congregations in this mission. We have also developed some Conference-wide opportunities for personal discipleship to encourage all North Alabama United Methodists to participate in life-changing holy habits. In 2018, we

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

offered a Conference event focused on prayer with the theme, “Lord Teach us to Pray: Prayerful Living in a Broken World.” The Conference Adult Discipleship Team has also led several spiritual-growth initiatives. The first is Read Together, where every year since 2019 the Conference has invited people to read through the entire Bible. A reading plan, weekly podcast and Facebook page for discussion are provided for participants. The team also has created the Pray Together podcast that invites people to expand their understanding of prayer as a way of life.

- **Clergy Care** – Our clergy have faced increasing levels of stress during this difficult season. Many had to learn new skills as they continued to minister faithfully during the pandemic. The conflict in our world and denomination are continuous stressors. Our Cabinet, Board of Ordained Ministry and Clergy Care Team have focused on ways to best support clergy including promoting personal care, providing needed resources, and creating renewal experiences.

The clergy and churches in North Alabama are a blessing to each other as well as Lee and me. Despite many challenges, the ministry of the North Alabama Conference remains strong and fruitful. I praise God for the privilege of knowing and serving the North Alabama Conference.

CHARLOTTE AREA **Bishop Kenneth H. Carter, Jr.**

I begin with a word of gratitude to the dedicated followers of Jesus Christ, laity and clergy, who lead local churches and extension ministries across the Western North Carolina Conference. I am blessed to serve in this episcopal area, and give thanks to God and the church for the assignment. In reading my previous report to this Jurisdictional Conference, and reflecting on reports of others over the past years, I am struck by how orderly they are. And in the present moment, I am conscious that the past few years present a challenge to our desire for order. The experience of a global pandemic has disrupted our ways of doing ministry, our sequencing of conferencing at every level of the church, and our discernment on the meaning of metrics that measure faithfulness and fruitfulness. This report will seek to give an account for the mission of this Western North Carolina Conference in these years, with the request that the reader consider the historical context, and reflect on it with some measure of grace. As I write I claim, through it all, the promises of God, in particular that the “One who began a good work in us will be faithful to complete it” (Philippians 1. 6).

It is essential, at the outset, to express gratitude to Bishop Paul Leeland, who served as the resident bishop of Charlotte Area for five of these six years (2016-2021). Paul and Janet were a warm, faithful and encouraging presence during these years, with a deep love for the church, and much of this report expresses ministry accomplished during their tenure.

My focus as an episcopal servant of Western North Carolina Conference has first been on the local church; a blessing in serving here is that I was a local church pastor in Western North Carolina for twenty eight years. With a diverse and gifted cabinet, we give several months a year to a process of discernment, along with the laity, in making appointments of clergy to local churches. The Western North Carolina Conference has made a major investment in planting new churches and in cultivating

2022 Journal of Proceedings

fresh expressions of church. There are at present 984 local churches and 152 fresh expressions of church across the Western North Carolina Conference. In our focus on the local church, we have been seeking new places for new people, we have come alongside churches to move them from good to great (Transformation Journey); and, through the Bishop's Emerging Leadership Initiative, we have developed new and emerging leaders who will create and inspire fruitful congregations.

In our focus on Antiracism, the annual conference developed a Plan of Equity, established a Just Compensation Task Force, and named a Director of Equity and Justice Ministries, Dr. Bill White, who serves on the appointive cabinet. In addition, the conference implemented mandatory Antiracism Ethics training for all clergy throughout the quadrennium. The Board of Ordained Ministry instituted an Equitable Interview Process Covenant and Policy to ensure fairness. We are grateful for the partnership of the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina in several aspects this journey.

In the area of Clergy Wellness and Development, the Duke Endowment offered intensive training in stress reduction practices. Through Ministerial Services, clergy and ministry professionals received grants for spiritual renewal. During COVID, the annual conference offered pension and health benefit cost relief to clergy and local churches. The Connexion Fund provided grants to help with salary costs for pastors. This focus has been essential, as the pandemic and public experiences of racial violence have contributed to health challenges among our clergy and spiritual leaders.

A fourth and emerging area of importance lies in our identity as United Methodists. I was privileged to serve as both a moderator of the Commission on a Way Forward and as a participant and signatory of the Protocol of Grace and Reconciliation through Separation; concurrent with this work we held listening forums and dialogues across the annual conference with clergy and laity leaders. And yet, in the aftermath of the 2019 General Conference and our Annual Conference held a few months following, there has been a deepening division and a climate of escalating conflict in our local churches.

We recognize the historic nature of the time in which we serve, and, again, we give thanks for those who serve and lead through the United Methodist Church. We affirm the principles of the #BeUMC initiative of making disciples of Jesus Christ, belonging and including, connection and impact, and experiencing the Triune God through the UMC. In our connection there is strength for today, and bright hope for tomorrow. God is good!

While we are on a journey toward accurate metrics that account for the complexity of the present moment, we share the following: the Western North Carolina Conference has 247,800 members, with an average worship attendance of 200,868 persons, and this includes the both/and of in-person and online; our apportionment giving has averaged 84%; and our members gave over \$250,000 to those whose lives were disrupted by the floods in Haywood County, near Lake Junaluska in the western mountains.

I want to conclude by thanking the assistant to the bishop, Rev. Amy Coles, whose ministry is a profound gift, and the cabinet of the Western North Carolina Conference. In addition I express gratitude to our conference staff, who have worked remotely and sacrificially in a challenging season. And I give thanks to Rev. Kim Ingram and Jennifer Davis, who serve on the SEJ Episcopacy

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Committee. In a sixteen month period I have served two annual conferences, Florida and Western North Carolina. Here I thank my wife Pam for her patience and the people of both conferences for their understanding of the different working relationship. Lastly, I thank the people of the Western North Carolina Conference, with whom I have served over the past fifteen months. You were the conference that welcomed me into ordained ministry and gave me an opportunity to fulfill this calling. You have taught me about all that is good in our tradition—the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God and neighbor as our path to holiness, and the connection of a people who hold us accountable in order to be faithful and fruitful. I am grateful to serve again among you.

Kenneth H. Carter, Jr.
Resident Bishop

COLUMBIA AREA **Bishop L. Jonathan Holston**

The South Carolina Annual Conference desires to live into the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. In doing so, conference leaders have been immersed in the covenant to seek a more excellent way this quadrennium by connecting laity and clergy on every level. Building relationships, establishing trust and striving toward proficiency in respectful conversation around difficult issues have strengthened our ability to support and resource local churches as they gather the information necessary to reflect on their past, candidly assess their present reality within their communities, and discern their future opportunities for ministry.

In 2016-2017, we centered our endeavors to seek a more excellent way on the theme, “Making Space for God to Work.” Conference leadership embarked on a new, voluntary process developed by a team of clergy and laity that is based on The Book of Discipline ¶213. This “Forward Focus” process is uniquely designed for vitality rather than viability. It allows churches to discern their full potential, to seek a hopeful future for their congregation, and to help them decide what they need to shed to allow them to live into that hopeful future. Again visiting all 12 districts, conference leadership embarked on “The Bishop’s Forward Focus Tour,” seeking to encourage church leaders to take advantage of this process.

Forward Focus was designed to help local churches answer four basic questions: “Who are we? Who is our neighbor? What are we here for? What are we going to do about it?” Hundreds of South Carolina churches have employed this effective assessment tool to achieve a clear idea of the next steps for their congregation, to lead an informed discernment of God’s will for their congregation and to reclaim a healthy process for how their congregation should operate.

In October 2016, Hurricane Matthew ravaged some of the same communities that were still struggling to recover from historic floods a year earlier. The Disaster Recovery team made a difference in the lives of hundreds affected by both events with crucial support from the United Methodist Committee on Relief and thousands of volunteers and donors.

In 2017-2018, we practiced “Walking By Faith, Not By Sight.” Conference leaders and I visited each district to meet with church leadership teams, inviting them to consider how their congregations

could be equipped to walk faithfully into God’s vision for God’s church by reviewing the results of the congregations who already had participated in Forward Focus.

Simultaneously, a leadership challenge was issued to conference boards and agencies. Recognizing that the purpose of the Annual Conference is to equip local churches for ministry and connect them in ministry beyond themselves, the work and priorities of all conference agencies needed to shift toward this goal based on information now available. I posed two key questions to conference leaders through the Ministry Advisory Team – “How do we get all the boards, councils and committees talking about how Forward Focus will change the way they do their work?” and, “What necessary endings need to happen in order for all of these groups to re-orient themselves to local church vitality?”

In 2018-2019, the South Carolina Conference sought to be “In Mission From Anywhere to Everywhere.” This theme reminded churches that all congregations can be in mission with those in need around the block, around the country, and around the world – regardless of their size, budget or location.

The Cabinet turned with intentionality to a more organic model of leadership, one that seeks to meet local needs as identified by the superintendent as missional strategist working with their district leadership teams. This new flexibility resulted in more community-specific outreach during my 12 district visits, which included events and activities such as wrapping Christmas gifts at local stores, dialogue with young adults, preparing gift baskets for the elderly, and listening sessions with college students.

In September 2018, the third major disaster in four years struck our conference. Hurricane Florence caused severe flooding damage, again centered on communities that already had dealt with devastation in 2015 and 2016. The Disaster Recovery team – with financial and strategic help from UMCOR, other agencies, and volunteers and donors from around the world – set out to accompany communities in need over the long haul of their recovery.

In what we had expected to be the final year of the quadrennium, 2019-2020, conference leaders looked toward “A Future With Hope.” Throughout these sometimes-chaotic times, we echoed the importance of remaining focused on our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We encouraged congregations to be informed and to practice ways to be in conversation with each other, especially those with whom we might not always agree. We challenged each district leadership team to consider how we might best support and resource churches in their efforts to make disciples. Serving as an example of this hope-filled posture, we remained focused on meeting the diverse and specific needs in each geographic area during our district visits.

With the extension of the quadrennium into 2020-2021, we continued to seek a more excellent way – even amid the uncertainty of global pandemic, unrest and divisiveness. Inspired by the theme of our 2020 Annual Conference – “Beyond the Bounds of Expectations” – we began the process of aligning our efforts around “Our 4 Priorities,” identified by conference leadership as: Developing Leaders, Engaging Our Communities, Connecting With and Growing Disciples, and Measuring Current Realities and Evaluating Missional Possibilities.

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

With these priorities as the framework for the way we do ministry, we were able to pivot with confidence – leaning into the challenges and opportunities that arose during the COVID-19 pandemic. Conference leaders set the tone by maintaining focus on our mission, and intentionally and persistently encouraging district and local leaders to do the same. We developed, gathered and shared a raft of new digital tools to help local churches continue and expand ministry during this time of isolation. We worked to strengthen our Connection and maintain community across the conference in numerous ways, including my daily video prayer – still shared each day on the conference website, social media and email – and the establishment of Lay Leadership Virtual Retreats, through which we continue to build the relationships begun with episcopal visits to each district in previous years.

Even as we grappled with the complications of pandemic, we could not ignore the conflict and strife that often seemed to overwhelm our world – both within and outside the church. We initiated “Our Response To Racism,” a compendium of resources designed to provide tools to address racism through a response of love, education, communication and scriptural background, while working together as the body of Christ. These tools are intended to help groups learn about the history of racism in our nation, how to listen and hear often-difficult personal stories, and how to lead discussions that form and strengthen relationships. It is intended to be helpful in the process of healing in our churches and communities, viewing all as equal human beings.

In 2021-2022, the South Carolina Conference, still grappling with the uncertainty of pandemic, focused simply on “Taking The Next Faithful Step” – a theme that prompted us to see and act on what God put in front of us each day, and not to get caught up in the dread of an imagined future. This mindset allowed us to be fully present as we sought to resource local churches that were beginning to transition from fully online worship to fully in-person worship – or to a new hybrid model of worship. By “listening to the edges,” we developed a set of Best Practices for this time of transition – guidelines developed by a team of laity and clergy from the local church level. By “listening to the edges,” we heard the cry for help from so many of our clergy who were becoming overwhelmed by the stress of ministering to others, a responsibility further complicated during the pandemic. We commissioned a team of lay and clergy – comprised of both experts in various fields of care, and those who have experienced the need for that care – to address this urgent need. Our new Clergy Care Ministry provides a holistic approach to clergy self-care – physical, mental, emotional and spiritual. Resources range from coaching, counseling and spiritual direction; to personal video testimonials from fellow clergy; to opportunities for clergy to gather for time away – both virtually and in-person.

Building on the foundation established in the previous year, we fully introduced “Our 4 Priorities” to laity and clergy across the conference, leading to their formal adoption by the 2021 South Carolina Annual Conference. We look to these priorities as a reminder that the secret of living each day to the fullest is to align our will with God’s will.

In 2022-2023, we are maintaining confidence and trust in ourselves and in our Connection by “Trusting, Believing and Knowing That God Is With Us.” In spite of the cacophony of voices that tend to distract us, we are choosing to maintain our focus on our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We endeavor to help congregations make the best

decisions that enable them to make disciples. We do this with intention, with determination, and with calm clarity. We do not seek out conflict, but during those times when we can't avoid it, we seek first to listen before trying to be heard. We seek to understand before trying to be understood. And, most importantly, we love. We love God with all of our hearts, with all of our souls, and with all of our minds – and we love our neighbor. When we find ourselves drifting away from this focus, we ask ourselves a question that snaps us back to the time and place in which God has placed us: When was the last time you led someone to Christ?

Felecia and I are grateful for the opportunity to be in ministry with the laity and clergy across the Columbia Area. We thank South Carolina United Methodists for allowing God to work through each of you and to use every one of us to make a difference in our communities and the world for the sake of Christ.

Grace and peace,

L. Jonathan Holston

FLORIDA AREA
Bishop Kenneth H. Carter, Jr.

I begin with a word of gratitude to the amazing followers of Jesus Christ, laity and clergy, who lead local churches and extension ministries across the Florida Conference. I have been blessed to serve in this episcopal area and give thanks to God and the church for the assignment. In reading my previous report to this Jurisdictional Conference and reflecting on reports of others over the past years, I am struck by how orderly they are. And in the present moment, I am conscious that the past few years present a challenge to our desire for order. The experience of a global pandemic has disrupted our ways of doing ministry, our sequencing of conferencing at every level of the church, and our discernment on the meaning of metrics that measure faithfulness and fruitfulness. This report will seek to give an account for the mission of the Florida Conference in these years, with the request that the reader consider the historical context and reflect with some measure of grace. As I write I claim, through it all, the promises of God, in particular, that the “One who began a good work in us will be faithful to complete it” (Philippians 1:6).

My focus as an episcopal servant of Florida has first been on the local church. I have preached in several hundred churches across this peninsula over the past years. With a diverse and gifted cabinet, we give several months in the year to a process of discernment, with the laity, in making appointments of clergy leaders to local churches. In our “mixed ecology of church” the Florida Conference has also made a major investment in “Fresh Expressions of Church” through the visionary leadership of Rev. Dr. Michael Beck and others. Fresh Expressions are intentional gatherings beyond the walls of our churches, led by laity and clergy. Florida has over eight hundred (800) local churches and Fresh Expressions of church, and both are instrumental in our missional strategy of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

An increasing area of focus and even reckoning has been our ongoing and unfinished work in anti-racism. The Florida Conference is on a journey to being an anti-racist annual conference. Intentional work has been done in decreasing and ultimately closing the salary gap between clergy who are

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Anglo and persons of color. This was done through grants in each of the districts this past conference year. The journey of anti-racism is related to our church as an institution and our engagement in our state, nation, and world. Particular initiatives included relationships with law enforcement, strengthening the right of citizens to vote, and responses to public experiences of racial violence. A Bishop's Task Force on Anti-racism has led much of this work.

A priority during the pandemic has been the health, well-being and resilience of clergy and spiritual leaders. We are aware that the multiple dislocations of a health pandemic, racism, economic uncertainty, and mental health crises have worn on those who are on the "front lines", holding churches and communities together and preaching and leading in worship that has of necessity, been in-person and online. A tangible response has been the awarding of a grant of \$1,000 to clergy and leaders in campus ministry for physical, mental, and spiritual renewal. Over \$500,000 in grants were awarded during these years, and we thank the Florida Conference Preacher's Relief Fund. In addition, we have recently begun a counseling fund for our clergy to support them in this season.

We have continually sought to name the reality that these first three areas of focus—the vitality of the local church and fresh expressions, the journey to anti-racism, the health and well-being of spiritual leaders—are intimately related. And thus, Bishop Janice Huie gave a presentation on resilience to our Conference Table, Bishop Greg Palmer gave a lecture on anti-racism as discipleship and sanctification, and Dr. Gary Mason of Belfast, Northern Ireland has led three cohorts on preaching in contexts of polarization, and the legacies of slavery and violence.

A fourth and emerging area of importance lies in our identity as United Methodists. I was privileged to serve as both a moderator of the Commission on a Way Forward (along with two others from the Florida Conference, Alice Williams and Rev. Jorge Acevedo) and as a participant and signatory of the Protocol of Grace and Reconciliation through Separation. Concurrent with this work, we held listening forums and dialogues in every region of Florida and with thousands of clergy and laity leaders. And yet, in the aftermath of the 2019 General Conference and our Annual Conference held a few months following, there has been a deepening division and a climate of escalating conflict.

We have responded in several ways: through a continuing message that all are welcome in the Florida Conference; through care for appointments of pastors to contexts that match their theological ethos; through complaint processes undertaken in consistency with *The Book of Discipline* and using the framework of restorative justice (which is also Disciplinary); and through pastoral calls and conversations over meals. Through all this engagement, however, we experienced a lawsuit filed by 106 churches seeking to disaffiliate, an inability to approve the pool of candidates for commissioning to ministry in 2022 by a very narrow vote, and complaints filed against the Board of Ordained Ministry and the bishop. We are seeking to respond to the lawsuits and complaints with patience, legal wisdom, and a continuing offering of an openness to mediation based upon the church's Discipline.

We recognize the historic nature of the time in which we serve, and, again, we give thanks for those who serve and lead through The United Methodist Church. We affirm the principles of the #BeUMC initiative of making disciples of Jesus Christ, belonging and inclusion, connection and impact, and experiencing the Triune God through The United Methodist Church.

2022 Journal of Proceedings

While we are on a journey toward accurate metrics that account for the complexity of the present moment, we share the following: the Florida Conference has 191,902 members in over 800 churches and fresh expressions of church; our average worship attendance is 191,902 and this includes the both/and of in-person and online; our apportionment giving has averaged 85.6%; during COVID, we shared over 7 million meals in an initiative known as Fill the Table; and during COVID we offered an online Bible Study, Summer in the Scriptures, where over 2,500 persons read the four gospels over 90 days.

I want to conclude by thanking my extraordinary assistant to the bishop, Rev. Alex Shanks, and the cabinet of the Florida Conference. In addition, I express gratitude to our conference staff, who have worked remotely and sacrificially in a challenging season. In a sixteen-month period I have served two annual conferences – Florida and Western North Carolina. Here I thank my wife Pam for her patience and the people of both conferences for their understanding of the different working relationship. Lastly, I thank the people of the Florida Conference for the past eleven years. You have taught me about living in grace, becoming more holy, discovering joy in Christ, and overcoming adversity, and the never-ending journey to justice and mercy rooted in the love of God. Thank you.

KNOXVILLE AREA Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett

It has been my privilege and joy to serve as the episcopal leader for the Holston Conference since Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor's retirement in August 2021. Much of what is described in this report took place during her ten-year tenure as bishop of the Holston Conference. Many thanks to Bishop Taylor for her service and ministry.

I have focused during my first year as Holston's bishop on listening sessions, building relationships, and developing adaptive teams of clergy and lay leadership. A major purpose of these teams is to equip spiritual leaders to inspire and form Christ-followers who model the love of God.

This includes:

- 1) the Extended Cabinet Leadership Team that is involved in a process of developing spiritual lay and clergy leaders and teams that focus on discipleship, building on the strong foundation developed over the past several years by our Strategy Team
and
- 2) the newly formed Invitation Team, a group of diverse Holston clergy and lay leaders committed to discerning a vision for our Conference's future.

The Holston Conference is known for our mission-oriented, whole-hearted discipleship. Throughout this extended quadrennium Holston United Methodism has emphasized the mission of making disciples for the transformation of the world. Whether in a period of growth, decline, discernment, turmoil, hardship, or celebration, it is always the right season for an emphasis on discipleship.

Since 2016 the leaders of the Conference have been engaged in a discernment process on how we can best develop strong spiritual lay and clergy leaders to lead the way forward in offering Jesus Christ to a hurting world. One of the outcomes of this time of discernment has been the development

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

of Missional Hubs across the Conference. These Hubs consist of laity and clergy from churches coming together to find the best ways to serve the communities in which they reside. It has been a time for us to realize anew that we can do more together than on our own. Another outcome of this process has been expanding our emphasis in communications. Our communications department has grown in size and scope for the purpose of doing the important work of supporting and enabling churches to improve their ability to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Another aspect of the discernment process was discussion and implementation of redistricting from twelve to nine districts in 2018. After 60 years with twelve districts, Holston discerned that due to changes in communities, transportation, and technology, transitioning to nine districts would better steward our resources.

The Holston Conference continues to work in missions locally, nationally, and around the world. Our hands-on mission focus during Annual Conference over the past 25 years has been to support Zimbabwe and Liberia with food buckets, health kits, school kits, and cleaning kits. These are life-sustaining provisions for the children and the communities of Zimbabwe and Liberia. A highlight of Annual Conference continues to be a celebration of sending off the trucks filled with kits from churches in every corner of the conference. We also remain committed to our work in South Sudan, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Estonia, and more. A highpoint of our ministry abroad occurred in 2019 at the South Sudan-Uganda Annual Conference when three of the pastors with whom we have been working for 13 years were ordained as elders in the United Methodist Church. One of those pastors will be named as the District Superintendent of the South Sudan District this year at their Annual Conference. This transition to an indigenous district superintendent is indeed a celebration as the Holston Conference has supplied a pastor for this role in South Sudan since 2006.

The Holston Conference continues to be known for our commitment to camping ministry. We have four residential camps within Holston that are making a difference in the lives of children and youth across the Conference and beyond. Every summer many children make new or renewed decisions of faith and grow in their walk with Christ. This quadrennium we have added a non-residential camp to our ministry. Camp in the Community is a traveling camp designed to take the camping ministry into communities and to children who might never attend one of our residential camps. Camp in the Community partners with local churches serving as host sites. The camp has grown from serving seventy-seven campers the first year to over 1400 each summer.

A strength in youth ministry in Holston is our annual Resurrection event, which typically reaches 8,000+ teenagers and young adults for Christ. This is a major venue through which Holston fosters a call to full-time ministry for youth across our area.

My husband Lee and I are inspired by the churches, clergy, and laity of the Holston Conference. We anticipate a bright future for Holston as the Conference continues moving forward in ministry, discipleship, and service for the transformation of the world.

LOUISVILLE AREA
Bishop Leonard Fairley

The Louisville Area covers ninety percent of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and includes the Red Bird Missionary Conference and the Kentucky Annual Conference. The mission statement of the Kentucky Conference is to Discover, Develop, and Send passionate spiritual leaders and resources to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

To emphasize and further develop our mission, the Annual Conference themes for this quadrennium have been:

2021: Know the Love of God

2022: Grow in the Love of God

2023: Show the Love of God

2024: Lead with the Love of God

In alignment with our mission statement, the Kentucky Conference has pointed much of its focus on aligning the mission of the local church of making Passionate Spiritual Disciples and the mission of the conference of making Passionate Spiritual Leaders. A key process in this alignment was the development of a Passionate Spiritual Leader Pathway. This pathway contains three areas of focus – discover, develop, and send. While the work of this pathway was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, movement on the ‘develop’ portion of this pathway has begun again, and includes four key areas of development for all leaders (Spiritual formation, discipling skills, cross-cultural ministry, and leadership development). Our next step is developing a number of call-specific pathways beyond ordination.

In addition to our continued work to develop Passionate Spiritual Leaders and Passionate Spiritual Disciples, dialogue expectations shared with the annual conference offered an invitation for those who hold diverse convictions to be in relationship with one another. These dialogue expectations provided the opportunity to have a day set apart for our clergy to worship together, not as anything other than water-washed, spirit-born children of the living God. Organized by several clergy of varying political views and theological ideals, this worship service was the first opportunity since the pandemic that our clergy were able to gather in over three years.

Another key aspect of our work over the past several years has been the creation of a Cultural Competency Development Plan. A conference team was formed that has, and is, creating informational and transformational experiences that energize the dismantling of systemic, institutional, and individual racism in the Kentucky Annual Conference. As a result, all clergy and lay leaders in the Conference are required to attend Anti-racism and Cultural Competency Training once a quadrennium. In addition, the conference is currently working to hire a full-time director to focus on African-American ministries, a demographic that has been greatly underserved in Kentucky.

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Red Bird Missionary Conference (now Central Appalachian Missionary Conference)

Following a long discernment process, the Red Bird Missionary Conference Clergy and Conference Operational Team submitted to the 2020 Red Bird Missionary Annual Conference delegates, a proposal to rename the conference, The Central Appalachian Missionary Conference. The conviction is that this name more clearly identifies their missional area, which reaches beyond the Red Bird Valley.

Red Bird has also refocused their mission to be a missionary conference serving this geographical region by making disciples through personal transformation, leadership transformation and community transformation. Their vision is to be a healthy, revitalized missionary conference that is missionally relevant. All Glory to God, the motion to rename passed.

MISSISSIPPI AREA Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr.

The Mississippi Annual Conference – empowered by love, generosity, justice, and apprenticeship – forms spiritual leaders, faith communities, and connections so more disciples of Jesus Christ transform the world.

Spiritual Leadership

Living Out the POWER of We has been the focus for The Mississippi Annual Conference for this quadrennium (6 years). For us, this means that we are affirming that the POWER lies with God's Holy Spirit, and that we are called to live our lives out of that POWER. We are all seeking to live out that POWER with all we are and all we do.

Forming spiritual leaders (both clergy and lay) has been a focus of the office of Spiritual Leadership as well as the work of the appointive cabinet. The emphasis upon clergy excellence has been a primary focus for training and nurture of the clergy by emphasizing not just fruitfulness, but faithfulness that produces fruitfulness. Amid the COVID pandemic, a need to focus on spiritual wellness arose and is now offered to all clergy through days away and/or retreats to provide an opportunity to examine their individual faith journey with Jesus Christ. Our belief is that clergy who are intentional about their personal faith journey are better able to lead faithfully in their churches and communities.

There has also been an intentional focus upon clergy debt and how to be of assistance to those preparing to enter full-time ordained ministry within the United Methodist Church in Mississippi. This work is now being expanded to include local pastors and students by utilizing the Saving Grace program. The Residency in Ministry (RIM) program continues to be a place where these important discussions happen.

The current structure of the annual conference has focused upon the importance of training clergy and laity together, so the yearly Collaborative Leadership Conference has become the standard by which we seek to do ministry together. Another example of collaborative leadership is healing

teams, made up of both clergy and laity, have been trained to walk alongside churches who are experiencing grief, conflict, and crisis.

The Office of Spiritual Leadership also works with campus ministers and their ministries in all our community college campuses as well as all our four-year institutions. This work is an opportunity to resource campus ministers who can, in turn, help our young adults engage their faith and become more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

Faith Communities

The Office of Faith Community Formation's vision is to form faith communities to transform the culture of the Mississippi Annual Conference into a culture of vitality by forming new faith communities and revitalizing existing congregations. Presently the goal is to form as many as four new faith communities and revitalize up to twenty-five congregations per year. The underlying focus is to make new disciples of Jesus Christ. The Mississippi Annual Conference established a national partnership in Fresh Expressions.

We utilize several tools and resources – both in and out of the annual conference – for the clergy of The Mississippi Annual Conference. Many of these are in collaboration with the Office of Spiritual Leadership/ Appointive Cabinet and include the following:

- Coaching
- Identifying, vetting, and equipping qualified church planters
- Utilizing the processes delineated in Paragraph 213
- Readiness 360 and Readiness 360+
- Mission Insite
- Disciple Like Jesus
- Vital Signs
- Route 121

The Episcopal office has brought together all the advocacy leaders into a working Advocacy Team that better enables these leaders and their committees to examine justice issues in a more broad-based way. This has birthed the End Racism for Good (ER4G) team that is providing racial healing training across the annual conference and is serving as a resource for all aspects of mission and ministry throughout United Methodism in Mississippi.

The birth of the African American Leadership Academy focuses, in part, on generosity within African American churches and leaders in Mississippi is beginning under the leadership of the Episcopal office.

We are also continuing to work in the format of Loving, Learning, and Leading both in the Mississippi Leadership Team and beyond.

Presently there is a committee that is looking at district realignment which includes “right-sizing” the number of districts for the future.

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Connections

The Office of Connectional Ministries continues to work with the Vital Congregations Committee, a collaboration that began as an experiment in 2014. This committee is made up of nine of the most vital churches in the Mississippi Annual Conference. During the last several years this committee has been reviewing all church reports from charge conferences with the goal being to give a conference-wide view of the trends, needs and assets of the annual conference. This work is beginning to shift the culture resulting in a more intentional review of the local church's ministry, and it is being reflected in the reports. This work is shared with the annual conference with the goal of helping to shift programming to meet the needs of the local church in a more direct and significant way.

Disaster Response is always key to the life and ministry within the Mississippi Annual Conference. We have been actively involved in restoration from hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods in the past several years. We work with many partners and have been able to assist hundreds of people by helping them get into secure homes (either restored or new) following life altering events in their lives. Most recently, we have been actively involved in the Jackson, Miss. water crisis delivering water to those who are unable to get out of their homes/apartments.

We also celebrate our connection with the following entities within the life of The Mississippi Annual Conference:

- Community Centers
 - Bethlehem Center
 - Edwards Street
 - Good Shepherd
 - Moore Community House
 - St. Andrews Mission
 - Wesley House

- Camps
 - Gulfside
 - Seashore
 - Lake Stephens
 - Wesley Pines

- Baddour Center
- United Methodist Senior Services
- Methodist Rehabilitation Center
- Methodist Children's Home
- Delta Grace
- Millsaps College
- Rust College

All of this work is undergirded with the work of Administration and Communications. There is much to celebrate in these areas:

2022 Journal of Proceedings

- **Administration**
 - Our 2019 mission shares paid out at 78.87%. In 2020 (first COVID year) our percentage only declined 16/100 of 1%. In 2021 we grew our payout rate to 80.67% which is back to pre-COVID payout ratio.
 - We have continued to pay our SEJ mission shares at 100%.
 - We decreased our budget each year by an amount equal to or more than the amount apportioned to churches that were closing and/or disaffiliating.
 - From 2016-2021 we decreased our overall budget 22%.
 - In 2021 we increased the collection rate on every line item including general and jurisdictional apportionments for the first time in 20 years.
 - We continued to apportion the General Church apportionments in compliance with The Book of Discipline as directed by the Judicial Council ruling.
 - In 2020 we assisted our churches in applying for and obtaining forgiveness on over six million dollars of PPP loans.
 - In 2021 we were able to build our reserves back to the pre-pandemic level.
 - In 2019, 2020 and 2021 we did not spend any of our reserves – living into the spending of by only what the local churches paid in mission shares to the annual conference.

- **Communications**
 - Trained local churches in best practices for communications
 - Developed crisis communications protocols
 - Resourced clergy/churches
 - Prepared and disseminated all email blasts
 - Prepared and distributed monthly Circuit Rider (email newsletter)
 - Oversight of conference data base
 - Wrote, edited, and prepared Souvenir Circuit Rider magazine for The Sessions of The Mississippi Annual Conference
 - Responsible for branding for the annual conference

In closing, Delphine and I are grateful for our 10 years of ministry with the clergy and laity of The Mississippi Annual Conference. We have been privileged to live out the core values of love, generosity, justice, and apprenticeship with the people in Mississippi and look forward to seeing what God has in store for them as they continue to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. And I am looking forward to putting into practice the lessons I have learned through my experiences with the people of Mississippi.

Gratefully submitted,
Bishop James E. Swanson, Sr.

NASHVILLE AREA
Bishop William T. McAlilly

Eugene Peterson, in his book, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society*,² captures the experience of the Nashville Episcopal Area. The faithfulness, the persistence,

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

the tenaciousness, and the deep sense of God's preferred future allowed the Tennessee and Memphis Conferences to become the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference (TWK), January 1, 2022.

This task had taken a major step forward under the leadership of Bishop Ben Chamness, who had been assigned to serve the Nashville Area ad interim in 2011 and was passed to me upon my appointment in September 2012.

In 2018, after six years of research, working on aligning duplicate committees, and fact finding, I appointed a New Conference Guide Team and an Advisory Team that drew upon leaders, lay and clergy, across the two legacy conferences to guide and reflect upon the process of forming the new conference. In total, nearly 1000 people across the two legacy conferences were engaged in the process.

We were able to celebrate the completion of this great work with the adoption of the Plan of Union and the resolution for unification by the Southeast Jurisdiction Delegates at the called Jurisdictional Conference in July of 2021.

Since January 1, 2022, we have been living into the new conference more fully by engaging in the continued work of aligning committees, boards, and agencies, and creating processes and systems which help to complete our greater mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

We adopted a new ministry structure patterned after the general church with the establishment of a Connectional Table that works to keep the mission, vision, and values of the TWK at the forefront of our connected ministry. The five strategy teams— Administration, Equip, Discover, Connect, and Send provide the basis for our structure. Ministry partners, mission initiatives, and the strategies of the conference are assigned to one of these five teams based on the context and focus of their ministry.

Much of the work of the Connectional Table and the associated Strategy teams has been helping the legacy conference teams, entities and committees to become one through affirming common values and aligning strategies with our common mission and purpose. While in some ways, the work has been slow and steady, we are beginning to see the flywheel take its early revolutions as Jim Collins reminds us in his book, *Good to Great*.

Living in covenant with each other is becoming a common practice for our boards, agencies, and ministry teams, as well as in local churches. Shepherding collaboration and witnessing the breaking down of isolated and siloed ministry is now becoming evident. Leaders and congregations are remaining adaptive, having the experience of strengthening those muscles during the past two years. Teams are formed without baggage of legacy traditions, but with a new vision in mind. Although we are still doing a lot of learning, we are witnessing God at work in amazing new ways.

We retained the combined 9 districts of the legacy conferences in order to provide consistency and stability for the local churches across the area as we grow toward further unity and stronger relationships in the new conference. We anticipate the completion of an exploration into the future geographical makeup and number of districts in our conference by July 1, 2023.

2022 Journal of Proceedings

The mission of the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference remains the same as it was for the legacy conferences that came together. That is, “to discover, equip, connect, and send lay and clergy leaders who shape congregations that offer Jesus Christ to a hurting world, one neighborhood at a time.” This mission helps to complete the greater mission of the United Methodist Church.

In the work of accomplishing this mission we hold the following values:

1. The local church is the primary disciple making center.
2. Transparency and integrity in our communication.
3. Seek a purposeful and more generous way to love.
4. Courage to explore possibilities and take risks by being nimble, experimental, permitting failure, and staying the course.
5. Empowering all leaders and enabling leaders with gifts and graces for the task.
6. Seeking input from both people and useful data.
7. Welcoming diversity, rooted in Christ, by expressing a deep love for one another and celebrating differences.

Our mission and values will be lived out as we seek to accomplish four strategic initiatives which include:

1. To develop transforming clergy and lay leaders
2. To invest and empower young (18-35 y/o) and diverse people.
3. To engage the mission field through partnering with communities.
4. To create fruitful and faithful congregations.

In June, at the inaugural session of the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference the Holy Spirit was present as we celebrated this new beginning. The conference focused on these words from Psalm 46:1,4-7

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble... There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. ⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. ⁶ The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. ⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

As well as these from the Book of Revelation 22:1-2:

... the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

For many years, the Tennessee River was a dividing line between the legacy conferences. In this time, we now see that there is a vast river system in Tennessee and Western Kentucky in which all rivers are connected and serve as a symbol of uniting us through the visible waters that flow through our area but also spiritually as the living water of Christ flows through each of us as acknowledged at our Baptism. We truly are “one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry...”

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

We concluded the inaugural session of the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference with the following benediction attributed to William Sloane Coffin:

May the Lord Bless you and keep you.

May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

May God give you grace not to sell your selves short,

Grace to risk something big for something good.

Grace to remember that the world is now too dangerous for anything but truth, and too small for anything but love. May God take your minds and think through them.

May God take your lips and speak through them.

May God take your hands and work through them.

May God take your hearts and set them on fire.

May it be so.

Bishop William T. McAlilly

Nashville Episcopal Area

November 2, 2022

NORTH GEORGIA AREA Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson

It is a joy for me to report that there is excitement and enthusiasm across the North Georgia Conference. In a world that is hurting and hungry for hope and grace, our clergy, laity, local congregations, and ministries are responding. Our single most important goal is to introduce each and every person to Christ and his love.

At the start of my assignment in the North Georgia Conference, conference leadership and I set a vision for alignment of mission, stewardship, and resources. Today we are experiencing the fruit of that work, even as it continues to unfold. After a great deal of study, the Annual Conference voted in 2020 to support a new eight-district structure drawn in a mission-focused manner reflective of today's North Georgia Conference and the communities we serve. The eight new districts, reduced from 12, follow county lines and each contains a similar number of churches. Every new district includes some high-growth counties. Population (as well as population growth) is balanced between the districts. This change that has now been fully implemented is saving the Conference upwards of \$1 million annually.

Through excellent, ongoing financial stewardship, there is firm footing for The United Methodist Church in North Georgia. The apportionment budget has been reduced each year of this extended quadrennium for the purpose of allowing more resources to remain at the local church level. These reductions have been accomplished through the new district structure, by reducing budget line items, and utilizing reserve funds. The 2023 apportionment budget is the lowest in 20 years.

2022 Journal of Proceedings

In addition to allowing more resources to remain at the local church level, we are asking churches, “What might God be calling your church to do?” and investing in the answer. This quadrennium, the North Georgia Conference launched a new initiative to distribute funds from the sale of closed church property in an equitable, accountable manner to fund ministry initiatives across all eight districts. The Barnes Fund, overseen by a newly formed committee, has a robust process in place for granting the funds. The Barnes Fund has invested more than \$1,806,869.00 in innovative mission and ministry since its inception.

We are intentionally cultivating new faith communities for the purpose of moving people into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Some of these new places resemble existing church styles, and others are gatherings that create authentic, Christian communities in secular places. We have seen new faith opportunities and communities develop through Fresh Expressions, new church plants, multi-campus expansions, and strategic mergers.

Diversity is among the richest blessings of the North Georgia Conference. Our communities have a wide range of race and ethnicities; churches in rural, urban, and suburban areas; younger and older congregations; and large and small membership churches. United Methodists in North Georgia worship in English, Spanish, Korean, Portuguese, and Vietnamese! With this diversity in mind, I appointed our Conference’s first Director of Inclusion and Advocacy. This work is foundational to our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ, from all communities, for the transformation of the world.

Nearly half of my 6-year tenure in North Georgia has been walking together through the challenges and changes of the COVID-19 pandemic. Churches rose to the challenges, catapulting ahead in their use of technology, re-envisioning their facilities, and turning outward to serve their communities in ways we haven’t seen before.

The North Georgia Annual Conference held successful virtual sessions in 2020 and 2021. And in 2022, 1,800 United Methodists gathered in Athens, Georgia for a conference session that felt like a homecoming!

At Annual Conference we adopted five areas of focus to guide the Conference through 2024. They are:

- Scriptural Literacy and Imagination
- Health and Wellbeing
- Community Engagement
- Racial Justice and Healing
- New Faith Opportunities and Communities

I am grateful to be serving Christ and fulfilling the mission with the people of the North Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

RALEIGH AREA Bishop Leonard Fairley

God's Generosity in all Seasons has been the 2016-2020 ministry focus of the North Carolina Conference, with four unfolding annual emphases on God's abundant provision in all places, in all creation, with all people, and in all worship. We see and celebrate God's goodness as we read and proclaim God's word, as we share life in Christ together, and as we engage in Christ's mission in all the world.

The mission focus statement of the North Carolina Conference continues to be *Healthy Congregations and Effective Leaders in Every Place making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.*

Strengthening leadership is a central priority. The Center for Leadership Excellence resources the conference with Days of Learning, the Leadership Fellows, the Impact Rural Church Program, the Black Church Renew and Connect Program, Focused Support for Clergywomen, Preaching Well retreats, and increased offering of webinars to increase access for lifelong learning. Continued partnerships with Duke Divinity School and The Duke Endowment include Thriving Rural Communities and Hispanic House of Study. We report with thanksgiving the call of many persons to lay and clergy leadership. In this quadrennium, we celebrate the commissioning of 71 as Hispanic lay missionaries, 5 deaconesses and home missionaries; the licensing of 114 as local pastors, the commissioning of 67 as probationary members, and the ordination of 64 deacons and elders.

Gary Locklear, Conference Lay Leader and Home Missionary, is a remarkable leader in Lay Ministries and Disaster Recovery Ministries. 35 Servant Lay Ministers and over 1000 Lay Servant Ministries are now trained. A vital conference youth program features training of youth and adult youth leaders as well as conference events - Kaleidoscope, Summer Breakaway, Annual Conference Session for Youth, Global Vision, Youth Mission Workteam, and Pilgrimage, the annual capstone event drawing an average of 5000 youth for a November weekend of inspiration, connection and mission. Increased numbers of youth are lay members of the Annual Conference, and resolutions demonstrating youth engagement in Christian witness in the world are regularly submitted to the Annual Conference for discussion and decision.

We give focused attention to the health of congregations. 50 trained and active Conflict Transformation Ministers lead the growing ministry of over 115 consultations to date, helping churches engage well the conflict which is a natural yet challenging aspect of life together. A Sexual Ethics Response Team is re-created, trained and available for service. Opportunities for training, equipping and coaching are offered to laity and clergy and congregations.

The North Carolina Conference continues to be a denominational leader in the planting of new churches. We focus simply and profoundly on *planting* and *renewing*. 12 Anchor Churches are engaged in planting new faith communities, and 18 congregations are in discernment toward anchoring of a church plant. We are a strategic partner for Path 1's *Churches Planting Churches* initiative. Over 100 Wesleyan Small Groups incorporate over 1200 people in our curriculum and practice called *Good Friends* which locates discipleship within the discipline of holy friendship. The New Room Society, an order of 56 lay and clergy members with 24 more in discernment, is devoted

2022 Journal of Proceedings

to apostolic hospitality, centering on common prayer, common practices and common learning. We celebrate these new ways of ordering of our ministry of church planting yielding the chartering of 6 new churches, the planting of 8 new campuses from Anchor Churches, and 9 new pioneer faith communities.

With the Western North Carolina Conference, we share ministries with children in public schools: Congregations for Children and United Methodists Advocating for Public Schools. 85% of our churches are engaged in providing basic necessities for students, literacy support through tutoring and summer reading programs, training adults (particularly men) to volunteer, and helping people understand the effects of poverty on the learning lives of students. We are committed to advocacy in the state legislature for public policy that supports public education, children, teachers and school staff and administration.

Hurricanes Matthew in 2016, Florence 2018, Michael in 2018 and Dorian in 2019 devastated communities across our annual conference. A staff of 85 have lead volunteer efforts in 15 centers in eastern North Carolina, receiving as of 3/1/2020, 26,873 volunteers offering assistance valued at \$22,598,330. The youth of the conference garnered in one year \$567,361 for Disaster Response. The youth effort was supported by a generous match by CFA up to \$500,000. In total \$12,230,000 has been raised by the North Carolina Conference for our rebuilding recovery efforts, inclusive of all offerings and refundable grants.

Our strong connection to public schools in our communities served as a vital link in the aftermath of successive hurricanes. United Methodists leaders and others created FAST-NC (hurricane funds to assist students and teachers). The fund reached over \$1,050,000 and was distributed in grants to teachers for replacement of teaching supplies, books, band instruments, playgrounds, and athletic equipment.

We lament persistent racism and are deeply committed to anti-racism and multicultural ministry. Each district has an anti-racism team creating experiences to deepen our historical understanding particularly in regard to white privilege, and to equip our churches for faithful ministry with all people. Shared experiences are enriching this effort: journeys to sites of pain and hope in North Carolina and beyond, participation in public advocacy for all people, an annual Crossroads Anti-Racism Retreat, a growing partnership with AMEZ Church, common reading and coaching by civil rights veterans and prophetic mentors.

In this season of particular challenge in regard to the unity of the church, we have convened gatherings to help laity and clergy connect, be informed, pose questions and concerns, share hopes, and move forward together into the future. We remain committed to the United Methodist connection.

The Global outreach of the North Carolina Conference is extensive, with partnerships and efforts such as Project AGAPE in Armenia, Ganta Mission Station in Liberia, Rotifunk Hospital in Sierra Leone, Pilgrimages to US-Mexico border, Peru Covenant, and Vietnam Mission Initiative. We celebrate the approval of Partners in Ministry in Laurinburg as a National Project by the UMW in 2019.

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

We are committed to social holiness, as evidenced by our collaborative work with immigrants and refugees through a legal aid clinic, the creation of a JFON Clinic (Justice For Our Neighbors), and a Creation Care Team with 30 trained EarthKeepers, leading us in community gardens and creation care ministries. We have engaged with military service members and their families, with retreats and resources for churches.

The North Carolina Conference has the long and unique strength of raising funds a year ahead for the current year's budget. Strongly connectional, our conference supports General Church apportionments in full. We celebrate achieving the fully-funded status in regard to retiree pension and health insurance plans.

Technology continues to be used in new and innovative ways. Eight districts are led by district superintendents who lead as district mission strategists, supported by a central district office staff.

We celebrate a lively and effective ministry of Communications: weekly *Connections* email with a video message from the Bishop and ministry updates, the launching of three new podcasts (nccumc.fm), implementation of a new communications strategy with conference offices and districts, videography including a Women in Ministry video reaching over 164,000 views, continuation of the Every Day Grace television show, and expansion of communications staff to better implement marketing and communications channels in Disaster Recovery Ministries (nccumc.org/disaster).

Church Transformation Ministries, funded with support from The Duke Endowment, helps churches envision their legacy and the connection maximize resources for mission. Congregations engage in discernment and long-range planning to discern a path of revitalization, redevelopment, or legacy. These church transformations strengthen the health, fruitfulness, and missional stewardship of the conference while providing consistency, continuity, and coordination amid denominational transformation.

Pilgrimage is valued as a path to spiritual growth. Journeys with God and one another have included pilgrimages to Israel and Palestine, McAllen and Reynosa, Brownsville and Matamoros, Lindesfarne and Iona, Guatemala for Spanish-language immersion, Washington DC for learning at the National Museum of the American Indian and the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and Seneca Falls and Auburn, NY, to engage the history of the struggles for abolition of slavery and for the right to vote for women.

It is a great privilege and honor to serve in ministry in The North Carolina Conference. In the words of Psalm 84, "they go from strength to strength." May it be so, now and always.

Hope Morgan Ward, Bishop, Raleigh Area, 2016-2021

RICHMOND AREA
Bishop Sharma D. Lewis

The Virginia Annual Conference focus in 2016-2020 has been on casting and implementing the new conference vision. The vision of the Virginia Annual Conference *is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve.*

Therefore, the first year of the quadrennium involved me visiting all 16 districts and hosting the Bishop's Chat and Chew Sessions with clergy and laity. This was a time for praying, sharing and listening. After the sessions, we compiled the data which was essential in casting the new vision. During the 2017 annual conference, the theme "A New Thing," provided the opportunity and excitement for introducing the new vision. The Bishop's Steering and Strategic Collaboration Teams analyzed all data collected from the Bishop's Chat and Chew. The Bishop's Steering Team utilized the SLI3 (Spiritual Leadership Institute – Loving, Learning and Leading) model to discover, develop and deploy the next steps. In addition, a strategic planning consultant was hired to assist the Strategic Collaboration Team in strategizing the transformative work in implementing the vision. This process brought energy to the Office of Connectional Ministries and as a result, several new initiatives, caucus workgroups and events were created. It also led to a 3-Minute Stir Video explaining the new vision and the strategic process. The Latino/Hispanic clergy caucus, and the Immigration and Outreach Workgroup were formed as well as a conference-wide initiative of reading the Bible in a year was established. The conference took an active role in utilizing the model of Fresh Expressions to revitalize new congregations. The annual conference has welcomed (13) new faith communities since 2017.

2017-2018

The Bishop's Steering and Strategic Collaboration Teams continued to work on the implementation of the vision. Furthermore, the Office of Connectional Ministries continued the work of the Four Areas of Ministry Focus of The United Methodist Church: *Overcoming Poverty Together, Seeking Health and Wholeness for All, Leading Where God Calls and Making New Disciples in New Places.* The conference hosted the first Bishop's Convocation on Race and Reconciliation and the Virginia Conference Immigration Seminar. The conference continued to take a leading role in Disaster Response, UMCOR and missionary support. We have a strong partnership with our Central Conferences providing mission and missionaries to Mozambique, Cambodia, Brazil and Africa University known as Partnerships of Hope. In addition, we collaborated with GBHEM, West Ohio Annual Conference, Ginghamburg Church and East Africa Annual Conference (Burundi) in teaching and implementing the Course of Study for East African pastors.

Bishop's Chat and Chew (2.0) regional meetings were designed to share the progress of the Steering and Strategic Collaboration Teams. Simultaneously, the Commission On The Way Forward (COWF) released their final report. The Virginia conference clergy, laity and delegation took an active role in studying and engaging the work of the COWF to prepare for the upcoming Special General Conference. The annual conference theme in 2018 was "Servant Leaders Making A Difference." The conference engaged in the first "Great Day of Service" in Hampton, Virginia. 1637 clergy and laity participated in approximately (55) projects consisting of a Stop Hunger Now packaging event, prayer walking, ramp installations, painting, cemetery and school clean up and gardening.

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

2018-2019

The Virginia Annual Conference delegation met several times to prepare for the Special General Conference of 2019. The Bishop's Way Forward Workgroup was established to examine several critical areas (communication, pension and health benefits, foundation/development corporation, credit union, appointments, etc.) as we approached the Special General Conference.

Unfortunately, in December 2018, I was diagnosed with a degenerative hip disease that caused me to take a six-month medical leave. During this leave, I had four hip surgeries along with rehabilitation and outpatient therapy. I want to thank the Virginia Annual Conference clergy and laity for their love and support. I want to thank the Virginia Cabinet, the conference staff and Interim Bishop Peter Weaver for their leadership while I was recovering. Finally, I want to thank the Southeastern Jurisdiction and the General Church for their many expression of love during my medical leave. I was blessed to experience The United Methodist Church Connection at its best! The Bishop's Steering Team and the Bishop's Way Forward Workgroup continued to meet while I was on medical leave. The 2019 annual conference theme was "Moving Forward in God's Mission." The theme allowed us to reflect on the Great Commission that Christ gave us and provided a space to participate in our first 5K Walk, Run, Bike and Yoga Event. These events allowed an opportunity for fitness, fellowship, and fundraising in the Roanoke City Community.

2019-2020

In 2019-2020, The Office of Connectional Ministries and Clergy Excellence realigned to support the vision and to function more efficiently. The restructuring of the Office of Connectional Ministries developed three new positions that aligned with the conference vision. As a result, the Associate Directors of Lifelong Learning, Influencing and Serving Ministries were established. In addition, the administrative staff workload was combined and a Digital Media Specialist position was added to Connectional Ministries. The work of the Bishop's Steering and Strategic Collaboration Teams ended as The Office of Connectional Ministries became fully aligned with the vision of the annual conference and transitioned from development to deployment with the vision

In March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic hit the country and we were challenged to do church differently and keep the annual conference safe and informed. I took an active and comprehensive role in leading the conference through this pandemic. Several groups were created: 1) *In-Person Worship Workgroup* – A workgroup comprised of district superintendents, clergy, laity, church leaders, medical and legal professionals prepared a comprehensive plan. Our plan included: a handbook, Technical Assistance Manuel (TAM) and visual presentations for churches to address how to approach returning to worship; 2) *Mission and Ministry Workgroup* – A workgroup comprised of district superintendents, clergy, laity and church leaders that developed policies and guidance to the conference faith communities equipping them to execute mission and ministry during the pandemic; and 3) *Post COVID Re-entry Workgroup* – This workgroup incorporated members of the two current workgroups. This workgroup began the proactive work of resourcing churches for ministry in the post-pandemic environment. The workgroup continued to focus on assisting churches to engage in safe practices as they conducted in-person worship and ministry. Lastly, the conference was a part of Governor Ralph Northam's Faith-based Community Cohort. The cohort met frequently during the pandemic to be updated on the actions and executive orders of Governor Northam.

2022 Journal of Proceedings

The death of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and the racial unrest all over the country led us to take an active and comprehensive role in dismantling racism and community policing. The conference “Call to Action” initiative led to the birthing of The Racial Reconciliation and Justice Workgroup, the creation of the “The Virginia Roots, Race and Discipleship Curriculum” and the collaboration with Attorney General Mark Herring on community policing. The 2020 annual conference theme was “See All the People.” Because of the pandemic, we hosted our first virtual annual conference at Woodlake United Methodist Church, in Richmond, Virginia.

2020-2021

In the last quarter of 2020, the DAT (District Alignment Team) was established to address this questions: *“How can districts most effectively order themselves for the adaptive challenges of the 21st century in order to facilitate our vision of local churches developing disciples as lifelong learners who influence others to serve?”* There were six recommendations from the DAT that reflected the perspectives of clergy and laity around the annual conference collected through the diligent use of surveys, interviews with conference leaders, best practices from other annual conferences and recent emerging demographics of the Virginia Annual Conference. The 2021 annual conference did not affirm the DAT’s recommendations.

The 2021 conference theme was “United As One.” Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual conference planning team decided to host the second virtual conference at Reveille United Methodist Church, in Richmond, Virginia.

2021-2022

The 2021-2022 focus of the Virginia Annual Conference was to continue to discern and design a new district organizational and leadership structure by reducing districts from sixteen to eight. As the District Alignment Team (DAT) concluded its work, I reframed our district alignment strategic planning through a new team named the District Initiative (DI). The purpose of the District Initiative was to create a contextual framework for the new districts that would best support and resource our churches and communities to share the love of Christ in real, tangible and transformative ways. While the 2021 annual conference did not affirm the DAT’s recommendations, the 2022 annual conference fully embraced the District Initiative after a vital yearlong season of adaptive leadership.

The 2022 annual conference theme was “United As One In Worship.” There was added excitement to be back in-person and the conference challenged our members by hosting a 5K Walk, Run and Bike Event.

Currently, the conference is engaged in working through the Boy Scouts sexual misconduct cases and The UMC disaffiliation process.

The Gospel of Luke 12:48 states, “To whom much is given, much will be required.” As an annual conference, we are held responsible for what God has blessed us with and it is expected that we share our blessings. In 2020, the pandemic negatively impacted our apportionment collection to 74.28% To God’s glory in 2021, we collected 80.65.%

I am grateful for the privilege of serving Jesus Christ, for the last six years, with the wonderful people of the Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodists Church.

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

SOUTH GEORGIA AREA **Bishop David W. Graves**

It has been my joy and honor to serve the South Georgia Annual Conference this past year.

In 2016, Bishop R. Lawson Bryan was assigned to South Georgia. The understanding at that time was that he would have four years to serve before reaching mandatory retirement age for bishops. Because the global pandemic prevented the meetings that were necessary to elect new bishops, Bishop Bryan was given the opportunity to serve an additional year. He has said that the fifth year was a gift for which he will always be grateful.

For five years, Bishop Bryan emphasized Ephesians 2:5, “even though we were dead in our trespasses, God made us alive together in Christ.” For five years, South Georgia explored what it means to be Alive Together in Christ: in worship; in the world; in witness; and alive together at the table.

God truly did create us to be Alive Together in Christ, and I am thankful I get to see firsthand the richness and aliveness of God at work through the people called United Methodists in the South Georgia Conference. Our local churches – through our faithful clergy and laity – are daily seeking to fulfill our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Together Bishop Bryan and conference leadership determined that in this unusual season of the church South Georgia needed processes more than programs. Programs come and go; processes are ways of living together that serve to refresh us and renew us for the mission of Christ in the world. So, together, South Georgia introduced processes and groups such as: OnBoarding, Appreciative Inquiry, Strengths Finder, Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI), the Compass Group, the Leadership Forum Task Force, the Laity Cabinet, the Bishop’s Emerging Leadership Initiative, and Conscious Culture Building. These are propelling South Georgia forward, and they will continue to do so in the years ahead.

South Georgia has been through conference staff restructure and realignment of resources all in efforts to support the local church and be good financial stewards of the money entrusted to us.

South Georgia experienced a long season of major destruction following Hurricane Matthew in 2016, straight line winds and tornadoes in 2017, and Hurricane Michael in 2018. With two hurricanes less than two years apart and storms in between and after, South Georgia United Methodist congregations had ample opportunity to show hospitality to their neighbors, open their doors as shelters, put together cleaning kits, send monetary gifts, and offer refuge to evacuees. Our Early Response Teams were trained and ready to then go into these communities to clean, tarp, and chainsaw. The connection was seen in these immediate needs and also in the long-term recovery efforts established in these communities. South Georgia provided caseworkers, training, and funding to assist those in the affected communities so they could recover, then grow and thrive in the aftermath of the disaster. We are thankful to South Georgia Conference’s Disaster Response ministry, the churches in these communities, and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) for responding to the needs.

2022 Journal of Proceedings

In 2020, the South Georgia Conference established a mission partnership with the North Katanga Annual Conference. An exploratory team traveled to North Katanga in 2019, and funds have been allocated to assist with various ministries. As the South Georgia Conference continues to live into being an Acts 1:8 conference by our local, regional and worldwide ministry connections, we look forward to seeking more ways we can be in partnership with North Katanga and Bishop Mande Muyombo, resident bishop of the North Katanga Area.

As the nation dealt with racial unrest over the last quadrennium, South Georgia became a focal point after the murder of Ahmaud Arbery in Feb. 2020 in Brunswick, GA. As the trial for the three men convicted of murder ensued over the next years, I am thankful for the pastoral and lay leadership of our Brunswick-area churches who sought to help people express themselves in a spirit of peace. Everyone wants justice. Yet, we are reminded in times like these that we live in an unjust world. As followers of Jesus, we are reminded that mercy, grace, forgiveness, and love must abound amid the injustices of this world. However, we must strive to eliminate the injustices that continue to happen to people, especially people of color.

Our camping and retreat ministries continue to be an impactful, life-changing and challenging place where youth grow closer in their relationship with Christ.

Creativity and collaboration were a primary focus throughout the pandemic as staff worked together to resource churches through online trainings, online worship services, and online Annual Conference sessions. As churches pivoted to virtual platforms for worship, Sunday School and Bible studies, resources were offered for technology and groups were connected in unprecedented ways. These connections fostered creative ideas, think tanks, and encouragement as new ways to do ministry during challenging circumstances were navigated and explored.

We have set three priorities for South Georgia:

1. Resourcing the local church in ways that refocuses our energies on mission and ministry
2. Dismantling racism and focusing on social justice in our communities
3. Creating a culture that gives priority to mental health for clergy

Several strides have already been made around these areas this year. We have created “Restart” cohorts, a Task Force on Diversity, Inclusion, and Vitality, and a Task Force on Clergy Mental Health.

I do not take lightly the responsibility to lead an Annual Conference through the uncertain times we find ourselves in. I have witnessed the graciousness of South Georgia as we have navigated denominational conversations, voting on church disaffiliations, and conducting special called sessions. Yet, despite all that is going on around us, I am excited about our focus on mission and ministry and the great work we will be doing in connection with one another as we move forward.

When the announcement came that I would be serving South Georgia, people asked me repeatedly what I thought about serving as bishop of two Annual Conferences. My response was, “It is going to be A Great Adventure!”

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Every day has been an adventure. I give thanks to God for all He has done in my life and in the lives of the laity and the clergy in the South Georgia Annual Conference. The words of the Psalmist ring so true, “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever” (Psalm 23:6).

Bishop David Graves

**SECTION VI. Historical Material
Sessions on the Jurisdictional Conference**

Session	Where Held	Date	Secretary
First	Municipal Auditorium Asheville, NC	May 22-27, 1940	Lud H. Estes
Second	Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, Atlanta, GA	June 22-26, 1944	Lud H. Estes
Third	Township Auditorium Columbia, SC	June 30-July 4, 1948	Lud H. Estes
Fourth	American Legion Auditorium Roanoke, VA	June 25-29, 1952	Lud H. Estes
Fifth	George R. Stuart Auditorium Lake Junaluska, NC	July 11-15, 1956	Lud H. Estes
Sixth	George R. Stuart Auditorium Lake Junaluska, NC	July 13-17, 1960	Don A. Cooke
Seventh	George R. Stuart Auditorium Lake Junaluska, NC	July 8-12, 1964	Charles D. White
Eighth	George R. Stuart Auditorium Lake Junaluska, NC	July 24-28, 1968	W. Carleton Wilson
Ninth	George R. Stuart Auditorium Lake Junaluska, NC	July 11-16, 1972	Charles D. White
Tenth	George R. Stuart Auditorium Lake Junaluska, NC	July 13-15, 1976	Charles D. White
Eleventh	George R. Stuart Auditorium Lake Junaluska, NC	July 15-19, 1980	Alvis A. Waite, Jr.
Twelfth	George R. Stuart Auditorium Lake Junaluska, NC	July 17-22, 1984	Alvis A. Waite, Jr.
Thirteenth	George R. Stuart Auditorium Lake Junaluska, NC	July 12-16, 1988	Alvis A. Waite, Jr.
Fourteenth	George R. Stuart Auditorium Lake Junaluska, NC	July 14-18, 1992	Charles D. White, Jr.
Fifteenth	George R. Stuart Auditorium Lake Junaluska, NC	July 16-19, 1996	Charles D. White, Jr.

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Session	Where Held	Date	Secretary
Sixteenth	George R. Stuart Auditorium Lake Junaluska, NC	July 12-15, 2000	Joetta F. Rinehart
Seventeenth	George R. Stuart Auditorium Lake Junaluska, NC	February 26-28, 2001	Joetta F. Rinehart
Eighteenth	George R. Stuart Auditorium Lake Junaluska, NC	July 14-17, 2004	Joetta F. Rinehart
Nineteenth	George R. Stuart Auditorium Lake Junaluska, NC	July 16-19, 2008	Joetta F. Rinehart
Twentieth	George R. Stuart Auditorium Lake Junaluska, NC	July 18-20, 2012	Remer L. Brady III
Twenty-first	George R. Stuart Auditorium Lake Junaluska, NC	July 13-15, 2016	Anne S. Travis
Twenty-second	Harrell Center Auditorium and virtually Lake Junaluska, NC	July 21, 2021	Anne S. Travis
Twenty-third	George R. Stuart Auditorium Lake Junaluska, NC	November 2-4, 2022	Anne S. Travis

SECTION VII. Jurisdictional Documents

PLAN OF ORGANIZATION AND RULES OF ORDER

(As adopted by 2022 SEJ Conference)

PLAN OF ORGANIZATION

I. OPENING SESSION

The Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church shall assemble according to the provisions of the 2016 *Book of Discipline* (§¶ 24, 26, 27) (or *Book of Discipline* as it may hereafter be amended) and the law of the Church at a place within the bounds of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church.

A. Presiding Bishop

Following the administration of Holy Communion by the Bishops of the Southeastern Jurisdiction, the conference shall be called to order by a Bishop of the Southeastern Jurisdiction as determined by the College of Bishops; this Bishop shall preside during the first session of the same.

B. Seating of Special Groups

Members of the Judicial Council of the United Methodist Church residing within the bounds of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference shall be seated on the platform of the Jurisdictional Conference and allowed the same Per Diem and travel as elected delegates, and they shall be without vote.

The general or executive secretaries of the general boards and agencies of the church who are members of the annual conferences within the bounds of the Southeastern Jurisdiction and who are not elected members of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference shall be seated within the area of the conference and shall have the privileges of the floor on matters affecting the interests of their boards and agencies, but without vote, and at the expense of their respective boards and agencies.

C. Roll Call and Order of Business

The following order of business shall be observed:

1. The secretary of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference shall call the roll in the following manner:

- a. The names of the Bishops of the Southeastern Jurisdiction and of the delegates-elect of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference who have died since the adjournment of the preceding Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference.
- b. The names of the Bishops of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

c. The roll of delegates shall be called by annual conferences. The chairperson of each delegation shall be provided with a blank form on which to report in writing the attendance of its members, noting absentees and substitutions, which reports shall be tabulated by the secretary and published in the Daily Christian Advocate. Any reserve seated in the place of a regular delegate by his/her Annual Conference shall meet the requirements set forth in *The Book of Discipline* 2016 of The United Methodist Church (§§ 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 514). Delegates, including reserves, when the latter are substituted for a delegate or delegates, shall be seated in the order of their election. Each Delegation Head will certify daily that his/her delegation is properly seated on a form provided by the Conference Secretary.

2. A majority of the whole number of delegates elected to the Jurisdictional Conference shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business (§ 518, 2012 *Discipline*). At the conclusion of the roll call, the secretary shall announce whether or not a quorum is present.

3. The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order, prepared by the Committee on Plan of Organization, shall be submitted to the conference for its action and determination.

4. The College of Bishops shall present a nomination from the clergy or laity membership of the United Methodist Church within the Southeastern Jurisdiction for secretary designate. Other nominations shall be permitted from the floor. The Agenda Committee shall schedule the time of election. The election, if there are two or more nominees, shall be by ballot with a majority of the votes cast being required for an election. The secretary designate shall assume the responsibilities of the office of secretary as soon after the adjournment of the Jurisdictional Conference as all work in connection with the session, including the preparation, printing, and mailing of the journal, has been completed. The exact date of the transfer or responsibility to the secretary designate shall be determined by the College of Bishops, but shall not be later than six (6) months after the adjournment of the Jurisdictional Conference. Other details about the Conference Secretary position include:

a. That the Conference Secretary shall be a part-time, paid position.

b. That the Senior Effective Bishop, the CCA Chair, and CCA Vice-Chair serve as the direct supervisors of the Conference Secretary.

c. That the Conference Secretary:

- i. Coordinate the considerable functions associated with planning, executing and reporting on the quadrennial session;
- ii. Act in executive/administrative role assisting the Committee on Coordination and Accountability as it fulfills its important work; and,
- iii. Oversee a communications system to connect jurisdictional constituents.
- iv. Respond to the frequent inquiries for information or action that comes from persons located within the Jurisdiction. (Inquires range from complaining about a position of the church, about some media story, about some action by a pastor, district superintendent or Bishop. Also, calls are received from persons who have some desire to purchase abandoned church property.)

2022 Journal of Proceedings

5. The College of Bishops shall present nominations for the administrative committees, and such other nominations as are hereinafter committed to them, for election by the conference.
6. Election of Bishop(s) (2016 *Discipline*, ¶ 27.2).
7. Election of Committee on Episcopacy for the ensuing quadrennium (2016 *Discipline*, ¶ 50).
8. Election of the Committee on Appeals for the ensuing quadrennium (2016 *Discipline*, ¶2716.1) and the Committee on Investigation for the ensuing quadrennium (2016 *Discipline*, ¶ 2703).
9. Miscellaneous business.
10. Adjournment.

II. EPISCOPAL MESSAGE

The College of Bishops and the Program/Arrangements Committee may schedule the hearing of the quadrennial message of the College of Bishops.

III. LAITY ADDRESS

The Program/Arrangements Committee may schedule a Laity Address for the quadrennial session. When scheduled, the Jurisdictional Association of Conference Lay Leaders will designate the presenter(s) for the address.

IV. PRESIDING OFFICERS AND SECRETARIAL STAFF

- A. The effective Bishops of the Southeastern Jurisdiction shall preside over the sessions of the conference in an order determined by the College of Bishops.
- B. The secretary of the Jurisdictional Conference as elected shall serve as herein provided.
- C. The conference shall elect, upon the nomination of the secretary, such assistant secretaries from the clergy or laity membership of the United Methodist Church within the Southeastern Jurisdiction, as it may deem wise.
- D. If in the interim of the Quadrennial Sessions of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, the office of secretary shall for any reason be vacated, the College of Bishops of the Southeastern Jurisdiction shall elect a successor.

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

V. COMMITTEES

A. The SEJ Committee on Coordination and Accountability

The SEJ Committee on Coordination and Accountability (also known as CCA) is assigned the task of overseeing the work and ministry of the United Methodist Church across the jurisdiction (*Book of Discipline*, ¶530). The responsibilities and function of the committee will include:

1. Having limited power, but with authority, to act between sessions of the Jurisdictional Conference on matters such as ratifying the election of Trustees or Directors for entities requiring such action (e.g., Emory University Trustees and SEJ Agencies and ongoing ministries) and ratifying By-Laws changes of SEJ Agencies and Ongoing Ministries;
2. Being the legal body of the Jurisdiction and guardian of the SEJ title and logo;
3. Focusing on the mission and ministry of the United Methodist Church within the Jurisdiction;
4. Coordinating and/or confirming the program of the General Agencies within the Jurisdiction (*Book of Discipline*, ¶529);
5. Providing financial oversight of the Jurisdiction and its ministries. The CCA will form a subcommittee from within its membership to work directly with the Jurisdictional Treasurer in carrying out this aspect of its work, with CCA receiving full reporting and maintaining responsibility for any decision-making not reserved by the Jurisdictional Conference. (See subcommittee on Finance duties);
6. Receiving regular reports from the subcommittee on Finance, the SEJ Agencies, and jurisdictional groups for mission and ministry; and
7. Relating to and holding accountable groups mandated by *The Book of Discipline*, Jurisdictional Agencies, Networking Groups, Monitoring Groups, and Existing Groups organized and functioning within the Jurisdiction (See below, “Definitions”) and maintaining Covenant Agreements with the Jurisdictional Agencies and Existing Ministries.

MEMBERSHIP: There shall be one representative from each Annual Conference. The membership shall be comprised of the following positional representation:

- 2 Bishops
- 2 Conference Directors of Connectional Ministries or equivalents
- 2 Conference Lay Leaders
- 2 Annual Conference Treasurers
- 6 At-large members with expertise and for inclusiveness

(The SEJ Nominating Committee shall work to achieve balance in representation, as far as possible, by considering lay/clergy, female/male, and ethnic participation. Additionally, clergy representation from local church settings is encouraged.)

2022 Journal of Proceedings

All members shall be elected by the Jurisdictional Conference upon nomination by the SEJ Nominating Committee in consultation with the Bishops, Directors of Connectional Ministries, Lay Leaders, and Conference Treasurers, to identify their representatives and ensure that each annual conference be represented on the committee. Vacancies occurring during the quadrennium shall be filled by the College of Bishops.

The Jurisdictional secretary and the Jurisdictional treasurer shall be ex-officio members, without vote, on the CCA. The secretary shall be the staff person assigned duties for and on behalf of the committee. The treasurer shall manage the Jurisdictional treasurer's office, carry out accounting duties necessary for the Jurisdiction, and assist CCA and the subcommittee on Finance in providing general oversight of its financial duties found below.

The Executive Directors of the Jurisdictional Agencies, Disciplinary Groups, and Ongoing Groups (Ministries) may be invited to attend meetings of the CCA for connections, accountability, and information sharing (voice but without vote).

The Committee shall elect its own officers. Either a Bishop or lay leader shall serve as the chairperson on a rotating basis for a two-year term. (For example, if a lay leader is chairperson for two years, a Bishop will serve as vice-chairperson, with the next two-year term reversed.) The Jurisdictional Conference Secretary shall arrange an organizational meeting at a time and place determined by the President of the SEJ College of Bishops, who shall be or shall name the convener of the meeting.

The committee shall meet at least annually, with called meetings held as necessary. Telephone conference meetings and audio/video-conferencing are acceptable. Those present at a duly announced meeting will constitute a quorum, provided at least one-third of the CCA membership is present.

Subcommittee on Finance and Administration

Guidelines for the CCA and its subcommittee on Finance shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. The ministry of the jurisdiction requires a unified budget with one Treasurer's office, which will serve as the primary place for receipts and disbursement of funds. The subcommittee on Finance shall receive and review audits of the Agencies and Jurisdictional groups for mission and ministry and any other matters approved in the Covenant Agreements. Finally, the Treasurer's office will work with the subcommittee on Finance to propose a quadrennial jurisdictional budget and will provide for the operations and financial expenses for the meeting of the Jurisdictional Conference.

- a. The subcommittee on Finance shall be composed of three (3) members from CCA; one of whom shall be laity, one of whom shall be clergy, and one shall be a Conference Treasurer. The SEJ Conference Treasurer will be an ex officio member of this subcommittee.
- b. It is recommended that the CCA consider ethnic background, the place of both men and women, the place of adults and youth, and that ability and experience be

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

recognized when appointing this subcommittee. The subcommittee will elect its own chair.

c. CCA shall nominate to the Jurisdictional Conference currently in session a treasurer who, on being duly elected by the conference, shall be an ex-officio member of the Committee. If for any reason the office of treasurer shall become vacant during the interim of the sessions of the Jurisdictional Conference, the Committee shall elect a treasurer, following due consultation with the College of Bishops. The Committee may at any time remove the treasurer from office for cause.

2. The CCA shall have general oversight of all funds included in the Jurisdictional Conference budget. The treasurer shall render to the CCA and/or its subcommittee on Finance quarterly statements of receipts and expenditures and a quadrennial report to each succeeding quadrennial session of the Jurisdictional Conference covering in detail receipts and expenditures for the quadrennium preceding. The treasurer shall be bonded through a suitable bond of a surety company of recognized standing and in an amount fixed by the subcommittee.
3. The subcommittee on Finance shall meet at least annually, or on the call of the chairperson of CCA or the chairperson of the subcommittee, or of a majority of the members thereof. Telephone conference meeting and audio/video-conferencing are acceptable.
4. No member or employee of any group or any trustee or employee of any institution, which is a beneficiary of the Jurisdictional Conference budget, shall be eligible for membership on the Committee. The expense of the Committee shall be paid out of the Jurisdictional Conference Expense Budget.
5. It shall be the duty of the subcommittee to make a careful study of the expense of administration and the causes that may properly be included in the annual Jurisdictional Conference budget, and to recommend to each succeeding quadrennial session of the Jurisdictional Conference for its action and determination an annual budget, showing the share of each Annual Conference in the total. The budget as adopted shall be the Jurisdictional Conference budget for the ensuing quadrennium, including annual budgeted amounts for the ensuing quadrennium, and the apportionment to each Annual Conference as finally determined by the Jurisdictional Conference shall be its annual share in the said budget. Only such items as are distinctly related to the work of the jurisdiction shall be included in the Jurisdictional budget. The jurisdictional treasurer shall transmit annually to the treasurer of each Annual Conference, not less than 120 days prior to the regular annual meeting of each Annual Conference, a statement of the amount apportioned such Annual Conference for Jurisdictional causes. The Annual Conference shall apportion the same among the charges of the conference in such manner as it may determine. The Annual Conference treasurer shall remit each month to the treasurer of the jurisdiction the amount on hand for Jurisdictional causes.
6. The fiscal year of the Southeastern Jurisdiction shall be January 1 through December 31. All jurisdictional financial accounts shall be kept accordingly.

7. The CCA may give authority to its treasurer to borrow funds from any reputable bank or trust company to meet any obligation of the Jurisdictional Conference duly authorized in the regular annual budget of the conference; provided, the outstanding indebtedness shall at no time exceed twenty-five percent of the annual budget. The Conference treasurer and/or Conference secretary are authorized to sign previously approved banking or loan documents on behalf of CCA.

8. Should any urgent and pressing need arise that had not been anticipated in fixing the jurisdictional budget, and in the judgment of the subcommittee is an emergency, the CCA may alter the percentage allowance or grant to any or all committees or agencies receiving funds from Jurisdictional Conference apportionments, or may increase the apportionments to the several annual conferences of the jurisdiction to meet the emergency, provided such action is approved by a three-fourths vote of the Committee.

9. The CCA shall include in the proposed Jurisdictional budget recommended to the Jurisdictional Conference for its actions and determination the following items:

a. The Jurisdictional Conference Expense Budget, which shall provide for the expense of the quadrennial meeting of the Jurisdictional Conference, or any called meetings of the same, and the expense incurred in the preparation of such meeting.

b. The Jurisdictional Operating Budget, which shall make provision for the expense of the Jurisdictional personnel in the performance of the stated duties and for the expense of meetings of the committees of the Jurisdiction as defined in Section V. Items in the Administrative Committee budget for salaries and other administrative costs shall be a prior claim against the jurisdictional fund each month.

c. Other items which in the judgment of the CCA should be included in the annual Jurisdictional Operating Fund.

Definitions

A number of groups, committees, and councils across the jurisdiction will be related to and accountable to the Jurisdictional Conference through the SEJ Committee on Coordination and Accountability. These groups fall into one of five categories.

1. Disciplinary Groups – Two primary groups and/or events are mandated by *The Book of Discipline*: there “shall be” a jurisdictional Commission on Archives and History, and there “may be” a jurisdictional Ministries with Young People Convocation. A system for regularly reporting, coordinating, and overseeing their work will be developed in consultation with the SEJ Committee on Coordination and Accountability.

There are also jurisdictional organizations for United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men. However, according to *The Book of Discipline*, these two entities are directly

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

accountable to the national United Methodist Women and the General Commission on United Methodist Men, respectively.

2. Agencies—Three agencies shall be located within the bounds of the Southeastern Jurisdiction: (1) Lake Junaluska Assembly; (2) Hinton Rural Life Center; and, (3) Gulfside Assembly. Each one of these three agencies own property within the bounds of the Jurisdiction and will maintain its own Board of Directors (ratified by SEJ Conference and – between sessions – by the Committee on Coordination and Accountability) that will function as trustees of the property and the ministry. Each Board of Directors will determine the plan of organization and structure for the work and the mission of the agency and will follow all reporting requirements of the jurisdiction. By-Laws changes are to be reviewed and ratified once per quadrennium by the Committee on Coordination and Accountability.

In this jurisdictional plan, each of the three agencies will have its own Executive Director. Working with the Board of Directors, this person will assist in determining and hiring the appropriate number of staff persons, along with determining the necessary position descriptions. Ultimately, each agency – through its Board of Directors – will be accountable to the Jurisdictional Conference through the Committee on Coordination and Accountability and shall file a quadrennial report, including a budget, a business plan, a ministry plan, and Board of Directors for the upcoming quadrennium to be ratified by the Jurisdictional Conference. When requested by the Committee on Coordination and Accountability, these Agencies shall also file an annual report of the same information.

The three Agencies shall be asked to maintain a Covenant Agreement with the SEJ Committee on Coordination and Accountability for mutual understanding of roles and responsibilities.

3. Monitoring Groups – The Book of Discipline requires a jurisdictional organization for both the Commission on Religion and Race and the Commission on the Status and Role of Women and requires a Jurisdictional connection with these two General Commissions.

Lines of accountability and oversight of their monitoring work will be through the SEJ Committee on Coordination and Accountability. In addition, it is expected and requested that the monitoring function also be applied to SEJ Committee on Coordination and Accountability, both in its membership and participation.

4. Networking Groups – These informal, ad-hoc groups arise among conference leaders and staff. They share common interests, concerns, and ministry-related areas. These groups may gather periodically to benefit from interaction with peers, to develop contacts, and to exchange information. The understanding is that all Annual Conferences will be invited to participate but doing so will be strictly voluntary. Funding for travel and expenses shall be the responsibility of each participating Annual Conference. Each Networking Group will be responsible for its own life and will have no jurisdictional staff persons assigned.

5. Existing, Established, Ongoing Ministries – Several groups and organizations provide much needed ministry, training and outreach within the jurisdiction. There are currently two

established ministries: (1) Intentional Growth Center and (2) UMVIM. These ministries will be accountable to the Jurisdiction through the Committee on Coordination and Accountability. Each ministry will have its own Board of Directors and/or Advisors, which will be reviewed and ratified annually by the Committee on Coordination and Accountability. By-Laws are to be reviewed and ratified once per quadrennium by the Committee on Coordination and Accountability. Each group will be self-supporting and will file annual reports on the ministry, vision, and results of their programming with the Committee on Coordination and Accountability and a quadrennial report to the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference..

B. Nominating Committee

There shall be a committee who will serve as a Nominating Committee to consider nominations for the general boards and agencies and designated Jurisdictional Committees. There shall be two persons from each conference, one of whom shall be a lay delegate and one of whom shall be a clergy delegate, elected to this committee by the Annual Conference delegation. At least two weeks prior to the conference, the members of the Nominating Committee shall be provided with:

1. A list of the names of the persons being offered by each Annual Conference to the Jurisdictional pool for consideration as members of the respective program boards, commissions, councils, and agencies. These shall be listed by categories on a form prescribed by the General Conference Secretary. Each person's ethnic background shall be indicated (e.g., Native American, Asian, African-American, etc.). An asterisk shall be placed by the name of any person who is an incumbent and who is eligible for re-election, together with the name of the agency on which he/she is serving.
2. A recommendation of procedure to be followed by the Nominating Committee.
3. A reminder that the Nominating Committee shall not only seek to maintain insofar as possible the recommendations of the *Book of Discipline* for having one-third representation each of clergy, lay women, and lay men on general church agencies, with attention given to including youth, young adults, older adults, racial and ethnic persons, persons with handicapping conditions, and persons from small-membership churches, but that these same provisions shall be applicable to the total number of nominations made from each Annual Conference to the agencies of the general church.
4. A list of the total number of nominees to which each Annual Conference is entitled to the agencies of the general church other than those which the Discipline specifically mandates. These numbers shall correspond to the percentage of members, rounded off to the nearest whole, which each Annual Conference has of the total members of the jurisdiction; notwithstanding the above, the Red Bird Missionary Conference shall be represented in the nominations. In compiling this list, the following nominations shall not be included: those which come from recommendation of the United Women in Faith for the General Board of Global Ministries, those for the National Council of Churches, and those which come from another agency or group and are only reported by the Nominating Committee. The information from the annual conferences shall be in the hands of the Jurisdictional

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Conference Secretary no later than June 20. The members of the committee shall bring preference sheets and biographical data for prospective nominees to the first meeting of the committee from the respective conferences. The Nominating Committee shall be convened for organizational purposes at the site of the conference by the president of the College of Bishops of the jurisdiction at 2:00 p.m. three days prior to the opening of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference. Per Diem expenses for the Nominating Committee shall be provided for the extra days. Nominations shall be in the hands of the conference at a minimum of three hours before being presented for election.

C. Committee on Episcopacy

The membership of the Committee on Episcopacy shall consist of one clergy and one lay delegate to the Jurisdictional Conference from each Annual Conference elected by the Jurisdictional Conference upon nomination of their respective Annual Conference delegations (§524.1 of *The Book of Discipline*). Each quadrennium, the Committee shall be officially constituted with the election of officers and begin its work at the conclusion of the previous quadrennium's jurisdictional conference session. The committee will continue its work through the conclusion of the following jurisdictional conference when the new committee is constituted.

The sitting Committee on Episcopacy shall report to the conference the church membership statistics of the Southeastern Jurisdiction and the number of Bishops to which the Jurisdiction is entitled on the basis of church membership and shall recommend to the conference the number of Bishops to be elected and the process and manner of their election (cf. Rule 17). The committee shall perform such other duties as are set forth in §§406.1, 524 of *The Discipline*.

The Committee will recommend minimum housing guidelines for every episcopal residence committee in the Jurisdiction.

D. Committee on Appeals

There shall be a Committee on Appeals elected in accordance with §2716.1 of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*.

E. Committee on Investigation

There shall be a Committee on Investigation elected in accordance with §2703 of *The Book of Discipline*.

F. Administrative Committees

Nominations to the administrative committees shall be printed in the first edition of the Daily Christian Advocate.

2022 Journal of Proceedings

1. Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order

There shall be a committee of five, known as the Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order, of which the secretary and treasurer of the conference shall be ex-officio members. The committee shall be convened by the conference secretary or designee until a chairperson is elected. To this committee shall be referred any proposed amendments to the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order (see Rule 38). This committee shall restudy the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order between sessions of the Jurisdictional Conference and, after making such needed changes and adaptations therein as in their judgment are necessary, shall present them to the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference for consideration and final action. Any recommendation by the committee as to the organization of the standing committees, their names, number, and responsibilities (except the Committee on the Episcopacy) shall be transmitted to the secretary prior to the convening of the Jurisdictional Conference. The secretary shall notify the head of each delegation the standing committees as recommended by the Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order so that delegates may make their choice of committee assignments. The committee shall have the authority to consult with various persons and agencies in the exercise of this authority. The Plan of Organization and Rules of Order of the preceding Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, thus adopted and published in the journal, shall be the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order until they have been altered or amended by the action of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

2. Committee on Journal

There shall be a committee of three, known as the Committee on Journal, which shall examine the record of the secretary daily during the session. Any error subsequently discovered in a section of the journal materials, which has been verified, shall be corrected.

3. Agenda Committee

There shall be a committee of five, known as the Agenda Committee. The senior effective Bishop and the Conference Secretary shall be two of the committee members. It shall be the responsibility of this committee to see that all items of business required by The Discipline of the church are brought to the attention of the Jurisdictional Conference. Any consideration, proposal, resolution, or communication, which does not clearly refer to the business of the Jurisdictional Conference, as prescribed in the Discipline shall be referred to the Agenda Committee, which shall determine whether or not it shall be presented to the conference and also whether it shall be printed in the Daily Christian Advocate. The Agenda Committee shall report to the Jurisdictional Conference the disposition made of all matters, which have been referred to the Committee. The Agenda Committee shall consult with the Committee of Chairpersons regarding the inclusion of standing committee reports on the agenda of the conference.

No petition shall be assigned to any Jurisdictional Conference committee unless it comes from some organization, clergy person, or member of The United Methodist Church and contains information essential to the verification of the alleged facts concerning its origin. All

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

petitions shall be presented to the Conference Secretary. Each should deal with only one general subject. All petitions requiring funding shall be so designated and the amount to be specified. Petitions with financial implications shall be referred to the Southeastern Jurisdictional Committee on Coordination and Accountability for their review and recommendation to the conference. All petitions shall be in the hands of the secretary of the conference no later than fourteen days prior to the opening of the conference.

The Agenda committee shall receive all petitions dealing with the regular business of the conference and, after ascertaining that they meet the requirements herein specified, shall distribute them among the several committees according to their respective responsibilities. It may also withhold from reference or publication any document it shall deem improper, promptly advising the author or authors thereof of its action in order that an appeal may be made to the conference, if desired.

When the Agenda committee determines that the particular item of business does not naturally flow toward an existing committee, it shall authorize the creation of an ad hoc committee to deal with this particular item. Upon authorization, the Conference Secretary will contact each delegation leader with a description of the business item and a meeting time and place for the committee (including the possibility of a conference call prior to the convening of conference). The delegation leader will be asked to designate one delegate to represent his/her annual conference on the ad hoc committee. The Conference Secretary or designee shall convene the meeting until a chairperson is elected. The ad hoc committee will consider the item of business and prepare a recommended action for conference's consideration.

4. Committee on Program and Arrangements

There shall be a Jurisdictional Conference Program and Arrangements Committee composed of one Bishop, who shall be chairperson; a district superintendent designated by the Bishop; the Secretary of the Jurisdictional Conference; the Treasurer of the Jurisdictional Conference; the chairperson Committee on Coordination and Accountability; the president of the jurisdiction United Women in Faith or designee; the president of the jurisdiction United Methodist Men or designee; and the chairperson of the Jurisdictional Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders or designee; the chairperson of the sitting Committee on Episcopacy or designee; and five (5) others who may be selected to insure inclusivity and expertise. The Bishop serving on this committee shall be selected in the order of seniority from the effective Bishops of the jurisdiction. The duties of the committee shall be to arrange the program and logistics for the Jurisdictional Conference, other than that covered by the Plan of Organization. It shall be established policy of the Southeastern Jurisdiction to have a program that will present to the conference a challenge on behalf of the work of the church in its worldwide mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The Conference Secretary will organize a team to execute the program planned and the logistical needs of the conference following the guidance of the Committee on Program and Arrangements. Members of this team will be invited to Committee meetings as determined by the senior Bishop and Conference Secretary.

5. Committee on Chairpersons

There may be one or more meetings of all committee chairpersons as determined by the Agenda committee. Such meetings may seek to coordinate and streamline the business of the conference or seek to resolve inter-committee disagreements or difficulty. The secretary of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference shall convene the Committee of Chairpersons.

6. Tellers

There shall be a committee to act as tellers for the purpose of assisting with the ballots ordered by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference. The committee shall be composed of one clergy and one laity delegate from each of the annual conferences in the Southeastern Jurisdiction. For purposes of this committee only, reserve delegates may be nominated by their delegation and elected as balloting tellers. The committee shall be divided into two groups of fifteen each. In case of emergency, additional tellers may be drafted into service from among the delegation membership.

G. Financial Implications

The SEJ Conference shall submit any petition or proposal requiring funding from committees, organizations or individuals to the Committee on Coordination and Accountability (CCA) for study and recommendations prior to consideration. Submissions shall be made no later than 6:00 PM of the day prior to the CCA report.

VI. DELEGATES' EXPENSE ACCOUNTS

A. The report of the Delegation Head shall be the basis for settlement with principal and reserve delegates for their Per Diem allowance.

B. Travel expense for delegates and first lay and clergy reserve to the conference shall be reimbursed as directed by the conference upon recommendation of the Committee on Coordination and Accountability. The total travel expense shall be payable to the principal delegate if he/she be present and seated. If during the session of the conference a reserve beyond the first lay or clergy reserve must be seated in his/her place, he/she shall adjust the travel expense with such reserve on the basis of the time served by each.

VII. EDITORIAL CHANGES

The Conference Secretary may make editorial changes to the Plan of Organization or Rules of Order whenever there is a need to update Disciplinary references or law, or to clarify language without changing the meaning or intent. Any proposed editorial changes must be approved by two-thirds of the Rules Committee.

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

RULES OF ORDER

I. AGENDA

Rule 1. Agenda.

(1) The senior effective Bishop and the Conference Secretary, in consultation with the College of Bishops and the Program/Arrangements Committee, will develop the agenda.

(2) The proposed agenda will be published in pre-conference materials and placed before the conference for adoption in the opening session.

(3) Once adopted, the Agenda Committee may propose modifications as circumstances may dictate. The conference will be notified of foreseen adjustments in as timely a fashion as possible.

Rule 2: Worship. Each quadrennial session will begin with an opening worship service. Additional worship experiences will be conducted periodically during the session.

II. PRESIDING OFFICERS

Rule 3. The Bishop presiding shall be legal chairperson of the Jurisdictional Conference. He/she shall decide points of order raised by the members as he/she deems necessary to conform to these Jurisdictional Conference Rules of Order, subject to an appeal to the conference by any member without debate; except that the chairperson and the appellant, in the order here named, shall each have three minutes for a statement in support of his/her position. A tie vote in the case of an appeal shall sustain the chair. When any member raises a point of order, he/she shall cite by number the rule he/she adjudges to have been violated. The Bishop presiding when the committee is created, unless otherwise directed by the conference, or as directed by the plan of organization, shall name the members of any special committee. (See Rule 38.)

Rule 4. When the chairperson stands in his/her place and calls the conference to order, no member shall speak, address the chair, or stand while the chairperson stands.

III. RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS

Rule 5. Attendance and Seating Reserves. No member, unless hindered by sickness or otherwise, from being present, shall be absent himself/herself from the sessions of the conference without permission of the conference, and all absentees shall be reported by the chairperson of the several Annual Conference delegations to the Conference Secretary. Reserve delegates will be seated as necessary. Each Delegation Head will certify daily that his/her delegation is properly seated on a form provided by the Conference Secretary (Plan of Organization, I. C. (1) c).

Rule 6. Directions for Securing the Floor. When a delegate desires to speak to the conference, he/she shall arise at his/her seat, respectfully address the presiding officer, and, after recognition, proceed to

2022 Journal of Proceedings

the speaker's platform or to the nearest microphone, where, before speaking, he/she shall state his/her name and the Annual Conference from which he/she comes.

Rule 7. Interrupting the Speaker. No member who has the floor may be interrupted except for a breach of order, or misrepresentation, or to direct the attention of the conference to the fact that the time has arrived for a special order, or to raise a very urgent question of high privilege.

Rule 8. Speaking More Than Once. No member shall speak a second time on the same question if any member who has not spoken desires the floor, nor more than twice on the same subject under the same motion, nor longer than three minutes unless his/her time shall be extended by the conference, except as provided in Rule 37. This three-minute limit may be reduced by a majority vote of the conference at any time, and for any period of duration. Note: Any eligible elder, who is not a nominee in the episcopal election process and who receives 10 or more votes on any ballot, will be permitted to address the conference for no more than 10 minutes.

Rule 9. Question of High Privilege. A member claiming the floor at any time for what he/she believes is a very urgent question of high privilege shall be allowed to indicate briefly the nature of the question, as if it be adjudged by the chair to be such he/she may proceed at his/her pleasure, or until the chair judges that he/she has exhausted the privilege.

Rule 10. Voting Area of Conference. Only delegates within the area of the conference when the vote is taken shall be entitled to vote. All delegates within the area at the time a question is put shall vote, except such as have been excused for special reasons by the conference.

Rule 11. Method of Voting. Voting shall be by a show of hands unless otherwise ordered by the conference. An "Aye" and "No" vote by written ballot or a count vote may be ordered on call of any member and supported by one-third of the members present and voting. Ballots and count votes will be taken by electronic voting device when available at the conference session. No other business shall be in order when a vote is being taken, or when the previous question has been called, until the process is completed, except such as relates to the vote itself, or that which can be appropriately fitted into the time while waiting for the report of the secretaries on a count vote, or an "Aye" and "No" vote (see Rule 26 (2)). When a count vote is ordered, and electronic voting devices are unavailable, the count shall be made by the chairperson of the delegation, who shall report to the secretary of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference the number of those in the delegation voting for and voting against a motion or a report.

Rule 12. Division of Question. Before a vote is taken, any delegate shall have the right to call for a division of any question, if it is subject to such division as he/she indicates. If no delegate objects, the division shall be made, but if there is an objection the chair shall put the question of division to vote, not waiting for a second.

IV. BUSINESS PROCEDURE

Rule 13. Motion for Adoption of Reports and Resolutions Unnecessary. Whenever a report of a committee, signed by the chairperson and secretary thereof, or a resolution signed by two or more members of the conference shall be presented to the conference for its action, it shall be deemed in

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

proper order for consideration by the conference without the formality of a motion to adopt and a second thereto.

Rule 14. Required Forms for Reports, Resolutions, Motions, and Amendments. All resolutions and committee reports shall be presented in triplicate and electronically, and when requested by the secretary, motions, including amendments, shall be presented in writing.

Rule 15. Reading of Reports and Resolutions. All resolutions, committee reports, and communications of the conference may be read by the secretary, if determined by the conference, except as otherwise provided in Rule 31.

Rule 16. Alteration of Motions, Etc. When a motion is made and seconded and stated by the chair, or a resolution is introduced and seconded, or a committee report is made or is published in the Daily Christian Advocate, it shall be deemed in possession of the conference and may not be altered except by action of the conference (see Rule 31). Introductory, accompanying, or explanatory material shall not be subject to debate or amendment, nor be considered to have been acted upon by the conference upon adoption of the motion or proposal itself, unless accompanied by a specific motion that such material is included in the action of the conference.

Rule 17. Episcopal Election Process

(1) The sitting Committee on Episcopacy has oversight of the election process for that quadrennium. Specifically, the Committee on Episcopacy will determine and oversee the processes, policies, and covenants related to the declaring of nominees and the familiarization with nominees from the various conferences and groups. The Program/Arrangements Committee, in consultation with the Committee on Episcopacy and the College of Bishops, will determine the balloting process and logistics. Once balloting begins, the presiding Bishop shall certify the fairness of the balloting process. Once the balloting process (beginning with the first ballot and concluding with the election of the final bishop) has begun, neither committees nor persons who are not nominees shall be allowed to make reports or speeches designed to influence the balloting.

(2) An elder is elected a Bishop when that elder has received the votes of 60% of the delegates casting valid ballots in the jurisdictional conference.

Rule 18. Non-debatable Motions. The following motions shall be acted upon without debate:

- (1) To adjourn, when unqualified, except to adjourn the conference finally.
- (2) To suspend a rule or rules or any provisions of the Rules of Order.
- (3) To lie on the table, except as provided in Rule 35.
- (4) To take from the table.
- (5) To call for the previous question.
- (6) To reconsider a non-debatable motion.
- (7) To limit or extend the limits of debate.
- (8) To call for the orders of the day.

2022 Journal of Proceedings

Rule 19. Rights of the Main Question. The main question may be opened to debate under the following motions: To adopt, to commit, to substitute, to postpone, and to reconsider. No new motion, resolution, or subject shall be entertained until the one under consideration shall have been disposed of, except as provided in Rule 11. The foregoing does not apply to secondary motions if otherwise allowable in the existing parliamentary situation.

Rule 20. Precedence of Secondary Motions. If any one or more of the following motions shall be made when one or more other motions are pending, the order of their precedence in relation to one another shall be the same as the order of their listing below:

- (1) To fix the time to which the conference shall adjourn. (This motion is subject to amendment, or it may be laid on the table.)
- (2) To adjourn.
- (3) To take recess.
- (4) To raise a question of privilege.
- (5) To call for the orders of the day.
- (6) To lie on the table.
- (7) To order the previous question.
- (8) To limit or extend the limits of debate.
- (9) To postpone to a given time.
- (10) To refer.
- (11) To amend or substitute (one amendment being allowed to an amendment).
- (12) To postpone indefinitely.

Rule 21. Tabling Related Motions. No motion, which adheres to another motion, or has another adhering to it, can be laid on the table by itself. Such motions, if laid on the table, carry with them the motions to which they respectively adhere, or which adhere to them.

Rule 22. Referring a Section of Report. It shall be in order for the conference to refer to a committee a section or part of a report or resolution which is before the conference for consideration or any amendment offered thereunto.

Rule 23. Procedure for Consideration of Substitutes. When a resolution or committee report is properly before the conference for consideration and action, even if amendments thereto are pending, a delegate may offer a substitute for the resolution or report under consideration. The substitute must be an alternative to what is before the body and not simply a negation of the main motion.

The conference will first consider the substitution/alternative before the body. Debate on the motion to substitute will be limited to the question of substitution only. No amendments to the main motion or the substitute will be considered during this period of initial consideration. Following the debate on the motion to substitute, a vote on substitution will occur. If the motion to substitute prevails by majority vote, the substitute motion becomes the main motion. If the motion to substitute fails to receive a majority vote, the original main motion remains on the floor for consideration. Debate, including the offering of amendments, moves forward on the main motion as per the rules of procedure.

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

The previous question may not be put on the adoption of the report or resolution, or making the proposed substitution, until two members (including the chairperson of the committee presenting the report and the member presenting the substitute) shall have spoken.

Rule 24. Previous Question (see Rules 18 (5), 23, 25, 35). When any member moves the previous question (that is, that the vote be now taken on the motion or motions pending), he/she shall indicate to what he/she intends it to apply, if any secondary motion or motions are also pending. If he/she does not so indicate, it shall be regarded as applying only to the immediately pending question.

This motion shall be taken without debate and shall require a two-thirds vote of those present and voting for its adoption, and if adopted the vote shall be taken without debate and shall require a two-thirds vote of those present and voting for its adoption, and if adopted the vote shall be taken on the motion or motions to which it applies without further debate, except as provided in Rule 35.

Rule 25. Unlawful Motion after Speech. It shall not be in order for a member immediately after discussing a pending question, and before relinquishing the floor, to make a motion whose adoption would limit or stop debate.

Rule 26. Exceptions to Majority Vote. A majority of those voting, a quorum being present, shall decide all questions with the following exceptions:

- (1) A tie vote sustains the chair, if an appeal is made from his/her decision (Rule 3).
- (2) One third of those present and voting shall suffice to sustain a call for an "Aye" and "No" vote or a count vote (Rule 11).
- (3) A two-thirds vote shall be required to sustain a motion to suspend or amend a rule or rules or any provision of the Rules of Order (Rules 37, 38); to sustain a motion for the previous question (Rule 24); to set aside a motion for the previous question (Rule 24); to set aside a special order; to consider a special order before the time therefore; or any motion whose adoption would limit debate.

Rule 27. Reconsideration. A motion to reconsider an action of the conference shall be in order at any time if offered by a member who voted with the prevailing side. If the motion proposed for reconsideration is non-debatable, then the motion under reconsideration may not be debated.

Rule 28. Motion to Adjourn in Order, Except. The motion to adjourn, when unqualified, shall be taken without debate, and shall always be in order, except

- (1) When a delegate has the floor.
- (2) When a question is actually put, or a vote is being taken, and before it is finally decided.
- (3) When the previous question has been ordered and action there under is pending.
- (4) When a motion to adjourn has been lost, and no business or debate has intervened.
- (5) When a motion to fix the time to which the conference shall adjourn is pending. The foregoing does not apply to a motion for final adjournment of the conference.

V. COMMITTEES: DUTIES AND PREROGATIVES

Rule 29. Preparation and Presentation of Committee Reports. Every committee of the Jurisdictional Conference is hereby authorized to delegate to the chairperson and secretary of the committee the duty of preparing and presenting to the Jurisdictional Conference the action taken by the committee on any given subject, and every committee is authorized to grant to a minority of the committee the right to draft and to present to the Jurisdictional Conference a minority report without reading the same before the full committee, providing the substance of the said minority report has been stated to the committee.

Rule 30. Alterations in Restrictive Rules. Reports from committees and all other papers which propose an alteration in the restrictive rules of the church shall state that alteration proposed to be made, and the form of the motion shall be: "Will the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference recommend to the General and Annual Conferences the change indicated above?"

Rule 31. Published Reports in Possession of Conference. A report of any committee signed by the chairperson and secretary thereof shall be regarded as in possession of the conference when posted to the conference website, published in the Daily Christian Advocate, or distributed on the floor of conference. The business shall be in order for consideration at the pleasure of the conference anytime thereafter. The same rule shall apply to a report of a minority of any committee signed by one tenth of the members of the committee or by ten members thereof (see Rule 16 and Rule 23).

Rule 32. Preparation and Printing of Reports. Reports of the standing committees shall be posted to the conference website and distributed in the Daily Christian Advocate with as much advance notice as possible given the abbreviated duration of conference prior to being presented for consideration by the conference, and they shall not be read unless by its order. Reports of minorities of committees adopted by them with a view to their being offered as substitutes for committee reports shall likewise conform to this rule so far as it is applicable, indicating clearly to what committee the respective minorities belong and for what report or reports, by serial numbers, etc., they propose the respective substitutes.

Rule 33. Committee on Chairperson Not in Harmony with Report. When a chairperson of a committee is not in harmony with a report adopted by the committee, it shall be his/her duty to state the fact to the committee, which shall elect one of its members to represent the committee, and said representative shall have all the rights and privileges of the chairperson in relation to such report.

Rule 34. Presentation of Report of Minority. A member selected by the signers of a minority report of a committee to present the same shall have the same rights and privileges in relation thereto which belong to the chairperson in the presentation of the regular (majority) report of the committee.

Rule 35. Speakers For and Against. When the report of a committee is under consideration, it shall be the duty of the presiding officer to ascertain which side a speaker proposes to speak. The speaker shall not be granted the floor to speak on the same side of the pending question as the speaker immediately preceding if any member desires to speak on the other side. Except for non-debatable motions, no report shall be adopted or question relation to the same decided without opportunity having been given for a least one speech for and one against the said proposal, provided this right is claimed before the chairperson or duly authorized member representing the committee's report, of

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

the minority report if there be such, is present to close the debate. When all have spoken who desire to do so, or when (and after) the previous question has been ordered, the chairperson and/or duly authorized member or members presenting the committee's report (and the minority report, if there be one) shall be entitled to speak before the vote is taken. This right of the chairperson and/or other member or members to close the debate shall prevail in like manner to a limit of three minutes when a vote is about to be taken on a motion to amend, to substitute, to postpone, to refer, to lay on the table, or any other motion whose adoption would vitally affect the report under consideration, provided that this five minute limit shall not apply to a motion to substitute a minority report for a regular (majority) report of a committee.

Rule 36. Legal Enactment. All actions of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church shall become effective upon the adjournment of the present session of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church, unless otherwise specified.

VI. SUSPENDING, AMENDING, AND SUPPLEMENTING

Rule 37. Suspension of Rules. The operation of any of the provisions of the Plan of Organization or the Rules of Order may be suspended at any time by a two-thirds vote of the conference (see Rule 26 (3)).

Rule 38. Amending Rules. The Plan of Organization and these Rules of Order may be amended or changed by two-thirds vote of the conference, provided the proposed change or amendment has been presented to the conference in writing and referred to the Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order, which committee shall report thereon not later than the day following (see Rule 26 (3)).

Rule 39. Roberts Rules of Order, Revised: Supplemental Authority. In any parliamentary situation not clearly covered by this Plan of Organization or these Rules of Order, the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference shall be governed in its actions by Roberts Rules of Order, Revised.

2022 Journal of Proceedings

**Covenant Agreements
Between SEJ Committee on Coordination and Accountability and
SEJ Agencies and Ministries**

Gulfside Association	170
Hinton Rural Life Center	173
Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center	175
Intentional Growth Center	177
UMVIM SEJ	180

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

**A COVENANT OF MUTUAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
The Gulfside Association, a Mississippi NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION
AND
THE SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION
COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

PREAMBLE

The Gulfside Association, a Mississippi not-for-profit corporation (hereinafter referred to as the "Ministry") and **Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference Committee on Coordination and Accountability** (hereafter referred to as the "Jurisdiction ") join in this mutual Covenant Relationship Agreement to more clearly define their shared relationship so as to enhance the mission and ministry work of each.

The mission and purpose of the Ministry is the commemoration of the contribution and heritage of Blacks in the historical Wesleyan tradition in Waveland, MS which shall operate with an ecumenical spirit as an integrated auxiliary mission agency of the Jurisdiction.

COVENANT

The SEJ Committee on Coordination and Accountability will function as the liaison between the Ministry and the Jurisdiction.

- A. The Ministry is to promote furtherance of religious principles for the intellectual, moral, spiritual and physical development of persons including the promotion of the harmony, health and happiness of such persons in accordance with the laws of the State of Mississippi and *The 2016 Book of Discipline*.
- B. The Ministry is engaged in a legitimate and appropriate Christian service which is delegated to the Ministry for the sake of greater effectiveness and efficiency. The service performed by the Ministry requires both expert technical skill and Christian love, tenderness and compassion with a concern for the whole person.
- C. The relationship of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church to the Ministry is not one of ownership, operation or control of the Ministry; and further, the management of the operations of the Ministry is clearly vested in its Board of Directors/Trustees. The Board of Directors is affirmed by the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church (or the Committee on Coordination and Accountability acting on its behalf between sessions of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference).
- D. Title to property, both real and personal, shall be held solely by and under the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors of the Ministry. The parties will

2022 Journal of Proceedings

respect any applicable sections of the Trust Clause (Paragraph 2503.4 and 2503.6 in *The 2016 Book of Discipline*) and provide evidence that the title to real property as appropriate, contains a statement in Articles of Incorporation and/or By Laws of the Ministry which covers distribution of assets upon dissolution of the agency. (Bylaws Article IV Section 10)

- E. Neither the Jurisdiction nor the Ministry accepts or grants any legal or financial responsibility for the operations or affairs of the other, except as specified in this Covenant of Mutual Relationship as follows.
- F. The Jurisdiction and the Ministry are independent entities each having its own Articles of Incorporation, By Laws, governing bodies and procedures of operations.
- G. The Jurisdiction and the Ministry acknowledge and agree that neither is not and shall never be legally responsible for the acts of omission, debts, contracts, or obligations, or for any other financial commitments or obligations, or for any other financial commitments or obligations of any character or description, created, undertaken, or assumed by either, absent the express consent of both.

GUIDELINES – EXPECTATIONS OF THE JURISDICTION	GUIDELINES – EXPECTATIONS OF THE MINISTRY
1. Communicate to the Ministry the requirements and changes in <i>The 2016 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church</i> and the rules and the actions of the Jurisdiction which may affect the Ministry.	1. Conduct the work of the Ministry in harmony with <i>The 2016 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church</i> and the rules and the actions of the Jurisdiction which may affect the Ministry.
2. Permit the Ministry to use elements of the name and logo of The United Methodist Church and/or the jurisdiction, including a reference to the Mutual Covenant Relationship based upon written approval of the appropriate governing and responsible agency.	2. Abide by the rules and regulations established by the General Council on Finance and Administration of The United Methodist Church regarding use of the name “The United Methodist Church” and the “Cross and Flame” insignia of The United Methodist Church. Provide the written approval of the General Council on Finance and Administration to use the name “The United Methodist Church” and the “Cross and Flame” insignia of The United Methodist Church. ¶ 807.11.
3. Review any changes to By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation to insure that the appropriate clauses from <i>The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church</i> are included.	3. Provide to the Jurisdiction CCA a dissolution clause for real property of the Ministry which is consistent with the applicable <i>The 2016 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church</i> . Such provision is found in the “By-Laws of the Ministry.”

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

4. Receive an annual report from the Ministry.	4. Furnish an annual report to the Jurisdiction on a timely basis as requested.
5. Receive an annual audit from the Ministry.	5. Provide an annual audit to the Jurisdiction Council on Finance and Administration within 150 days after the end of the Ministry's fiscal year.
6. Receive an annual report of members of the Board of Directors and affirm new members of said Board.	6. Provide an annual report of members of the Board of Directors as requested.
7. Indemnify and hold the Ministry harmless from and against any claims, causes of action and costs (including reasonable attorney's fees) which may arise from any of the Jurisdiction operations.	7. Indemnify and hold the Jurisdiction harmless from and against any claims, causes of action and costs (including reasonable attorney's fees) which may arise from any of the Ministry's operations.
8. The Jurisdiction CCA will consult with the Ministry when the Ministry plans to establish a new facility, alter its major purpose or function, or make a plan for expansion of an existing facility. The purpose of such a consultation would be to ensure that the new institution, the new facility, the new purpose, or the expansion be in harmony with the mission of the Jurisdiction and that there not be unnecessary duplication of existing services. The consultation will include a discussion of proposed plans of development, financing and types of services to be rendered with the SEJ CFA present.	8. The Ministry will initiate efforts to consult with the Jurisdiction CCA when the Ministry plans to establish a new facility, alter its major purpose or function, or make a plan for expansion of an existing facility. The purpose of such a consultation would be to ensure that the new institution, the new facility, the new purpose, or the expansion be in harmony with the mission of the Jurisdiction and that there not be unnecessary duplication of existing services. The consultation will include a discussion of proposed plans of development, financing and types of services to be rendered with the SEJ CFA present.

This Covenant of Mutual Relationship shall be subject to review and amendment at such times and in such manner as may be mutually agreeable to the Ministry and the Jurisdiction, provided that such review is undertaken once each four years.

Approved:

By Elijah A. Hensell
The Gulfside Association
a Mississippi not-for-profit corporation

Date: 7/24/17

By William T. and Kelly
Chair, Southeastern Jurisdiction
Committee on Coordination and Accountability

Date: 10/10/17

A Covenant of Mutual Relationship

Between

Hinton Rural Life Center, a North Carolina Not-for-Profit Corporation

and

The Southeastern Jurisdiction Committee on Coordination and Accountability

Preamble

The **Hinton Rural Life Center, Inc.**, a North Carolina not-for-profit corporation, (hereinafter referred to as the "Ministry") and **Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference Committee on Coordination and Accountability** (hereafter referred to as the "Jurisdiction") join in this mutual Covenant Relationship Agreement to more clearly define their shared relationship so as to enhance the mission and ministry work of each.

Inspired by Jesus Christ, the mission and purpose of the Ministry is to engage individuals, congregations, and communities in transformation through retreat ministry and missional outreach.

COVENANT

The SEJ Committee on Coordination and Accountability will function as the liaison between the Ministry and the Jurisdiction.

- A. The Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church and the Ministry celebrate a long-standing and valuable relationship. This relationship is based on shared values of respect, compassion, diversity, spirituality, and service pursuant to the *Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*.
- B. It is understood that the Ministry, as an entity of The United Methodist Church, will abide by the applicable sections of The United Methodist *Book of Discipline* approved by the most recent General Conference of The United Methodist Church and the applicable sections of the SEJ Journal approved by the most recent Conference of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church.
- C. The relationship of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church to the Ministry is not one of ownership, operation, or control of the Ministry; and further, the management of the operations of the Ministry is clearly vested in its Board of Directors.
- D. Title to property, both real and personal, shall be held solely by and under the authority of the governing board of the Ministry.
- E. Neither the Jurisdiction nor the Ministry accepts or grants any legal or financial responsibility for the operations or affairs of the other, except as specified in this Covenant of Mutual Relationship as follows.
- F. The Jurisdiction and the Ministry are independent entities, each having its own Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, governing bodies, and IRS tax exempt status.
- G. The Jurisdiction and the Ministry acknowledge and agree that neither is, and shall never be, legally responsible for any acts of omission, debts, contracts, or financial or legal obligations.

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

- H. The Ministry will ensure appropriate language is included in its Articles of Incorporation, Charter, and/or By-Laws language related to dissolution. This will state that if the Ministry were to be dissolved all remaining assets would revert to the Jurisdiction. (See the 2016 The United Methodist *Book of Discipline* Paragraphs 2503.4 and 2503.6 for appropriate language and guidance.)
- I. Whenever possible and appropriate, the Jurisdiction will include the Ministry in its budget to assist the Ministry in fulfilling its mission and the mission of the Jurisdiction and The United Methodist Church.
- J. The Ministry will provide to the Jurisdiction an annual report summarizing its current status and accomplishments. The Ministry will determine what is most important to share based on its priorities including annual goals, strategic initiatives, strategic plans, fund raising campaigns, building programs, and financial summaries. The Ministry will also provide to the Jurisdiction a copy of its annual audit.

This Covenant of Mutual Relationship shall be subject to review and amendment at such times and in such manner as may be mutually agreeable to the Ministry and the Jurisdiction, provided that such review is undertaken once each four years.

Approved:

By Jacqueline K. Gottlieb
The Hinton Rural Life Center
A North Carolina not-for-profit corporation

Date: 9/13/17

By William T. M. Helg
Chair, Southeastern Jurisdiction
Committee on Coordination and Accountability

Date: 9/27/2017

2022 Journal of Proceedings

A Covenant of Mutual Agreement Between Lake Junaluska Assembly, Inc. and The Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church

Preamble

Lake Junaluska Assembly, Inc., a North Carolina not-for-profit corporation (hereinafter referred to as "the Assembly") and the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church (hereinafter referred to as the "Jurisdiction") join in this Covenant of Mutual Agreement to more clearly define their relationship so as to enhance the mission and ministry of each. The Committee on Coordination and Accountability of the Jurisdiction will serve as the liaison between the Assembly and the Jurisdiction.

The mission of the Assembly is to be "a place of Christian hospitality where lives are transformed through renewal of soul, mind, and body."

Clarification of Relationship

- A. The relationship of the Jurisdiction to the Assembly is not one of ownership, operation, or control; the management of the operations of the Assembly is vested entirely in its Board of Trustees.
- B. Title to all Assembly property at Lake Junaluska, both real and personal, shall be held solely by the Assembly, for use consistent with the mission of The United Methodist Church, and shall be under the authority of the Board of Trustees of the Assembly.
- C. Neither the Jurisdiction nor the Assembly accepts or grants any legal or financial responsibility for the operations or affairs of the other.
- D. The Jurisdiction and the Assembly are independent entities each having its own Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, governing bodies, and IRS tax exempt status.
- E. The Jurisdiction and the Assembly acknowledge and agree that neither entity is now nor shall be legally responsible for any acts of omission, debts, contracts, or financial or legal obligations of the other.

Mutual Commitments

As an affirmation of the historic relationship of the Assembly to the Jurisdiction and their shared commitment to assist the United Methodist Church in fulfilling its mission "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world", the Assembly and the Jurisdiction commit to the following:

- A. The leadership of the Jurisdiction will encourage organizations within the Jurisdiction to utilize the Assembly as the location for events and activities for which the Assembly is appropriately qualified to provide.
- B. The Assembly will share information with the Jurisdiction annually summarizing its current status and accomplishments. This information may include goals, strategic initiatives and plans, fund raising campaigns, building programs, and financial summaries including its annual audit.

Approved:

By McKenzie B. Howle Date: 7/20/18
McKenzie B. Howle, Chief Executive Officer, Lake Junaluska Assembly, Inc.

By Gary Locklear Date: 7/20/18
Gary Locklear, Committee on Coordination and Accountability Chair
Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Haywood County, North Carolina

I certify that the following person(s) personally appeared before me this day, each acknowledging to me that he or she signed the foregoing document: Gary Lucklear McKenzie B. Howle

Date: July 20, 2018

Karen a. Kirby Notary Signature

Karen a. Kirby Notary Printed Name

My commission expires:

(Official Seal)

1 - 7 - 2022

Karen A. Kirby
Notary Public
Haywood County, NC

**A COVENANT OF MUTUAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
THE INTENTIONAL GROWTH CENTER, A NOT-FOR-PROFIT
CORPORATION, AND
THE SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION
COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

PREAMBLE

The **Intentional Growth Center**, a not-for-profit corporation (hereinafter referred to as the “Ministry”) and **Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference Committee on Coordination and Accountability** (hereafter referred to as the “Jurisdiction”) join in this mutual Covenant Relationship Agreement to more clearly define their shared relationship so as to enhance the mission and ministry work of each.

The mission and purpose of the Ministry is to establish, erect, maintain and operate an **organization to increase pastoral and congregational effectiveness in Lake Junaluska, NC and beyond** which serves **clergy and laity** and reflects *The Book of Discipline*.

COVENANT

The SEJ Committee on Coordination and Accountability will function as the liaison between the Ministry and the Jurisdiction.

- A. The Ministry is to promote furtherance of religious principles for the intellectual, moral, spiritual and physical development of persons including the promotion of the harmony, health and happiness of such persons in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina and *The Book of Discipline*.
- B. The Ministry is engaged in a legitimate and appropriate Christian service which is delegated to the Ministry for the sake of greater effectiveness and efficiency. The service performed by the Ministry requires both expert technical skill and Christian love, tenderness and compassion with a concern for the whole person.
- C. The relationship of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church to the Ministry is not one of ownership, operation or control of the Ministry; and further, the management of the operations of the Ministry is clearly vested in its Board of Trustees.
- D. Title to property, both real and personal, shall be held solely by and under the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors of the Ministry. The parties will respect any applicable sections of the Trust Clause (Paragraph 2503.4 and 2503.6 in *The Book of Discipline*) and provide evidence that the title to real property as appropriate, contains the Trust Clause or that a statement is included in Articles of Incorporation and/or By Laws of the Ministry which covers distribution of assets upon dissolution of the agency.
- E. Neither the Jurisdiction nor the Ministry accepts or grants any legal or financial responsibility for the operations or affairs of the other, except as specified in this Covenant of Mutual Relationship as follows.
- F. The Jurisdiction and the Ministry are independent entities each having its own Articles of Incorporation, By Laws, governing bodies and procedures of operations.

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

- G. The Jurisdiction and the Ministry acknowledge and agree that neither is not and shall never be legally responsible for the acts of omission, debts, contracts, or obligations, or for any other financial commitments or obligations, or for any other financial commitments or obligations of any character or description, created, undertaken, or assumed by either, absent the express consent of both.

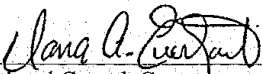
GUIDELINES – EXPECTATIONS OF THE JURISDICTION	GUIDELINES – EXPECTATIONS OF THE MINISTRY
1. Communicate to the Ministry the requirements and changes in <i>The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church</i> and the rules and the actions of the Jurisdiction which may affect the Ministry.	1. Conduct the work of the Ministry in harmony with <i>The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church</i> and the rules and the actions of the Jurisdiction which may affect the Ministry.
2. Permit the Ministry to use elements of the name and logo of The United Methodist Church and/or the Jurisdiction, including a reference to the Mutual Covenant Relationship based upon written approval of the appropriate governing and responsible agency.	2. Abide by the rules and regulations established by the General Council on Finance and Administration of The United Methodist Church regarding use of the name “The United Methodist Church” and the “Cross and Flame” insignia of The United Methodist Church. Provide the written approval of the General Council on Finance and Administration to use the name “The United Methodist Church” and the “Cross and Flame” insignia of The United Methodist Church. ¶ 807.11.
3. Review any changes to By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation to insure that the appropriate clauses from <i>The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church</i> are included.	3. Provide to the Jurisdiction CCA a dissolution clause for real property of the Ministry which is consistent with the applicable <i>Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church</i> . In the 2012 <i>Book of Discipline</i> , the relevant paragraph is 2503, item number 4. Such provision is found in the “By-Laws of the Ministry.”
4. Receive an annual report from the Ministry.	4. Furnish an annual report to the Jurisdiction on a timely basis as requested.
5. Receive an annual audit from the Ministry.	5. Provide an annual audit to the Jurisdiction Council on Finance and Administration within 150 days after the end of the Ministry’s fiscal year.
6. Indemnify and hold the Ministry harmless from and against any claims, causes of action and costs (including reasonable attorney’s fees) which may arise from any of the Jurisdiction operations.	6. Indemnify and hold the Jurisdiction harmless from and against any claims, causes of action and costs (including reasonable attorney’s fees) which may arise from any of the Ministry’s operations.


2022 Journal of Proceedings

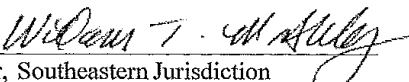
<p>7. The Jurisdiction CCA will consult with the Ministry when the Ministry plans to establish a new facility, alter its major purpose or function, or make a plan for expansion of an existing facility. The purpose of such a consultation would be to ensure that the new institution, the new facility, the new purpose, or the expansion be in harmony with the mission of the Jurisdiction and that there not be unnecessary duplication of existing services. The consultation will include a discussion of proposed plans of development, financing and types of services to be rendered with the SEJ CFA present.</p>	<p>7. The Ministry will initiate efforts to consult with the Jurisdiction CCA when the Ministry plans to establish a new facility, alter its major purpose or function, or make a plan for expansion of an existing facility. The purpose of such a consultation would be to ensure that the new institution, the new facility, the new purpose, or the expansion be in harmony with the mission of the Jurisdiction and that there not be unnecessary duplication of existing services. The consultation will include a discussion of proposed plans of development, financing and types of services to be rendered with the SEJ CFA present.</p>
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This Covenant of Mutual Relationship shall be subject to review and amendment at such times and in such manner as may be mutually agreeable to the Ministry and the Jurisdiction, provided that such review is undertaken once each four years.

Approved:

By 
Intentional Growth Center
a North Carolina not-for-profit corporation

Date: January 22, 2017 

By 
Chair, Southeastern Jurisdiction
Committee on Coordination and Accountability

Date: May 17, 2017

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

**A COVENANT OF MUTUAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
UNITED METHODIST VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION, A GEORGIA NOT-FOR-PROFIT
CORPORATION ACTING AS A FOREIGN ENTITY IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA,
AND
THE SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION
COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

PREAMBLE

The **United Methodist Volunteers in Mission**, a Georgia not-for-profit corporation acting as a foreign entity in the State of Alabama (hereinafter referred to as the "Ministry"), and **Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference Committee on Coordination and Accountability** (hereafter referred to as the "Jurisdiction") join in this mutual Covenant Relationship Agreement to more clearly define their shared relationship so as to enhance the mission and ministry work of each.

The mission and purpose of the Ministry is to inspire change in the world; to inform, connect, and equip volunteers; and to interact as servants of Christ to transform the world through Christian love in action. UMVIM, SEJ maintains the international Project list for the denomination and shares that information with the other jurisdictions and the Global Ministries Mission Volunteers office. The UMVIM, SEJ exists to help Christians fulfill their call to discipleship by connecting them to identified opportunities and preparing them for mission service.

COVENANT

The SEJ Committee on Coordination and Accountability will function as the liaison between the Ministry and the Jurisdiction.


- A. The Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of the United Methodist Church and the Ministry celebrate a long-standing and valuable relationship. This relationship is based on shared values of respect, compassion, diversity, spirituality, and service pursuant to the *Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*.
- B. It is understood that the Ministry, as an entity of The United Methodist Church, will abide by the applicable sections of the United Methodist *Book of Discipline* approved by the most recent General Conference of the United Methodist Church and the applicable sections of the SEJ Journal approved by the most recent Conference of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the of the United Methodist Church.
- C. The relationship of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church to the Ministry is not one of ownership, operation, or control of the Ministry; and further, the management of the operations of the Ministry is clearly vested in its Board of Directors/Trustees. The Board of Directors/Trustees is affirmed by the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church.
- D. Title to property, both real and personal, shall be held solely by and under the authority of the governing board of the Ministry.
- E. Neither the Jurisdiction nor the Ministry accepts or grants any legal or financial responsibility for the operations or affairs of the other, except as specified in this Covenant of Mutual Relationship as follows.

2022 Journal of Proceedings

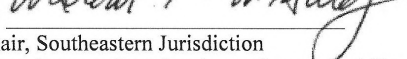
- F. The Jurisdiction and the Ministry are independent entities each having its own Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, governing bodies, and IRS tax exempt status.
- G. The Jurisdiction and the Ministry acknowledge and agree that neither is not and shall never be legally responsible for any acts of omission, debts, contracts, or financial or legal obligations of the other.
- H. The Ministry will ensure appropriate language is included in its Articles of Incorporation, Charter, and/or By-Laws language related to dissolution. This will state that if the Ministry were to be dissolved all remaining assets would revert to the Jurisdiction. (See the 2016 United Methodist *Book of Discipline* Paragraphs 2503.4 and 2503.6 for appropriate language and guidance.)
- I. Whenever possible and appropriate, the Jurisdiction will include the Ministry in its budget to assist the Ministry in fulfilling its mission and the mission of the Jurisdiction, and the United Methodist Church.
- J. The Ministry will provide to the Jurisdiction an annual report summarizing its current status and accomplishments. The Ministry will determine what is most important to share based on its priorities including annual goals, strategic initiatives, strategic plans, fund raising campaigns, building programs, and financial summaries. The Ministry will also provide to the Jurisdiction a copy of its annual audit.

This Covenant of Mutual Relationship shall be subject to review and amendment at such times and in such manner as may be mutually agreeable to the Ministry and the Jurisdiction, provided that such review is undertaken at least once each four years.

Approved:

By 
The United Methodist Volunteers in Mission
A Georgia not-for-profit corporation acting as
foreign entity in the State of Alabama

Date: 10/4/2017

By 
Chair, Southeastern Jurisdiction
Committee on Coordination and Accountability

Date: 5/2/2017

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

BY-LAWS AND ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

**Articles of Incorporation
Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc.**



**NORTH CAROLINA
Department of the Secretary of State**

To all whom these presents shall come, Greetings:

I, Elaine F. Marshall, Secretary of State of the State of North Carolina, do hereby certify the following and hereto attached to be a true copy of

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

OF

**SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH, INC.**

the original of which was filed in this office on the 9th day of April, 2015.



Scan to verify online.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal at the City of Raleigh, this 9th day of April, 2015.

Elaine F. Marshall

Secretary of State

Certification# C201508600226-1 Reference# C201508600226-1 Page: 1 of 7
Verify this certificate online at www.secretary.state.nc.us/verification

SOSID: 1438757
Date Filed: 4/9/2015 2:03:00 PM
Elaine F. Marshall
North Carolina Secretary of State
C2015 086 00226

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
OF
SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, INC.,
A NONPROFIT CORPORATION**

The undersigned hereby makes and acknowledges these Articles of Incorporation for the purpose of forming a nonprofit corporation under and by virtue of the laws of the State of North Carolina, as contained in Chapter 55A of the General Statutes of North Carolina, entitled "Nonprofit Corporation Act," and the several amendments thereto (hereinafter the "Act"), and to that end do hereby set forth:

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of the corporation is Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc.

ARTICLE II

Registered Office and Agent and Principal Office

The street address of the corporation's initial registered office and principal office is 700 Waterfield Ridge Place, Garner, Wake County, North Carolina 27529, and the mailing address of said offices is the same address. The name of the corporation's initial registered agent at the corporation's registered office is Christine Dodson. The corporation may have offices at such places, either within or outside the State of North Carolina, as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine.

ARTICLE III

Incorporation

The name and address of the incorporator is Spruillco, 301 Fayetteville Street, Suite 1900, Raleigh, North Carolina 27601.

ARTICLE IV

Purposes

The purposes for which the corporation is organized shall include, without limitation, the following:

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

(a) To serve those purposes required or permitted by *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2012*, as it may hereafter, from time to time, be amended (hereinafter "*The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*"), and the plan of organization and rules of order adopted from time to time by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church.

(b) To be a nonprofit, religious corporation organized exclusively for religious purposes as a jurisdictional conference of The United Methodist Church, to support the doctrine of The United Methodist Church, and to declare itself and all of its property subject to the law, usages and ministerial appointments of The United Methodist Church as more fully provided in *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*.

(c) To receive, hold and disburse gifts, devises, bequests and donations of money and property, both real and personal, from any person, firm, corporation, trust or estate, and to use, administer, invest, donate and distribute such funds and properties for charitable, educational and religious purposes.

(d) To intervene and take all necessary steps to safeguard and protect the interests and rights of the corporation, the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference and its membership in all matters; and

(e) To take any and all actions which are now, and which may during the existence thereof be, conferred by law upon a corporation with a similar character, and which are necessary or incident to the accomplishment of the purposes of the corporation; provided, however, that such activities are limited to those charitable, educational or religious purposes which are permitted to be conducted or carried on by an organization exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as those provisions are now or hereafter amended, and the Regulations now or hereafter promulgated thereunder, and are not inconsistent with *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*.

ARTICLE V

Membership and Capital Stock

The corporation shall have members, who shall be the lay and clergy delegates to the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, who shall be qualified, elected or appointed as provided in *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*. Voting rights and requirements for members, voting quorum requirements, acceptance of votes, and all related matters shall only be as provided to members of the corporation as they pertain to members of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church in accordance with *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, as it may hereafter, from time to time, be amended. The corporation shall have no capital stock.

ARTICLE VI

Board of Directors

The affairs of the corporation shall be managed by the Board of Directors. The number of Directors constituting the initial Board of Directors shall be three (3), and their names and addresses are as follows:

James R. Allen
Tennessee Conference of
The United Methodist Church
304 S. Perimeter Park Drive, Suite 4
Nashville, TN 37211

Christine Dodson
North Carolina Conference of
The United Methodist Church
700 Waterfield Ridge Place
Garner, NC 27529

James D. Stotts
Mississippi Conference of
The United Methodist Church
320 Briarwood Drive
Jackson, MS 39206

Upon the organization of the corporation by the initial directors, the Committee on Coordination and Accountability of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church, or any successor committee or board, regardless of name (hereinafter the "Committee on Coordination and Accountability"), shall serve as the Board of Directors of the corporation, and shall be elected and serve in accordance with the provisions of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, the plan of organization and rules of order adopted by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church. The number, qualifications and constitution of the Board of Directors, the term in office of Directors of the corporation, and their method of election, removal and replacement shall be in accordance with the provisions of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, and of the procedures, rules, and plan of organization adopted from time to time by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference as they pertain to the Committee on Coordination and Accountability. The Board of Directors shall be the legal governing body of the corporation, but shall at all times be subject and amenable to the direction of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference in accordance with *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*.

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

ARTICLE VII

Transfer of Property and Obligations to Corporation

Upon the filing of these Articles of Incorporation in accordance with *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, all the property and obligations of corporation under its former name, Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church, shall thereupon pass to, vest in, and be the rights, privileges, immunities, powers, franchises, authority, property, and obligations of the corporation; provided, however, that nothing herein shall affect the authority and obligations of Lake Junaluska Assembly, Incorporated, formerly named Southeastern Jurisdictional Administrative Council, Incorporated, in accordance with its articles of incorporation and bylaws and *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*.

ARTICLE VIII

The Book of Discipline as Constitution and Fundamental Agreement

The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church is the constitution and fundamental agreement of this corporation. The business of the corporation shall be conducted in conformity with *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* as the same now exists or as may hereafter be amended, changed, or modified. The Bylaws of the corporation shall reference *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, and no Bylaws shall be adopted inconsistent with the provisions of said *Book of Discipline*. In addition to the powers and duties granted to this corporation by *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, the corporation assumes for itself all the rights, powers and privileges and immunities which are now, and which may be during the existence thereof be conferred by law upon corporation with a similar character, provided the same are not inconsistent with said *Book of Discipline*. All amendments, Bylaws, and regulations of this corporation shall at all times be in conformity with *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*. Notwithstanding the above, at no time shall any of the amendments, Bylaws, or regulations of the corporation be prohibited by or in conflict with the Act, as it currently exists or may hereafter be amended.

ARTICLE IX

Tax-exempt Status

No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of any officer or director of the corporation, or any private corporation, association or individual. The foregoing shall not preclude the payment of reasonable compensation and benefits to such persons for services rendered in furtherance of the purposes of this corporation. No part of the activities of the corporation shall consist of carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation; nor shall the corporation participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office; nor shall the corporation engage in any activities that are unlawful under applicable federal, state

or local laws. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not conduct or carry on any activity not permitted to be conducted or carried on by an organization exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as those provisions are now or hereafter amended, and the Regulations now or hereafter promulgated thereunder.

ARTICLE X

Dissolution and Distribution

Upon the liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the corporation for any reason, or if the corporation should cease to exist as a legal entity or its charter expire or be terminated, the Board of Directors, after making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the corporation, shall arrange for the title to all of its remaining property both real and personal to be vested and be the property of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of the United Methodist Church, any successor entity pursuant to *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, or to the annual conferences which lie within the boundaries of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference in accordance with *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, or to one or more other organizations organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, literary, scientific or educational purposes which qualify as an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as those provisions are now or hereafter amended, and the Regulations now or hereafter promulgated thereunder.

ARTICLE XI

Indemnification

The Board of Directors of the corporation shall have the power to make any indemnity, including advance of expenses, to and to enter contracts of indemnity with any director, officer, employee or agent, except that it may not indemnify any person who at the time acted knowingly and clearly in conflict with the best interests of the corporation, or if the person has received an improper personal benefit from said act. Any determination as to any further indemnity shall be made in accordance with applicable sections of the Bylaws.

ARTICLE XII

No Personal Liability

Except to the extent that the North Carolina General Statutes prohibit such limitation or elimination of liability of directors for breaches of duty, no Director of the corporation shall have any personal liability arising out of an action whether by or in the right of the corporation or otherwise for monetary damages for breach of any duty as a Director. No amendment to or repeal of this article shall apply to or have any effect on the liability or alleged liability of any Director of the corporation for or with respect to any acts or omissions of such Director occurring prior to such amendment or repeal. The provisions of this article shall not be deemed

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

to limit or preclude indemnification of a Director by the corporation for any liability that has not been eliminated by the provisions of this article.

ARTICLE XIII

Amendments to Articles of Incorporation

The corporation shall have the right to amend, alter, change, or repeal any provision contained in these articles of incorporation in the manner now or hereafter prescribed by the Act, as it currently exists or may hereafter be amended, by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Directors in office, upon at least seven (7) days' written notice of the intention to alter, amend, repeal or adopt new bylaws; provided, however, that under no circumstances shall these articles of incorporation be amended so that the corporation may operate for purposes not permitted for an organization qualified as exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as those provisions are now or hereafter amended, and the Regulations now or hereafter promulgated thereunder; or in violation of the provisions of *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*; and provided, further, that no Director or other private individual may participate in the distribution of the earnings, funds, or properties of this corporation. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, these articles of incorporation may not be amended, altered, changed or repealed without the prior written approval of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, as indicated by either a vote of said Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference at a regular or special session thereof held in accordance with *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, or by a vote of the College of Bishops of the Southeastern Jurisdiction or otherwise provided by *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, the plan of organization and rules of order adopted by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has hereunto set his hand, this the 26th day of March, 2015.

SPRUILLCO, LLC, Incorporator


Wilson Hayman
Vice President

2022 Journal of Proceedings

**Organizational Meeting of the Board of Directors
Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc.**

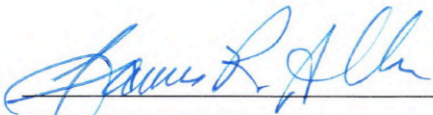
WAIVER OF NOTICE OF
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc.

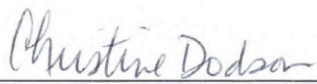
We, the undersigned, being all the Directors of the above named nonprofit religious corporation, do hereby waive notice of the time, place and purpose of the first meeting of the Board of Directors of said corporation.

We designate the 26 day of March, 2015, as the time and the corporation's principal office as the place of said meeting, the purpose thereof being to elect officers, complete the organization of said corporation, and to transact such other business as may be necessary or advisable.

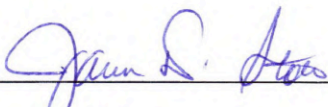
Dated: March 26, 2015



James R. Allen



Christine Dodson



James D. Stotts

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

MINUTES ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc.

The organizational meeting of the Board of Directors of the above named nonprofit corporation was held at the principal office with all members participating either in person or by telephone on the

26 day of March, 2015, pursuant to a written waiver of notice signed by all the Directors fixing said place and time and specifying the purpose of the meeting.

There were present the persons whose names appear at the end of this document, constituting the full Board.

James R. Allen was chosen temporary chairperson and James D. Stotts was chosen temporary secretary of the meeting.

The Secretary presented and read the waiver of notice of the meeting, signed by all the Directors.

The Chairperson stated that the first business to come before the meeting was the election of officers to hold office until December 31 of this year, or until their respective successors are elected and qualified, and called for nominations. The following persons were nominated to the offices of the corporation set opposite their respective names:

CHAIRPERSON	James R. Allen
VICE CHAIRPERSON	Christine Dodson
SECRETARY	James D. Stotts
TREASURER	David Dommissie

All the Directors present having voted, the Chairperson announced that the aforesaid persons had been elected to the offices set before their respective names. The duly elected Chairperson thereupon took charge of the meeting and the Secretary entered upon the discharge of his/her duties.

Upon motion, duly made, seconded and carried, it was **RESOLVED**, that the seal, an impression of which is herewith affixed (if any) , be adopted as the corporate seal of the corporation.

Upon motion, duly made, seconded and carried, it was **RESOLVED**, that the Bylaws, a copy of which was presented to the meeting with copies provided to all Directors, was adopted as the Bylaws of the Corporation.

Upon motion, duly made, seconded and carried, it was **RESOLVED**, that the Articles of Incorporation heretofore filed with the Secretary of State of North Carolina by James R. Allen, Christine Dodson, and

2022 Journal of Proceedings

James D. Stotts as Incorporators, on April 9, 2015, be, and are hereby, adopted in all respects as the Articles of Incorporation (Charter) for the corporation.

Upon motion, duly made, seconded and carried, it was **RESOLVED**, that, unless otherwise ordered, all meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, or any other place in the Southeastern Jurisdiction designated by the directors of the corporation.

Upon motion, duly made, seconded and carried, it was **RESOLVED**, that the Treasurer is authorized and directed to continue to use deposit accounts previously opened by the former Treasurers of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference (both as unincorporated and incorporated entities) and to perform any and all acts necessary and incidental thereto, and that all balances and funds shall immediately transfer to and become the balances and funds of the Corporation.


Upon motion, duly made, seconded and carried, it was **RESOLVED**, that the current members of the Committee on Coordination and Accountability of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church ("CCA"), are hereby elected as successor directors by these Initial Directors; further, that the duly elected members of CCA or any successor committee or board, regardless of name, shall serve as the Board of Directors of the Corporation ("Board"), and shall be elected and serve in accordance with the provisions of *The Book of Discipline*, the plan of organization and rules of order adopted by said Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference. The Board of Directors shall be the legal governing body of the corporation, but shall at all times be subject and amenable to the direction of said Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference in accordance with *The Book of Discipline*.

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that the Treasurer is hereby authorized to pay all fees and expenses incident to and necessary for the organization of the corporation.

The Secretary was authorized and directed to procure and maintain appropriate corporate books. The Secretary was further instructed to file with the minutes of the meeting:

- (a) Waiver of Notice;
- (b) Copy of Bylaws;
- (c) Charter (Articles of Incorporation).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Secretary

APPROVED: 
James R. Allen



Christine Dodson

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

**BYLAWS
OF
SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, INC.**

ARTICLE I

Offices

Section 1. Registered Office and Principal Office. The corporation shall have and continuously maintain in this State a registered office and a registered agent whose office is identical with such registered office. Such registered office and the principal office shall be located at 700 Waterfield Ridge Place, Garner, Wake County, North Carolina 27529, and the mailing address of said offices shall be the same, or at such other place within the State of North Carolina as may from time to time be fixed and determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Other Offices. The corporation may have offices at such places, either within or outside the State of North Carolina, as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine.

ARTICLE II

Membership

The corporation shall have members, who shall be the lay and clergy members of Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, who shall be qualified, elected or appointed as provided in *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2012*, as it may hereafter, from time to time, be amended (hereinafter "*The Book of Discipline*"). Voting rights and requirements for members, voting quorum requirements, acceptance of votes, and all related matters shall only be as provided to members of the corporation as they pertain to members of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church (hereinafter "Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference") in accordance with *The Book of Discipline*, as it may hereafter, from time to time, be amended.

ARTICLE III

Board of Directors

Section 1. General Powers. The property, affairs and business of the corporation shall be managed by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall look to the Articles of Incorporation of the corporation, these Bylaws, *The Book of Discipline*, Chapter 55A of the General Statutes of North Carolina (as it currently exists or may hereafter be amended), and Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as those provisions are now or hereafter amended, and the Regulations now or hereafter promulgated thereunder, for guidance in the operation of the corporation's affairs. Where these Bylaws conflict with provisions of *The Book of Discipline*, said *Book of Discipline* shall control.

2022 Journal of Proceedings

Section 2. Number, Tenure, and Qualification. Upon the organization of the corporation by the initial directors, the Committee on Coordination and Accountability of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church, or any successor committee or board, regardless of name (hereinafter “Committee on Coordination and Accountability”), shall serve as the Board of Directors of the corporation (“Board”), and shall be elected and serve in accordance with the provisions of *The Book of Discipline*, the plan of organization and rules of order adopted by said Jurisdictional Conference. The Board of Directors shall be the legal governing body of the corporation, but shall at all times be subject and amenable to the direction of said Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference in accordance with *The Book of Discipline*.

The number, qualifications and membership of the Board, the term in office of Directors of the corporation, and their method of election, removal and replacement, and voting shall be in accordance with the Bylaws of the corporation, the provisions of *The Book of Discipline*, and the procedures, rules of order, and plan of organization adopted from time to time by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference as they pertain to the Committee on Coordination and Accountability.

Upon the organization of the corporation by the initial directors, the membership of the Board of Directors shall correspond to the members of the Committee on Coordination and Accountability and shall consist of not fewer than seven (7), nor more than nineteen (19) persons. All said members of the Board shall be elected by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference as members of the Committee on Coordination and Accountability upon nomination by the Nominating Committee of said Jurisdictional Conference in consultation with the Bishops, Directors of Connectional Ministries and lay leaders to ensure that each Annual Conference in the Southeastern Jurisdiction is represented. The Secretary of the Jurisdictional Conference and the Chairperson of the Committee on Finance and Administration of the Southeastern Jurisdiction shall be ex officio members of the Board without vote. The number and qualification of members, manner of nomination and election of the Board shall be changed from time to time to reflect the requirements of *The Book of Discipline*, and the procedures, rules of order, and plan of organization adopted by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference from time to time as they pertain to the Committee on Coordination and Accountability.

Section 3. Duties. Each Director shall stand in a fiduciary relation to the corporation and shall discharge his duties as a Director, including his duties as a member of a committee, in good faith, with the care an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances, and in a manner the Director reasonably believes to be in the best interest of the corporation.

Section 4. Regular and Special Meetings. A regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held at least annually. Regular and special meetings shall be called as provided in the procedures, rules of order, and plan of organization adopted from time to time by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference for the Committee on Coordination and Accountability of said Jurisdictional Conference.

Section 5. Notice of Meetings. Notice of each regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall be given at least five (5) days prior thereto. Notice of any special meeting of the

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Board of Directors shall be given at least two (2) days prior thereto. All notices shall be in writing delivered personally or sent by mail, facsimile transmission or other electronic means to each Director at his address as shown on the records of the corporation. Any Director may waive notice of any meeting as permitted by Chapter 55A of the General Statutes of North Carolina (as it currently exists or may hereafter be amended) and *The Book of Discipline*. Neither the business to be transacted at, nor the purpose of, any regular or special meeting of the Board need be specified in the notice or waiver of notice of such meeting, unless specifically required by law.

Section 6. Quorum. The requirement for a quorum to be present for the transaction of business of the Board of Directors shall be consistent with the rules adopted by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference for the Committee on Coordination and Accountability; provided, however, that a quorum for said Board of Directors shall be at least one-third of the number of Directors in office immediately before a meeting begins, or fewer if permitted by law; provided further, if less than a quorum of the Directors shall be present at the time and place of any meeting, the Directors present may adjourn the meeting from time to time until a quorum shall be present, and notice of any adjourned meeting need not be given; provided, that the time and place of reconvening are fixed. A meeting at which a quorum is initially present may continue to transact business, notwithstanding the withdrawal of enough Directors to leave less than a quorum, so long as any action taken is approved by at least a majority of the required quorum for such a meeting. Any one (1) or more Directors may participate in a meeting of the Board or committee by means of a conference telephone or similar communications device which allows all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other, and such participation in a meeting shall be deemed presence in person at such meeting.

Section 7. Voting. Except as otherwise expressly provided by either statute, the Articles of Incorporation of the corporation, *The Book of Discipline*, these Bylaws, or the procedures, rules of order, and plan of organization adopted from time to time by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference as they pertain to the Committee on Coordination and Accountability, the action of a majority of the Directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the action of the Board of Directors. Any Director who is present at a meeting of the Board of Directors at which action on any corporate matter is taken shall be presumed to have assented to the action taken unless (i) he objects at the beginning of the meeting (or promptly upon his arrival) to holding it or transacting business at the meeting; or (ii) his dissent or abstention from the action taken is entered in the minutes of the meeting; or (iii) he files written notice of his dissent or abstention with the presiding officer of the meeting before its adjournment or with the corporation immediately after adjournment of the meeting. Such right to dissent shall not apply to a Director who voted in favor of such action.

Section 8. Informal Action by Directors. Action taken by a majority of the Directors or of members of a committee without a meeting is nevertheless Board or committee action if written consent to the action in question is signed by all the Directors or members of the committee, as the case may be, and filed with the Minutes of the proceedings of the Board or the committee, whether done before or after the action so taken. If a meeting of Directors otherwise valid is held without proper cause or notice, action taken at such meeting otherwise valid is deemed ratified by a Director who did not attend unless after having knowledge of the action

taken and of the impropriety in question, he promptly files with the Secretary of the corporation his written objection to the holding of the meeting or to any specific action so taken.

Section 9. Resignation of Directors. Any Director may resign at any time by giving notice thereof in writing to the Chairperson or Secretary of the Board of Directors. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified therein, or if no time is specified, at the time such resignation is received by the Chairperson or Secretary of the of the Board of Directors, unless it shall be necessary to accept such resignation by its terms before it becomes effective, in which event the resignation shall take effect upon its acceptance by the Board of Directors.

Section 10. Compensation of Directors. Directors shall not receive any compensation for their services as such; provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to preclude any person who is a Director from also serving the corporation in another capacity and receiving just and reasonable compensation therefor. Directors may be paid reasonable travel allowances to the extent permitted by the Board of Directors and the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference for the Committee on Coordination and Accountability.

Section 11. Vacancies. In the event of any vacancy occurring among the voting membership of the Board of Directors during a Director's term by death, resignation, disqualification, removal or otherwise, said vacancies will be filled by a person otherwise qualified who is elected by the College of Bishops of the Southeastern Jurisdiction or as otherwise prescribed by these Bylaws, *The Book of Discipline*, or by the procedures, rules of order, and plan of organization adopted from time to time by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference as they pertain to the Committee on Coordination and Accountability. The new Director shall serve for the unexpired portion of the term of the person whom the newly elected Director succeeds or until his successor shall have been duly elected and qualified, or until his death, resignation, disqualification or removal.

Section 12. Director's Conflict of Interest. Any corporate transaction in which a Director has a direct or indirect interest must be authorized, approved, or ratified in good faith by a majority, not less than two (2), of the Directors who have no direct or indirect interest in the transaction even though less than a quorum; provided, however, no such transaction shall be authorized, approved, or ratified by a single Director. For purposes of this Section, a Director has an indirect interest in a transaction if:

- (a) Another entity in which he has a material financial interest or in which he is a general partner is a party to the transaction; or
- (b) Another entity of which he is a director, officer, or trustee is a party to the transaction and the transaction is or should be considered by the Board.

Section 13. Certain Director Liability. In addition to other liabilities imposed by law upon Directors, a Director shall be subject to the following liabilities:

- (a) All Directors who vote for or assent to any distribution of assets of the corporation contrary to any lawful restrictions in the North Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act (the "Act"), the Articles of Incorporation, or these bylaws, shall be

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

jointly and severally liable to the corporation for the amount of the distribution that exceeds what could have been distributed without violating such restrictions.

(b) All Directors who vote for or assent to the making of any loan or guaranty or other form of security by the corporation to or for the benefit of the Directors or officers of the corporation, or any of them, except loans, guaranties or other forms of security made to full-time employees of the corporation who are also Directors or officers of the corporation and which were made in accordance with Section 2 of Article VI and these Bylaws, shall be jointly and severally liable to the corporation for the repayment or return of the money or value loaned, with interest thereon at the legal rate until paid, or for any liability of the corporation upon the guarantee.

(c) A Director shall not be liable under the provisions of subparagraphs (a) or (b) above if he (unless his actual knowledge concerning the matter in question makes such reliance unreasonable) relied on information, opinions, reports, or statements, including financial statements and other financial data, if prepared or presented by (i) one or more officers or employees of the corporation whom the Director reasonably believes to be reliable and competent in the matters presented; (ii) legal counsel, public accountants, or other persons as to matters the Director reasonably believes are within their professional or expert competence; or (iii) a committee of the Board of which he is not a member if the Director reasonably believes the committee merits confidence.

ARTICLE IV

Officers

Section 1. Officers of the Corporation. The officers of the corporation shall be the same positions, with the same duties, and held by the same individuals, as the officers of the Committee on Coordination and Accountability of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, including initially a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, the Conference Treasurer, and the Conference Secretary, or such other officers and assistant officers as are permitted or required to be officers by *The Book of Discipline*, and by the procedures, rules of order, and plan of organization adopted from time to time by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be either a Bishop or Annual Conference Lay Leader from the Southeastern Jurisdiction, who shall serve on a rotating basis for a two-year term, so that a Lay Leader serves as Chairperson for two years, with a Bishop as Vice-Chairperson, and then a Bishop will serve as Chairperson and a Lay Leader as Vice-Chairperson for the following two-year period. The Conference Secretary shall be the staff person assigned duties for and on behalf of the Committee on Coordination and Accountability and shall be an ex officio member of said Committee, with voice but without vote. The Conference Treasurer shall be bonded through a suitable bond of a surety company of recognized standing and in an amount fixed by said Jurisdictional Conference or its Committee on Finance and Administration. All of the officers of the corporation shall be nominated and elected by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, unless otherwise prescribed by *The Book of Discipline*, or by the procedures, rules of order, or plan of organization adopted from time to time by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

2022 Journal of Proceedings

Section 2. Duties.

(a) The officers of the corporation or of the Board shall have such duties, powers and rights as prescribed by the procedures, rules of order, and plan of organization adopted from time to time by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference and by *The Book of Discipline*. In addition, the Secretary or other officer designated by said Jurisdictional Conference, shall have the responsibility and authority to maintain and authenticate the records of the corporation.

(b) An officer of the corporation or of the Board shall stand in a fiduciary relation to the corporation and shall discharge his duties under that authority in good faith, with the care an ordinary prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances, and in a manner he reasonably believes to be in the best interests of the corporation.

(c) An officer of the corporation or of the Board is not liable for any action taken as an officer, or any failure to take any action, if the officer performed the duties of his office in compliance with subparagraph (a) above, or (unless his actual knowledge concerning the matter in question makes such reliance unreasonable) he relied on information, opinions, reports, or statements, including financial statements and other financial data, if prepared or presented by (i) one or more officers or employees of the corporation whom the officer reasonably believes to be reliable and competent in the matters presented; or (ii) legal counsel, public accountants, or other persons as to matters the officer reasonably believes are within their professional or expert competence.

Section 3. Vacancies. A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, removal, or disqualification, or any other cause, shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term in the manner prescribed by these Bylaws, or by the procedures, rules of order, and plan of organization adopted from time to time by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, or as provided by *The Book of Discipline*.

Section 4. Compensation of Officers. The officers of the corporation and Board of Directors shall serve without compensation, except to the extent that any such officer is employed by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference or an Annual Conference within said Jurisdictional Conference, and his duties of employment include in whole or in part the duties assigned to him as an officer under this Article.

ARTICLE V

Committees

Section 1. Creation and Membership of Committees. The corporation shall have such committees as are required, and may have as permitted, by these Bylaws, or by the procedures, rules of order, and plan of organization adopted from time to time by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, or as provided by *The Book of Discipline*. Initially, such committees shall include the Committee on Finance and Administration, the Nominating Committee, the Committee on Episcopacy, the Committee on Appeals, and a number of

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

additional administrative committees as provided from time to time by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference through its plan of organization or otherwise. The membership of each committee shall be elected or appointed as provided by the procedures, rules of order, or plan of organization adopted from time to time by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference. By resolution adopted by a majority of the Directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present, the Board of Directors may designate one (1) or more additional committees of the Board not inconsistent with these Bylaws. No committee shall have or exercise the authority of the Board of Directors unless permitted by the procedures, rules of order, and plan of organization adopted from time to time by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference and *The Book of Discipline*. Each committee shall elect its own chairperson and other officers, unless otherwise provided by the procedures, rules of order, and plan of organization adopted from time to time by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

Section 2. Quorum. The requirement for a quorum to be present for the transaction of business of any committee of the corporation shall be consistent with the procedures, rules of order, and plan of organization adopted by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference for the transaction of business of its committees; provided, however, that a quorum for said committees shall be at least one-third of the number of committee members in office immediately before a meeting begins, or fewer if permitted by law.

Section 3. Meetings. Meetings of any committee may be called by or at the request of an officer thereof or by the persons granted such authority by these Bylaws, *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, or by the procedures, rules of order, and plan of organization adopted from time to time by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

Section 4. Vacancies. In the event of any vacancy occurring on a committee by death, resignation, disqualification, removal or otherwise, the vacancy shall be filled as provided by the procedures, rules of order, and plan of organization adopted from time to time by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference. Positions filled for an interim period shall be for the balance of the remaining term.

Section 5. Removal. Any committee or any member thereof may be discharged or removed as provided by these Bylaws, *The Book of Discipline*, and by the procedures, rules of order, and plan of organization adopted from time to time by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference.

ARTICLE VI

Contracts, Loans, Deposits, Checks, Drafts, Etc.

Section 1. Contracts. Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws or the procedures, rules of order, and plan of organization adopted from time to time by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, the Board of Directors may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents to enter into any contract or to execute or deliver any instruments on behalf of the corporation, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

2022 Journal of Proceedings

Section 2. Loans. No loans shall be contracted on behalf of the corporation and no evidences of indebtedness shall be issued in its name, unless and except as authorized by the procedures, rules of order, and plan of organization adopted from time to time by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference and *The Book of Discipline*. Said Jurisdictional Conference may delegate the authority to borrow funds to its Committee on Finance and Administration or its Treasurer, on such terms as the Jurisdictional Conference may prescribe. Any officer or agent of the corporation thereunto so authorized may effect loans or advances for the corporation and for such loans and advances may make, execute, and deliver promissory notes, bonds, or other evidences of indebtedness of the corporation. Any such officer or agent, when thereunto so authorized, may mortgage, pledge, hypothecate, or transfer as security for the payment of any and all loans, advances, indebtedness, and liabilities of the corporation any real property and all stocks, bonds, other securities, and other personal property at any time held by the corporation, and to that end, may endorse, assign, and deliver the same, and do every act and thing necessary or proper in connection therewith. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

Section 3. Deposits. All funds of the corporation shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the corporation in such banks or trust companies or with such bankers or other depositories as the Committee on Finance and Administration of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference may select, unless otherwise provided by the procedures, rules of order, or plan of organization adopted from time to time by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, or by *The Book of Discipline*.

Section 4. Checks, Drafts, Etc. All notes, drafts, acceptances, checks and endorsements or other evidences of indebtedness shall be signed on behalf of the corporation in such manner as the Committee on Finance and Administration of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference may by resolution determine from time to time. Endorsements for deposit to the credit of the corporation in any of its duly authorized depositories will be made by the Conference Treasurer or by any officer or agent who may be designated by resolution of the Council on Finance and Administration of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference or as otherwise as provided by the procedures, rules of order, or plan of organization adopted from time to time by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, or by *The Book of Discipline*.

Section 5. Finances. In order to pursue the purposes herein set forth, the corporation shall have full power to receive donations, bequests, devises and gifts of money and property; to purchase, lease and otherwise acquire and hold, sell, donate, and otherwise dispose of all kinds of property, real, personal, and mixed, which may be deemed necessary in order to carry out the objectives and purposes for which the corporation is created.

No obligation of expense shall be incurred and no money shall be appropriated except in accordance with *The Book of Discipline*.

The accounts of the corporation, if any, shall be audited by a certified public accountant annually as soon as practical after the close of the fiscal year. The audit shall be available at all times to the Council on Finance and Administration of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference and the Board of Directors for examination.

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

ARTICLE VII

Purposes and Powers

The purposes for which the corporation is organized are set forth in *The Book of Discipline* and the Articles of Incorporation of the corporation. In the event that any provision contained herein is in conflict with any provision of *The Book of Discipline*, the provisions of said *Book of Discipline* shall control.

ARTICLE VIII

General Provisions

Section 1. Corporate Seal. The corporate seal, if desired, shall be in such form as shall be approved from time to time by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the corporation shall be the calendar year, or as otherwise provided by the procedures, rules of order, or plan of organization adopted from time to time by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, or by *The Book of Discipline*.

Section 3. Waiver of Notice. Whenever any notice is required to be given under the Act, the Articles of Incorporation of the corporation, or these Bylaws, a waiver thereof by a Director may be made, before or after the date and time stated in such notice, by delivery of a written waiver of such notice signed by such Director to the corporation for filing or inclusion with the minutes or corporate records, or, to the extent provided by the Act, by attendance at the meeting to which such notice relates.

Section 4. Amendment to Bylaws. Except as otherwise provided herein, these Bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed, and new bylaws may be adopted only by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Directors in office, upon at least seven (7) days' written notice of the intention to alter, amend, repeal or adopt new bylaws; provided, however, that unless the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference has provided otherwise in its rules or plan of organization, no amendment, repeal or adoption of bylaws for the corporation shall be effective without the prior written approval of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, as indicated by a vote of said Conference at a regular or special session thereof, in accordance with *The Book of Discipline*. Notwithstanding the above, under no circumstances shall these Bylaws be amended so that the corporation may operate in violation of the provisions of *The Book of Discipline*.

Section 5. Books and Records. The corporation shall keep a copy of the following records at the corporation's principal office:

- (a) Its Articles of Incorporation or restated Articles of Incorporation and all amendments to them currently in effect.
- (b) Its Bylaws or restated Bylaws and all amendments to them currently in effect.

2022 Journal of Proceedings

(c) Resolutions adopted by the Board relating to the number or classification of Directors.

(d) A list of the names and business addresses of its current Directors and officers.

Section 6. Gender. As used in these bylaws, the masculine gender shall be deemed to include the feminine and the feminine the masculine.

ARTICLE IX

Indemnification

Section 1. Indemnification of Directors, Officers, Employees or Agents; General Provisions.

(a) The corporation shall indemnify any director or officer or former director or officer of the corporation against liabilities and reasonable litigation expenses, including attorneys' fees, incurred by him in connection with any action, suit or proceeding in which he is made or threatened to be made a party by reason of being or having been such director or officer, except in relation to matters as to which he shall be adjudged in such action, suit or proceeding to have acted in bad faith or to have been liable or guilty by reason of willful misconduct in the performance of duty or if his activities were, at the time taken, knowing or believed by the person to be clearly in conflict with the best interests of the corporation or if the person received an improper personal benefit. The indemnification authorized by this Section shall be in addition to that permitted by Sections 55A-8-51 through 55A-8-57 of the North Carolina General Statutes, as now or hereafter amended.

(b) Expenses incurred by a director, officer, employee or agent in defending a civil or criminal action, suit or proceeding may be paid by the corporation in advance of the final disposition of such action, suit or proceeding as authorized by the Board of Directors in the specific case upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the director, officer, employee or agent to repay such amount unless it shall be ultimately determined that he is entitled to be indemnified by the corporation as authorized in Sections 55A-8-51 through 55A-8-57 of the North Carolina General Statutes, or as authorized in these bylaws in accordance with those statutory provisions cited herein.


(c) As used in this Section, the term "person" includes the legal representative of such person.

Section 2. Right of Corporation to Insure. The corporation may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of an individual who is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation against liability asserted against or incurred by him in that capacity or arising from his status as a director, officer, employee or agent, whether or not the corporation would have power to indemnify him against such liability under applicable law.

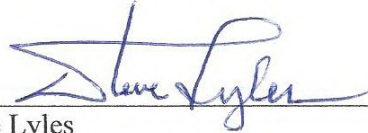
Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

ADOPTED this 9th day of APRIL, 2015.

SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL
CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH, INC.



Anne Travis
Conference Secretary



Steve Lyles
Chairperson, Board of Directors, and
President, Committee on Coordination and
Accountability, Southeastern Jurisdictional
Conference of The United Methodist Church

**GROUP TAX EXEMPTION RULING
SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, INC.**



PO Box 340029
Nashville, TN 37203-0029

October 7, 2015

SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, INC.
700 Waterfield Ridge Place
Garner, NC 27529

**Re: Certification of Inclusion in The United Methodist Church Group Tax Exemption Ruling
Affiliated Organization: Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist
Church, Inc.**

Affiliated Organization's Employer Identification Number (EIN): 27-0974058

This letter will certify that the affiliated organization named above is included in The United Methodist Church Group Tax Exemption Ruling ("UMC Group Ruling"). In particular, as stated in the group ruling determination letter issued to The United Methodist Church by the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS"), this affiliated organization is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

This certification letter is issued by the General Council on Finance and Administration of The United Methodist Church ("GCFA"), who is the central organization for the UMC Group Ruling. As the central organization, GCFA has been granted the authority by the IRS to determine which organizations are included in the UMC Group Ruling. (The IRS Group Exemption Number ("GEN") for the UMC Group Ruling is 2573.) Thus, this certification letter, together with the enclosed copy of the IRS group ruling determination letter, serves to verify the tax-exempt status of this affiliated organization.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the GCFA Legal Department at (866) 367-4232 or legal@gcfa.org.

Sincerely,

GENERAL COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Leticia Mayberry Wright
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosures