Supplement to the Program and Reports
Western North Carolina Annual Conference
August 8, 2020 • Virtual Session
Paul L. Leeland Resident & Presiding Bishop
The United Methodist Church
The items in the Supplement are organized in the order that they will appear in the agenda for easy reference.

Bishop Paul L. Leeland ..........................................................................................................................................3
Program Schedule..........................................................................................................................................................3
Offerings at Conference ........................................................................................................................................4,5
Recognition of Deceased Clergy, Diaconal Ministers, and Spouses .................................................................6-27

**ORGANIZATION AND BUSINESS OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

About the Virtual Meeting: WNCC 2020 Business Session ........................................................................28-29
Organizational Matters: ........................................................................................................................................28-29
  - Plan of Organization and Rules ..........................................................................................................................30-38
  - Nominations Report ........................................................................................................................................39-40
  - Consent Calendar ............................................................................................................................................41
    - Advance Specials ........................................................................................................................................42
    - Boards of Directors of Western NC Conference Camps ........................................................................42
    - Trustees of Brevard College ........................................................................................................................42
    - Trustees of High Point University ..............................................................................................................42
    - Campus Ministry Boards ..........................................................................................................................43-44
    - Boards of Directors of Aldersgate ................................................................................................................44
    - Board of Directors of Arbor Acres ................................................................................................................44
    - Crossnore School and Children's Home .......................................................................................................44
    - Board of Directors of Givens Communities ...............................................................................................45
    - Trustees of UMAR Services, Inc ................................................................................................................45
    - Board of Directors of Chrysalis Counseling and Consultation Center ....................................................45
    - Commission on Equitable Compensation Policies and Guidelines ......................................................46-47
    - Trustee of The Eugene M. Cole Foundation ............................................................................................48
    - Board of Directors of Wesley Community Development .........................................................................48
  - Board of Laity
    - Lay Leader Nomination ..............................................................................................................................48

Council on Finance and Administration
  - Conference Funds and Financial Policies, Budget, and Per Diem ................................................................49-56

Board of Pension and Health Benefits
  - Pension and Benefits Programs and Policies .............................................................................................57-63
  - Recognition of Retirees ..................................................................................................................................64-67

Board of Trustees
  - Mount Shepherd Retreat Center Conservation Easement ........................................................................68
  - Disaffiliation of Churches ...........................................................................................................................69-72

Cabinet Report
  - Discontinuance and Abandonment ...............................................................................................................73-79

**UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA**

Board of Directors New Members ........................................................................................................................79

---

The 2020 Annual Conference Offering will be divided evenly between the Northern Haiti Mission Connection and UMAR.

To give online, please visit [www.wnccumc.org/ac-2020-offering](http://www.wnccumc.org/ac-2020-offering).

Or send a check, payable to WNCC Treasurer, to:
WNCC, PO Box 2757, Huntersville, NC 28070, marked "AC2020 Giving"
2020 WESTERN NC ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

SATURDAY
AUGUST 8  1:00 p.m.  **Opening Worship**
   Bishop Paul L. Leeland, preaching
   Offering: UMAR and Northern Haiti Initiative Connection
   Recognition of Deceased Clergy, Diaconal Ministers, and Spouses

**Conference Plenary – Business Session**
   Organizational Matters
   Laity Presentation
      Election of Conference Lay Leader
   Conference Council on Finance and Administration
      2021 Conference Budget
   Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits
   Recognition of Retiring Clergy
   Conference Trustees
      Disaffiliation Resolutions
   Cabinet Resolutions
   Location of the 2021 Annual Conference Meeting
   Fixing of the Appointments and Sending Forth
   Adjournment of the 2020 Annual Conference, *sine die*

**Annual Meeting of the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina**
   Elect Board of Directors

**Closing Prayer and Hymn**
UMAR is on a mission to promote community inclusion, independence, and growth for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities through residential, employment, and cultural enrichment opportunities.

LIVE
Residents LIVE in 21 group homes, 9 apartments, and 1 independent living home across Western NC. Residents of all gender, race, and religious affiliations work, participate in sporting events, go out on dates, and attend worship services of their choice. Maintaining social networks and assuring access to medical care are important ingredients in building a healthy, inclusive UMAR community.

WORK
Vocational Program participants get to choose the roles in which they WORK. UMAR job coaches learn unique characteristics about each participant so they can find and adapt a job that meets their individual needs, abilities, and preferences. Prior to landing their desired job, participants receive assistance in building resumes, completing job applications, and preparing for interviews.

THRIVE
Participants THRIVE in Arts Centers located in Reidsville, Lincolnton, and Charlotte. Since 2008, UMAR Arts Centers have encouraged adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to explore and express their creativity through visual, performing, horticulture, literary, 3-D, cultural, and culinary arts. In the process, UMAR artists discover and recognize the importance of their own voice.

Want to connect with your local UMAR program? Contact Ruby at 704-408-3223 or RubyM@UMARinfo.com. To financially support UMAR participants across Western NC, donate at UMARinfo.com or text THRIVE to 22525.
Northern Haiti
Mission Connection

Working with local Haitian leaders, supporting partners place an emphasis on education, micro-lending, healthcare and clean water initiatives in Northern Haiti.

WNC United Methodist Churches, various nonprofits, Methodist University and individuals work collaboratively to support microcredit lending programs for women in remote communities, education initiatives in Haitian Schools, drilling new wells and repairing nonfunctioning wells and support of the Cap Haitian Ministry Center and Dr. Eugene Maklin founder and lead physician of New Hope Hospital.

This partnership enables mission work to be more productive, sustainable, effective and intentional in seeking mutuality between Haitian and US stakeholders while aspiring to move to empowerment models.

Collaboration increases the impact and moves our mission involvement with ministries and churches to a place of sustainable partnership. Together we discern and answer God’s call to make a transformational impact in the world.

Mission Connection Teams are a model of partners working in relational missions while increasing awareness, trust, and fostering appreciation of one another and with others.

For additional information contact Wanda Musgrave with Partners4New Hope at p4nhclt@gmail.com
## In Memoriam

**May 16, 2019 – May 15, 2020**

### Clergy and Diaconal Ministers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name and Spouse</th>
<th>Date of Death</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harold Keith Bales</td>
<td>August 11, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carl Benjamin “C.B.” Barr Jr.</td>
<td>September 14, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keith Warren Bingham</td>
<td>July 22, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Wooldridge Buckner Jr.</td>
<td>June 15, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Hugh Edwards</td>
<td>August 2, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Loggins Forbes</td>
<td>May 3, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Bryan Harrill Sr.</td>
<td>August 27, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Harry Hawk</td>
<td>August 5, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guinnell Carroll Hunter</td>
<td>April 17, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Edwin Jackson</td>
<td>February 15, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard Stephen Kiser</td>
<td>March 6, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oscar Ray “O. Ray” Moss</td>
<td>January 17, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Roland Mullinix</td>
<td>August 4, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis Ray O’Ferrell</td>
<td>December 4, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ardis Darrell Payne</td>
<td>August 15, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucy Strider Norton Ponder</td>
<td>May 22, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackuline Bennett Porter</td>
<td>April 3, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonnie Jones Gehweiler Shinneman</td>
<td>January 12, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Edward Smith</td>
<td>August 14, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donald Sheldon Stanton</td>
<td>October 30, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence Walton Staples Jr.</td>
<td>March 9, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma Loretta Allen Stutz</td>
<td>April 19, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Gene Summey</td>
<td>December 20, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Edward Tyson</td>
<td>January 6, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Lee Warren</td>
<td>August 6, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louis Herman Woodard</td>
<td>July 1, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Brown Yarbrough</td>
<td>December 24, 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Spouses of Clergy and Diaconal Ministers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name and Spouse</th>
<th>Date of Death</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Constance Joan Crowder Christy (John H. Christy Jr.)</td>
<td>August 14, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martha Faye Brown Clanton (Robert A. Clanton)</td>
<td>November 1, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martha Josephine Culp Cochran (J. Edgar Cochran)</td>
<td>April 15, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Jane Lowe Crowder (Richard J. Crowder Sr.)</td>
<td>March 24, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inez Elizabeth Rufty Dickson (C. Harley Dickson Jr.)</td>
<td>January 14, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheryl Kay Sharpe Draughn (William M. Draughn)</td>
<td>March 7, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorothy Lee Scott Forbis (William T. Forbis)</td>
<td>August 16, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenneth Richmond Glahn (Phyllis L. Glahn)</td>
<td>May 17, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca Beamer Heckard (Floyd L. Heckard)</td>
<td>December 14, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jo Welch Hull (James E. Hull)</td>
<td>April 20, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louise Conrad Hutchinson (Orion N. Hutchinson Jr.)</td>
<td>March 12, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beverly Rieckhoff Johnston (Eugene C. Johnston Jr.)</td>
<td>January 2, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judith Ann Overby Law (Joe A. Law)</td>
<td>December 7, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betty Ruth Smith Moss (O. Ray Moss)</td>
<td>October 22, 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hilda McNeil Outen (Daniel K. Outen)</td>
<td>April 4, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruby Pyatt Powell (C. Glenn Powell Sr.)</td>
<td>November 22, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freda Jo Moore “Jodi” Reed (Louis B. Reed)</td>
<td>May 7, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betty June O’Bryan Romanello (Robert E. Romanello)</td>
<td>March 16, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phyllis Maxine Hoover Rouch (Mark A. Rouch)</td>
<td>September 24, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June Holbert Hill Smisor (Harold N. Smisor)</td>
<td>May 11, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genevieve Kirkman Stokes (James C. Stokes)</td>
<td>November 30, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen Elizabeth Osteen Swann (Marion M. Swann)</td>
<td>February 27, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramona Margaret Cochran Turman (Donald W. Turman)</td>
<td>February 10, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nita Lozene Pyatt Wagoner (R. Gilmer Wagoner)</td>
<td>July 3, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Orron Walker (Priscilla B. Walker)</td>
<td>June 17, 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Harold Keith Bales  
January 16, 1942 – August 11, 2019

The Rev. Dr. Harold Keith Bales was born on January 16, 1942, in Knox County, Tenn., to the late Burchell H. and Edith F. Bales. He graduated from Gibbs High School in Corryton, Tenn., and soon after married his high school sweetheart, Judith Byrd Bales, in December 1960. After working briefly as a postman, Bales began to think deeply on his purpose and goals for life. Puzzled by his distracted and introspective behavior, Judy began to grow concerned for her husband; however, it was met with great relief when, rather than something more sinister, he proclaimed his calling to the church and desire to become a minister. Bales received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Tennessee Wesleyan University in 1968. The following year, he was admitted to the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church. Bales continued his education at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn. He went on to achieve a Master of Divinity degree in 1972 and Doctor of Ministry degree in 1975. As Harold pursued his educational and ministerial goals, he and Judy brought into the world their daughter, Janice Kay, son David Keith, and son Philip Kevin. Their second daughter, Susannah Rose, would be welcomed later. Bales became a deacon in The United Methodist Church in 1969 and an elder in 1973.

Bales began his ministerial career in a small circuit of churches in Cleveland, Tenn. He then served as an associate minister at First Broad Street United Methodist Church in Kingsport, Tenn. He transferred to the Western North Carolina Conference in 1983, and his appointments included: First (Charlotte), 1983-1989; Central (Asheville), 1989-1992; conference director of ministries (Charlotte), 1992-1998; district superintendent (Salisbury District), 1998-2003; First (Gastonia), 2003-2004. He was placed on incapacity leave in 2004. In addition to these appointments, Bales served on the boards of trust of Tennessee Wesleyan College, Emory and Henry College, and Hiwassee College. He served on the boards of directors of numerous community agencies and was the executive director of The Churches Presence at the 1982 World’s Fair. In the weeks after the Sept. 11 attacks in 2001, Bales delivered a prayer to the U.S. House of Representatives as a guest chaplain. Bales dedicated his time, heart, and mind to countless individuals in need throughout his life, from teaching writing courses to incarcerated men to working with single mothers in need of community resources. To every challenge and occasion, he brought unrelenting humor and wit, as he believed such characteristics, along with the flexibility of mind they require, were essential to his discipleship. Bales retired in 2009; however, he remained active in the congregation of Trinity United Methodist Church in Kannapolis, N.C., until his passing in August 2019.

Before, during, and after his ministerial career within The United Methodist Church, Bales wrote passionately and prolifically. His most notable books include *The Spider in the Stable & Other Christmas Reflections* (1997) and *The Southern-Fried Preacher: Musings from a Made-in-America Minister* (2011). The latter work stemmed largely from his long-standing weekly newspaper column, “The Southern-Fried Preacher,” published in the Lake Norman Citizen. Over the years, Bales cultivated a wide audience as the “Southern-Fried Preacher.” His book was received with such warmth and gratitude, he began self-publishing “Daily Nuggets” for his readers. In 2013, Bales created a compilation of these thoughtful, humorous musings, titled *The Southern Fried Preacher: 101+ Nuggets*, with the hopes his readers would, “enjoy this collection of sentimentality, good-natured crankiness, naughtiness, inspiration, provocativeness, silliness and conviviality.”

On August 11, 2019, Bales passed away peacefully in the presence of family. In the few short weeks before, he had fallen ill due to complications from Type 2 diabetes. He was transferred to hospice care, where he was closely looked after and cared for by his devoted wife, Judy, along with his children and grandchildren. Throughout the years, Bales repeatedly defied the odds and expectations of competent doctors, his family, and congregants, surviving colon cancer in his early 50s, as well as a quintuple bypass surgery. His valiancy, fervor for life, and unending sources of love, family, and friendship sustained Bales for his 77 years. His final homecoming was met with equivalent grace and strength.

Bales is survived by his wife of 59 years, Judith Byrd Bales. Also surviving are their children, David Keith Bales, Philip Kevin Bales, and Susannah Rose Bales Faulhaber. Their daughter, Janice Kay Bales White, is deceased. Also surviving are their grandchildren, John White and Jenny Calvo, Caitlyn Pasour and Megan Bales, and Wesley Bales and Shea Bales. His brother, Burchell Lynn Bales, and sister Brenda Stewart also survive him. His brother, Stephen Ray Bales, is deceased. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins, and four great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at Trinity United Methodist Church in Kannapolis. His ashes are kept with his wife, Judy. Undoubtedly, the goodness of Harold Keith Bales will persist in the hearts and minds of his family, friends, colleagues, and church members. For his wife, Judy, Harold delivered this truth in Musings from a Made-in-America Minister: “Love begins early, and then, if it is real, it flowers with beauty and grace, whimsy and delight and ends with loving, precious memories.”

Megan Riley Bales
Carl Benjamin Barr Jr. was born on January 2, 1928, in Chattanooga, Tenn., to the late Carl Benjamin Barr and Myrtle Burris Barr. He attended schools in Belmont, Toccoa Falls, Ga., High Point, and Durham. He graduated from High Point College in 1953, completed the Duke University Course of Study, and was ordained in the Western North Carolina Conference as a deacon in 1955 and as an elder in 1958. His home church was Ward Street United Methodist Church in High Point. After a brief stint in the U.S. Coast Guard, Barr married his childhood sweetheart, Betty Jo Parker, on June 22, 1947. They have two daughters, Yvonne Carline Barr (Hugh) Cole and Angela Dawn Barr (Mark) Hollar; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. C.B. and Betty Jo were married 72 years with more than 68 of those years in ministry in the Western North Carolina Conference.


After retirement, C.B. and Betty Jo moved to Gastonia and enjoyed volunteering at Crisis Assistance Ministry for more than 20 years and in various ministries at First United Methodist Church of Gastonia. He was also instrumental in Gastonia’s Cornerstone Christian Ministry, serving as its board chair for many years. In 2003, the Barrs were honored for their volunteer service as finalists in the WSOCTV Nine Who Care Award. Barr was a Master Mason since 1971 in the Catawba Lodge 248, Newton. In addition, he was an Optimist in Forest City and a Rotarian in Newton and Mount Holly. In 2005, he was appointed to First UMC, Gastonia as the associate pastor for older adults. He loved this work and held the appointment until 2012 when he retired a second time.

It is important to recall Barr’s humor and wit. He wove these traits into his life and ministry as well as a wonderful gift of wisdom. He believed in The United Methodist Church, its social principles, and the Book of Discipline. He had mountains of common sense, and he applied all these attributes in his work and life. His family was of great importance to him. He performed his daughters’ weddings and his grandchildren’s baptisms, confirmations, and weddings. He also baptized his great-grandchildren. As a testament to the love of his grandchildren, Barr was an avid Duke fan until all three of them attended and graduated from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Duke blue quickly became Carolina blue, and he proudly (most of the time) wore UNC-CH attire.

In 2014, the Barrs transitioned to Morningside Assisted Living in Gastonia where Betty Jo continues to reside. While at Morningside, Barr was active on committees as well as leading prayer services, serving Communion, and preaching the first Sunday of each month. Even though he was not under an official appointment, he continued to use his talents and exercise his calling to follow Jesus and make disciples for the transformation of the world until his death on September 14, 2019, at Morningside. Barr loved life to its fullest and was always ready to share God’s love with others. In his last days, he reminded all, “There is nothing more important in life than making sure we know Christ and living our lives for him. For you see, God is still on the throne! Everything is going to be all right because God is with us.” He had a familiar saying, “Hang in there!” The Rev. Dr. Don Haynes recalled the following fitting tribute to Barr: “He was an evangelical preacher of the Gospel with a great sense of humor. He had a broad mind and was friends with clergy of wide theological spectra. His laugh was contagious. His work ethic was untinging. His sermons were interesting and motivational for changing lives. He could make you want to be a Christian just to hear him laugh.”

A Celebration of Life service was held on Sunday, September 22, 2019, at First UMC, Gastonia with the Rev. David Christy, the Rev. Dr. Jim Westmoreland, and the Rev. Angela Hollar officiating. The family greeted friends after the service, and Barr was buried at Gaston Memorial Park, Gastonia. The family chose Sunday for his service and burial as this was his most favorite day of the week — a day to glorify God and honor Barr’s life of Christian witness and service.

Mark H. Hollar
The Rev. Keith Warren Bingham, 68, beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, and pastor, died peacefully at home on July 22, 2019. His passing came as the result of complications from a stroke he suffered in February 2019.

Bingham was born in Charlotte, N.C., on June 28, 1951, to E.A. “Bing” and Phyllis Bingham. He grew up in a brick bungalow off Freedom Drive with his parents, four siblings, and one bathroom. He graduated from West Mecklenburg High School in 1969. While in high school, he worked at McDonald’s on Freedom Drive, which still stands today. He famously made the first Big Mac in Charlotte when it was introduced.

Bingham and his family were members and regular attendees at St. James United Methodist Church on Freedom Drive. There, he was first exposed to what would become his lifelong calling. He put himself through Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte and Pfeiffer University in Misenheimer, N.C. While in college and even in high school, he worked with Campus Life, further solidifying his resolve to become a pastor.

Upon graduation from Pfeiffer in 1973, Bingham went to Asbury Theological Seminary in Kentucky. While there, in the cafeteria one day, he informed a young woman that based on his training, she was making her hamburger incorrectly. This woman was Rebecca “Becky” Kay Green, and they were married on June 14, 1975. He loved her deeply and was committed to providing her with the support and companionship she deserved during their life together.

Keith and Becky shared their marriage with their two daughters, Jennifer and Kara. Regardless of the demands placed on him as a pastor, he made sure he was there for them at recitals, school events, and especially at home. He was dedicated to helping his daughters achieve their dreams and supported them completely. Bingham made sure they knew how proud they made him and how much they were loved.

In 1976, Bingham received a Master of Divinity degree from Asbury. He was ordained as an elder in The United Methodist Church and received into full connection in the Western North Carolina Conference in 1977. He loved to preach, but he did so as a teacher and treated his congregants as students of Christ. He was a dedicated servant, and it was not uncommon for him to work nearly 80 hours per week. In summer 2018, after nearly 47 years of service to The United Methodist Church, he retired from full-time ministry, but he continued serving in a part-time capacity and preached a sermon the day before his stroke.


Bingham developed a course for beginning pastors, the “Art of the Start,” and taught the course yearly for 15 years. He also served on many boards and agencies at the district and conference levels. He loved to prepare and deliver sermons, but he thrived on pastoral care to his congregants and beyond. Teaching Bible studies, such as Disciple Bible Study, was also a passion for him, as well as leading youth and children’s ministry.

He loved the heavens above and enjoyed exploring them with his telescopes. It was a passion that he enjoyed sharing with both his daughters and grandsons, Jack and Ben. He also enjoyed exploring the heavens through movies. Whether it be “Star Trek,” “Star Wars,” or others, he enjoyed imagining being among the stars. If he could have traveled there, he would have brought his favorite music along for the ride: oldies, beach music, and the music of Bruce Springsteen.

Bingham lived his life according to the principles he taught and was an example for many of how to live a life for Christ. And though we miss him here, we know he is happy to finally meet his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. While his family and the world lost a kind, loving, compassionate, patient man whose life impacted so many positively, we know he was needed somewhere else more urgently. He will be remembered well and missed sorely by the thousands of lives he touched over his lifetime.

The Bingham Family
Frank Wooldridge Buckner Jr.
October 11, 1949 – June 15, 2019

The Rev. Dr. Frank Wooldridge Buckner Jr. was born October 11, 1949, in Nashville, Tenn., to the late Frank W. Buckner Sr. and Katherine Kern Buckner, the daughter of Bishop Paul B. Kern. He was the youngest of four children and is survived by siblings Bates Buckner, J. Kern Buckner, and Jansen Buckner. He spent his childhood and youth primarily in Martinsville, Va., and Chapel Hill, N.C., and Bishop Kern’s home at Lake Junaluska, N.C., which provided a location for his family to gather which continues today. Buckner graduated in 1968 from The Hill School, Pottstown, Pa., received his Bachelor of Arts degree in history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1972, earned his Master of Divinity degree from Duke University Divinity School in 1979, and then his Doctor of Philosophy degree in theology from Duke University in 1987.


During his 30 years at Huntingdon, Buckner served on the faculty and was promoted from assistant professor to associate professor, before becoming a full professor of religion and philosophy. He also spent time as chaplain, was department chair as well as division chair, and during his last years was associate provost. Upon his retirement, he was voted professor emeritus by his colleagues. Huntingdon College President J. Cameron West memorialized Buckner in Huntingdon’s tribute, saying, “Frank had a reputation of encouraging students to think more widely, deeply, and fully. Students emerged from his classes having re-examined the faith-information they had inherited or learned from others, and having claimed a new level of faith and understanding that was all their own. He was a tremendous person, a gifted teacher, and a treasured colleague.” During his career, Buckner was awarded the Julia Lightfoot Sellers Teaching Award twice, the Winn and Gordon Chappell Academic Enrichment Award, The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church Exemplary Teaching Award, The Francis Asbury Award from the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference, The Mary Mildred Sullivan Award, and Huntingdon’s Rhoda Coleman Ellison Distinguished Faculty Lifetime Service Award.

Involvement in his local congregation was important to Buckner, and he was very active in the ministries of First United Methodist Church, Montgomery, Ala. An affiliate member of the Alabama-West Florida Conference, Buckner also taught in and was director of the Alabama Course of Study School for the education and training of local pastors in The United Methodist Church.

In 1980, Buckner was introduced to Diane Elaine Leatherwood of Waynesville, N.C., by her minister, who married them on May 16, 1981, at Long’s Chapel United Methodist Church. For more than 38 years, Diane and Frank loved and supported each other and were partners in all that they did. Buckner was a devoted family man, loving the time he spent with his family. His family and friends remember his encyclopedic knowledge and memory and his love of bicycles, coffee, good jokes, and stories. Survivors are his wife, Diane; youngest daughter, Christina Elaine Buckner; oldest daughter, Melissa Katherine Buckner Reynolds; son-in-law Justin R. Reynolds; and grandchildren Paul Hansen and Lucy Katherine Reynolds. Many nieces, nephews, and cousins also survive him.

On June 15, 2019, Buckner collapsed and died while riding his bicycle in Montgomery. His sudden, unexpected death shocked those who knew him. A memorial service was held on June 20, 2019, at First United Methodist Church, Montgomery, and a service of committal was held on July 5, 2019, at Memorial Chapel and Memory Garden, Lake Junaluska, N.C. Buckner had a tremendous impact on his students, colleagues, parishioners, and most of all, his family, all of whom miss him and are better for having known him.

Diane Buckner, Christina Buckner, and Melissa Buckner Reynolds

Frank Hugh Edwards
May 11, 1925 – August 2, 2019

Frank Hugh Edwards was born on May 11, 1925, in Barnardsville in Buncombe County, to Joseph Baird and Mary Creasman Edwards. During his college years at Berea College, he was licensed to preach when he was just 18 years old. After earning his bachelor’s degree in 1946, he ventured north to Massachusetts for seminary, graduating with his Bachelor of Sacred Theology degree from Boston University School of Theology in 1949. Having studied ethics with L. Harold DeWolf, Edwards was a quiet scholar all his life with a sharp, inquisitive mind, never pedantic or arrogant about it. Although he did not attend Duke Divinity School, he did the right Methodist thing for the rest of his life, becoming an ardent supporter of Duke University and its divinity school.
Edwards was admitted to the Western North Carolina Conference on trial in 1948, ordained as a deacon in 1949 and as a full connection elder in 1950. Our conference has never seen a more loyal, institutional clergyman. From 1949 until his retirement in 1995, he served 10 appointments faithfully, usually staying longer than the norm of four years back in those days. His record of service is: Old Union-Mt. Lebanon (1949-1953); Hinshaw Memorial (Greensboro), 1953-1958; Madison, 1958-1963; Midway (Kannapolis), 1963-1967; Fair Grove (Thomasville), 1967-1972; Commonwealth (Charlotte), 1972-1977; Moriah (Greensboro), 1977-1982; First (Cherryville), 1982-1983; district superintendent (North Wilkesboro District), 1983-1988; and then with great distinction, administrative assistant to the bishop, 1988-1995, during which time he also served a stint as interim district superintendent in Charlotte, 1992. He was the valued advisor and right-hand man to Bishop L. Bevel Jones III, who praised him highly and often.

On June 25, 1954, Frank married Bobbie Ann Caudle. He always felt extraordinarily blessed to be married to such a beautiful, joyful, constant wife, and he grieved her death on August 5, 2003 heavily. They had two sons, who survive both of their parents, David Carlton Edwards and Mark Allan Edwards.

After his retirement in 1995, Edwards never missed worship at Myers Park United Methodist Church in Charlotte, where he was an encourager of all clergy and enthusiastic fan of the music and formal liturgy which he treasured, until his health did not permit him to come any longer. He died on August 2, 2019. His funeral was held one week later, on August 9, 2019, in the sanctuary of Myers Park UMC, presided over by the Rev. Dr. James Howell. The congregation sang “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” and “It Is Well With My Soul.” Scriptures read were Ephesians 2:4-10, on which Edwards had preached a remarkable sermon at annual conference in 1983, and 2 Timothy 4:1-8. The Rev. James Pyatt presented the conference tombstone medallion to the family. Edwards was buried later that same day at the Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church cemetery in Randleman next to Bobbie. The Rev. Dr. Donald B. Haynes conducted the graveside liturgy.

Edwards’ attention to detail, dogged loyalty, dry wit, and theological depth made an indelible impression on our conference, and all who served with him. His manifest and authentic humility would protest if we rambled any longer on his many virtues.

Virginia Loggins Forbes
May 2, 1936 – May 3, 2020

Virginia Loggins Forbes was born May 2, 1936, in Marietta, Ga., to the late Jack Coleman and Virginia Nix Loggins. Her only sibling, Jack, preceded her in death. Virginia graduated from high school in Decatur, Ga. She and Charles Alan Forbes were married April 6, 1955. They were blessed with two children, son Charles Alan (Chuck) Forbes Jr. and daughter Susan Forbes Fisher.

Virginia met her future husband, Alan, at age 14. (He was 17.) By the time they were married five years later, Alan had joined and was flying for the U.S. Air Force. When he retired in the early 1960s, they settled in South Carolina, where son Chuck was born. The family moved north a few years later, eventually settling in Norwalk, Conn., where they welcomed Susan into the family.

During her years in Norwalk, Forbes resumed her education while raising her children. She obtained a Bachelor of General Studies degree from University of Connecticut. She did non-profit work with Voluntary Action Center of Mid-Fairfield County until Alan, Susan, and Virginia moved to Charlotte, N.C., in 1984.

Upon moving to Charlotte, Forbes continued her non-profit work at the American Cancer Society, where she was executive director of the Charlotte office. In the 1990s, she began to work toward accepting her call to ministry by enrolling at Duke Divinity School. She graduated with a Master of Divinity degree in 1993. She was admitted to the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church as a provisional member and ordained as a deacon in 1992. She was accepted as a member in full connection and ordained as an elder in 1995. She served the following appointments: Ebenezer (Belmont), 1993-1999; St. Luke’s (Charlotte), 1999-2003; and Haywood Street (Asheville), 2003-2004. She retired in 2004.

While serving in Charlotte, Forbes also associated with Providence United Methodist Church, teaching small Bible classes and helping with pastoral care at times. She was known at Providence and other churches in Charlotte for helping Dr. Mickey Efrid when he was doing in-person Bible studies from Duke, where he was on faculty. When the recorded version became available, Forbes facilitated those studies in various churches and at the Aldersgate Retirement Community. During her time at St. Luke’s, she was instrumental in starting care ministries at Shamrock Gardens Elementary School, which is across the street from the church. Along with church members, she organized various care ministries with the school. One in particular housed a student orchestra in the church after school and worked to get donated instruments so that all students could participate if desired. Forbes is remembered for her caring ministries and especially her teaching of Bible studies and for her care for her husband, Alan, until his death in 2002.
Shortly after his death, Forbes retired and after a few years became a resident of Aldersgate. In the final months of her life there, she was a resident of the new Asbury Health and Rehab Center. She died May 3, 2020, just one day after her 84th birthday. She is survived by son Chuck and his wife, Mary, of Westport, Conn., and daughter Susan and her husband, Rick, of Charlotte, as well as three grandchildren, Mara Forbes, who recently relocated to Charlotte, Tristan Forbes, and Avery Fisher.

A service to celebrate her life will be held at a later time, and her ashes will be interred in the columbarium at Providence UMC beside her husband, Alan.

William T. Jeffries

---

Michael B. Harrill Sr.
April 20, 1944 – August 27, 2019

The Rev. Michael Bryan Harrill Sr. was born April 20, 1944, in Rutherford County, N.C., to the late Jennings Bryan Harrill and Ruth Bagwell Harrill.

Harrill graduated from Chase High School in Rutherford County in 1963 and honorably served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. While a member of Henrietta United Methodist Church in Rutherford County, he accepted a call from God to become a United Methodist pastor. He attended Western Piedmont Community College in Morganton, N.C., and then completed the Course of Study at Duke Divinity School, becoming licensed as a local pastor in 1977. Harrill was ordained as a deacon and became an associate member of the Western North Carolina Conference in 1985.


In the years after his pastoral ministry, Harrill attended Kistler’s Chapel United Methodist Church in Rutherford County and enjoyed bird hunting and fly-fishing in the mountain rivers of western North Carolina. More than this, he enjoyed being a pastor and ministering to the people he led and loved. He was also passionate about preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ and leading lost souls to know Jesus as Lord and Savior. Within his preaching, he emphasized the blood of Christ and the redeeming power of Jesus’ blood. Another of Harrill’s great joys was seeing the people within The United Methodist Church grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Those left to cherish Harrill’s memory include two sons, Jeffery Todd Yelton and wife Brenda Yelton, and the Rev. Michael B. Harrill Jr. and wife Sarah; and a daughter, Shelia Renee Harrill. He is also survived by 15 grandchildren, Catherine Levesque, Robyn Dawn Yelton, Joshua Douglas Yelton, Rickey Jason Ware, Michael James Ware, Jennifer Renee Ricketts, George Jeffrey Hoover, Talon James Yelton, Breanna Bethany Yelton, Samuel Edward Yelton, Jessica Lewis Henson (Will), Christopher Harding Lewis, Luke Michael Harrill, Kristen Harrill London (Elijah), and Heather Nicole Self; and 11 great-grandchildren.

On August 27, 2019, Harrill went home to be with the Lord and to be in his eternal home in heaven. The celebration of his life was held on August 31, 2019, at Kistler’s Chapel UMC with the Rev. Don Farris and the Rev. Michael B. Harrill Jr. The interment was held at the cemetery of Kistler’s Chapel UMC with military honors by the Rutherford County Honor Guard.

Michael B. Harrill Jr.

---

Joseph Harry Hawk
April 27, 1934 – August 5, 2019

Joseph Harry Hawk was born on April 27, 1934, in Andrews, N.C., to the late Willard Mitchell and Sarah Blanche Bradley Hawk. After his father’s death, Hawk and his three brothers and four sisters were raised by their mother. His mother often told stories of Hawk attending every vacation Bible school in Andrews. He loved learning the stories of the Bible and more about his faith in Jesus. As a young man, Hawk joined the U.S. Navy in 1951 and proudly served until 1955 during the Korean War Era.

After leaving the Navy, Hawk returned to Andrews where he met and fell in love with Katherine Lavenia Forbes. They were married on November 20, 1955, just six weeks after they met. Hawk is survived by his wife of 63 years and three children: Diane Hawk Williamson, Debra Hawk Esposito, and Joseph Harry Hawk Jr. Hawk was preceded in death by his youngest daughter, Sandra Gail Hawk Rech in 1999.
Hawk began his college studies at Gardner-Webb University and graduated with a bachelor’s degree from Mars Hill College in 1969. He also earned a Master of Divinity degree in 1972 from Candler School of Theology at Emory University. Hawk was ordained as a deacon and admitted to the Western North Carolina Conference on trial in 1970. In 1973, he was ordained as an elder and admitted to full connection.


Throughout his ministry, Hawk held a “hands-on” approach. He never asked a congregation to do anything he wasn’t willing to help with himself. Hawk loved music and sang bass in the choir. He also entertained many by playing harmonica. Hawk enjoyed woodcarving and fishing, and he was a good cook. He had a special penchant for storytelling and loved spending time with family and friends.

After suffering declining health for several months, Hawk died on August 5, 2019. A celebration of his life and ministry, officiated by the Rev. Thomas Jolly, was held Saturday, August 10, 2019, at Andrews UMC with military honors provided by Hayesville VFW Post 6812 and Murphy American Legion Post 96. Hawk joined his heavenly family on that day. He now sings with the angels, and maybe they even let him play harmonica every once in a while. He joined friends and family who loved to hear his stories. Hawk left a legacy of caring and service that will be remembered by many. He will be missed dearly.

Diane H. Williamson

Guinnell Carroll Hunter
October 8, 1948 – April 17, 2020

Guinnell Carroll Hunter was a force for good and a mentor to many. She led two dynamic careers in education and ministry before blissfully rejoining her husband, Donald Martin Hunter, in heaven on April 17, 2020.

Nearly 72 years ago, Hunter was born to the late Candler and Helen Carroll. They welcomed their second daughter into this world on October 8, 1948, in Blue Ridge, Ga. In her teen years, Hunter’s family moved to Hayesville, N.C., where her father once owned several businesses and later served as mayor. She would call Hayesville home for the rest of her life.

Hunter always remembered religion as an important value of her family. She felt called to the world of ministry at the early age of 15, but hesitated due to her gender. So, while still dedicated to the church, she served others in the classroom after studying early childhood education at Young Harris College, then transferring to Western Carolina University, where she graduated with a bachelor’s degree in 1970.

In college, she met the love of her life, Donald. They married on a sweet summer day on June 10, 1972. Almost two years later, their first daughter was born. Hunter is survived by all her children -- Erin, Ryan, Ethan, and Eden -- as well as three grandchildren, Noah, Norah, and Nash.

While raising her family with Donald, Hunter continued her career as an educator, teaching thousands of students in Clay County Schools. As a life-long learner, Hunter received two master’s degrees before pursuing ministry, one in arts education (1985) and another in administration (1988), both from Western Carolina. She was certified as a K-12 reading specialist, mentor specialist, and curriculum instructional specialist. Her work as an educator was recognized on the state and national level; she once received the North Carolina Teacher of the Year Award and was certified twice by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards in middle childhood education.

Hunter loved teaching and loved her children, of both blood and spirit, though she still felt called to do more. Finally in 2003, she took the first step to becoming a minister by enrolling in the Bi-vocational Local Pastor School at Emory University. Only months into her studies, her loving partner fell ill due to colon cancer. She and Donald were married for almost 33 years before his passing in 2005. They both knew his death wouldn’t end her pursuit of preaching; it only connected her closer to God and to Donald.

In 2010, she graduated from Emory’s Ministerial Course of Study and continued as assistant pastor at Hickory Stand United Methodist Church (Brasstown), as well as her home church, Oak Forest United Methodist (Hayesville), where she had been
preaching since 2003. Hunter thrived as a minister and so did the community who loved her. She blessed many through her clergy work, doing home visits, hosting her famous clown ministry, teaching weekly Bible study, officiating weddings and funerals, and making late-night prayer calls. She also briefly ministered at Ledford’s Chapel in 2018, before retiring in 2019.

Throughout both careers, Hunter was an advocate for those in need and those marginalized. She proudly led an initiative to protect a previously abandoned slave cemetery on her property. In 2017, she collaborated with Western Carolina University and Clay County Historical and Arts Council to research and memorialize African-American history and to plan a public tour of the cemetery at her home.

Hunter also hosted several presentations, many at her church, of her research on the effects of human trafficking to spread awareness in her local community. She enjoyed writing her presentations and her sermons because she loved to share her trust for God and faith in compassion. The spirit of her ministry never stopped after her retirement. Her heart lives on through the many children and adults she mentored. A memorial service will be hosted at Oak Forest United Methodist Church when it is healthy and safe for everyone to join hands in celebrating her life.

Ethan Hunter

Charles Edwin Jackson
March 15, 1933 – February 15, 2020

Charles Jackson was born March 15, 1933, to the late Hayes and Catherine Jackson. He died February 15, 2020, at age 86 in Asheville, N.C. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Pamela Buchanan Jackson. He is also survived by four children. Helen Westmoreland, Terri Tarrer, Lisa Williams, and Don Jackson. He had several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Jackson served his country in the U.S. Army for 25 years, retiring as a Master Sergeant. While in the Army, he was a Green Beret and Army Ranger with the 82nd Airborne, and he served in both the Vietnam and Korean wars. He served as an ROTC instructor at Clemson University; his last assignment was at The Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

In 1976, Jackson earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from High Point University. At age 69, he earned his Master of Ministry degree from Southern Wesleyan University. Fulfilling a lifelong calling, he became licensed as pastor in The United Methodist Church in 2002. Though he retired in 2003, he continued to serve as a minister. His appointments included: Hickory Knoll, 2002-2006; Sweetwater, 2006-2010; Speedwell-Wesleyanna, 2010-2014. He entered full retirement in 2014.

He was a constant learner, often reading multiple books at a time. He loved history and always wanted to know what others were studying. He was a member of Wesleyanna UMC in Sylva, N.C.

Funeral services were held on February 22, 2020, with the Rev. Dennis Burrell and Jackson’s son-in-law, Lee Westmoreland, officiating. U.S. Army Green Beret soldiers from Fort Bragg, N.C., provided full military honors at the graveside.

Helen Westmoreland and Pamela Jackson

Howard Stephen Kiser
March 17, 1948 – March 6, 2020

The Rev. Howard Stephen “Steve” Kiser was born into Christian love on March 17, 1948, in Lincolnton, N.C., to the late Rev. Howard Marshall Kiser and Rachel Kiser. His parents were active disciples of Christ in their church and community. On the day their son was born, their faith and the promise of Christ were evident. Kiser was born without arms below the elbow and no hands or fingers except a thumb like appendage on his left hand, as well as a painful hip deformity. Ultrasound technology was unavailable at that time, so his parents had no warning or preparation for the news that he had birth “defects.” When he was placed in his parents’ arms, the concerned medical staff asked them what they were going to do. Kiser’s father replied, “We are going to love him anyway.” Thus began a relationship of great love, understanding, and blind faith. This was the first of many examples Kiser saw of the undying loved and true promise of his Heavenly Father through his earthly one.

Growing up in rural Lincoln County on his family’s farm, Kiser spent a great deal of time outdoors, especially with his older sister, Jean. He loved the game of baseball and was determined to play the same as others who had hands. With perseverance, Kiser taught himself the sport and eventually was skilled enough to coach many Little League teams. Through the encouragement of his parents, Kiser became undefended with activities of daily living. He could feed himself, ride a bike, drive, and write. The only task he did not master was tying his own shoes. However, he knew how to tie and used his mouth
to aide him in tying his children’s shoes. At any early age, Kiser was taught he could do anything anyone else could, but it would be in a different way and would not be easy. He learned to accept his challenges as a gift.

As a young man, Kiser wanted to be a farmer. After the death of his grandfather, he changed his mind and began to work harder in school and achieved many academic goals. He had many different jobs before answering Christ’s call to ministry. He was a DJ, an account recovery specialist for WA Family Stores, and after graduating from Appalachian State University, became a counselor with the N.C. Vocational Rehabilitation Program. While working for “VR,” Kiser met a fellow employee, Elizabeth Quinter. Six months later, he married the love of his life on July 23, 1978. Beth and Steve remained married until his death, a total of 41 years.

During this time, Kiser was an active member of Lander’s Chapel United Methodist Church. He went to work every day and had built his dream home on his family’s farm. While helping others daily, he still felt that something critical was missing from his spiritual life. He talked to his minister and father and determined that he was experiencing the call to ministry. Kiser was in disbelief that God would actually want him to spread the Gospel and denied the call for years.

After the birth of his daughter, Laura Elizabeth, Kiser felt again that gentle nudge. He recalled that it all came together for him then. Recognizing the immense love he had for his own child, he could not deny the great, unconditional love that the Father had for each one of His children, and Kiser wanted to spread that news to the nations. He packed up and left the beloved farm behind, along with his wife and daughter, to attend Duke Divinity School. Later, the Kisers welcomed a beautiful son, David Marshall. Kiser was overjoyed to have a son with whom to share his love of baseball, the outdoors, and his passion for Duke University basketball.


Kiser battled dementia before his death. On March 6, 2020, again after wrestling with the Lord because he was finished with his service and could finally rest, Christ Jesus came for him and carried him in his arms to his heavenly home to receive his eternal reward. The Service of Resurrection was performed by the Rev. Meg Gaston at Laboratory United Methodist Church in Lincolnton, N.C., on March 10, 2020. Kiser’s ashes were laid to rest at Lander’s Chapel United Methodist Church cemetery by his family.

Kiser was eternally grateful to The United Methodist Church for the opportunity to reach others and spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. He was instrumental in leading others to God’s promise and his undying love by his example and actions. Kiser had an enormous sense of humor, a gentle and kind spirit, and an ability to make others comfortable with themselves and their circumstances. His spirit of service was instilled in his children and those who knew him. He loved life and enjoyed every minute. He never took anything for granted and was content in every obstacle because he knew that his Lord and Savior walked with him through each mountain and especially in each valley because Kiser understood that was where you build your salvation. He was an example of the thought and perfection that God uses to create each of his children fearlessly and wonderfully. Had his arms been shorter, or had he been taller, he would not have been able to use his arms and do the things he could. He was precisely made to his full potential and as an example of being created in the Father’s image. He was perfectly made.

“His Lord said unto him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter into the joy of thy Lord’” (Matthew 25:23, King James Version).

Laura Elizabeth Kiser

Oscar Ray “O. Ray” Moss
November 9, 1930 – January 17, 2020

The Rev. O. Ray Moss was born in Kannapolis, N.C., on November 9, 1930, to the late Joe Nixon Moss and Mamie Fink Moss. He joined Jackson Park Methodist Church in 1949, and from 1949 to 1955, he worked in the local community, completed his high school education in Kannapolis and became active in the church. His pastors and elders quickly saw his calling to serve Christ. Moss entered Pfeiffer College in Misenheimer, N.C., where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1959. He also earned a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Duke University’s School of Divinity in Durham, N.C., in 1963. Moss was licensed to preach in 1955, ordained as a deacon in 1960, and ordained as an elder in 1963.
George Roland Mullinix was born on December 17, 1937, in Raleigh, N.C., to the late Rex Mullinix Sr. and Goldie Smith Mullinix. He had one brother, the late Rex Mullinix Jr.

Mullinix grew up in Burke County and graduated from Hildebran High School. In April 1956, he received his license to preach and did so with great enthusiasm in Hildebran, 1959-1960. On August 16, 1959, Mullinix married his childhood sweetheart, Hilda Ann Beach, and one year later, he received his bachelor’s degree in history from Lenoir-Rhyne University. In June 1961, he began his trial admittance in the Western North Carolina Conference and became a deacon. The couple had their first son, Timothy Brett Mullinix, and in 1964, Mullinix received his Master of Divinity degree from Duke Divinity School, was admitted in full connection to the conference, and became an elder. He later received a second master’s degree related to counseling from Appalachian State University in 1979.

After his year at Hildebran, his appointments were: Macedonia, 1960-1961; student, 1961-1964; Denton Circuit (Thomasville District), 1964-1965; First (Charlotte), associate pastor, 1965-1966; Bethel (Hickory), 1966-1969. While in Hickory, Roland and Hilda had their second son, Jon Mark Mullinix. The family then moved to High Point, where Mullinix served as the chaplain at High Point College, 1969-1971. During this time, Mullinix began to focus his ministry toward the great outdoors. He organized many week-long hiking and camping missions on the Appalachian Trail with students at High Point College. He expanded his love of the outdoors and his ministry when he became resort minister at Banner Elk, 1971-1974. Later appointments included: Montmorenci (Asheville), 1974-1976; West Jefferson August 3, 1976 to January 1, 1980; and counselor, New River Mental Health Center, January 1, 1980 to 1982.

George Roland Mullinix
December 17, 1937 – August 4, 2019

Peter Moss
Mullinix surrendered his ministerial office in January 1982, but he continued to serve those in need as an inpatient social worker at Cannon Memorial Hospital in Banner Elk and later as a guidance counselor at the Family Guidance Center in Hickory. He then returned to the N.C. mountains and became a counselor at the Grandfather Home for Children and later at Crossnore School.

Mullinix was reinstated as a local pastor on June 5, 1997, and he continued to serve local church communities in the Linville area and was also on staff at Banner Elk Presbyterian Church as bridge interim pastor until his health began to fail. He officially retired in 2004.

In addition to his official ministerial duties and his counseling positions, Mullinix was also active in local theater. He was involved with the Lees-McRae College theater for many years, as well as the outdoor drama, From This Day Forward, in Valdese. He also played several lead roles in theatrical productions at The Rock School in Valdese.

His sermons, prayers, and life were gifts to those who heard him and especially to those who knew him. His numerous congregations admired his ability to present the scriptures in such a way that all could understand and apply to their everyday lives. He was a selfless servant of God throughout his life, and even as his mind was being ravaged by dementia, he tried to help his fellow residents in the care facility where he spent the last year of his life. In his mind, he thought he worked at the care facility, and for as long as he was mobile, he continued to try to counsel and minister to those around him.

Rest in peace, Roland. You touched so many lives with your kindness, love, and tireless endeavor to help those in need.

Timothy Brett Mullinix

Lewis Ray O’Ferrell
March 6, 1937 – December 4, 2019

Lewis “Ray” O’Ferrell was born March 6, 1937, in Greensboro, N.C., to Jesse and Irma Ray O’Ferrell. He died on December 4, 2019, at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte at age 82. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Beth, who still resides at their home in Salisbury, N.C.

Upon graduation from Bessemer High School in 1955, O’Ferrell attended North Carolina State University for two years. His intended major was engineering with a major emphasis on baseball and football. God had other plans for him! After an injury put an end to his time with the N.C. State Wolfpack, O’Ferrell enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve. He continued as a reservist for many years, while working in his family’s bee business. O’Ferrell can claim an unusual title for clergy, having been president of the American Bee Breeders Association for three years! A kind and loving man who lived his life to serve the Lord and to help others, Ray and Beth were active in lay witness missions.


Retirement did not keep him from ministry. Ray preached whenever and wherever he was asked, taught Sunday school, and actively poured himself into younger pastors. He was an amazing mentor to both believers and unbelievers.

O’Ferrell married his wife, Elizabeth Sellers, on September 6, 1958. They had five children: David Sellers, Mary “Molly” Lucinda (Shuffler), Elizabeth “Betsy” Lynn, Leslie Paige (Wellman), and Amy Lucile (Collins). They have 12 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Ray had a tremendous love for his family and cherished every moment he spent with them on this earth, and he has now been reunited with his daughter Betsy, and a grandson, Levi, who preceded him in death.

O’Ferrell had been in declining health for a couple of years before his death. A fall at home led to a bleed on the brain, which subsequently led to a stroke. He never regained consciousness and died peacefully a week later.

A memorial service was held in December 2019 at First Baptist Church of China Grove, and inurnment will be held at a later date. His friends and family mourn his loss, but rejoice that they will see him again one day.

Amy Collins
Ardis Darrell Payne
September 14, 1927 – August 15, 2019

Ardis Darrell Payne was born on September 14, 1927 in Davidson County, N.C., to Washington Denny Payne and Sarah Esta Leigh Stone Payne. He was preceded in death by his parents as well as his brothers and sisters: Harrell Payne, W.D. Payne Jr., Joseph Payne, Helen Louise Payne, Ruth Hedgecock, and Evelyn Mock.

Payne farmed with his father after graduating from Hasty High School in 1944. On October 12, 1950, he married Alline Everhart, who preceded him in death on December 26, 2016. They were blessed with two daughters, Jane Alline and Susan Carol. Payne answered the call to ministry in 1967 and served a part-time appointment. They lived on the family farm until he was appointed full-time in 1968. He was licensed to preach in 1967 and completed the Ministers’ Course of Study at Duke Divinity School in 1970. He was ordained as a deacon in 1969 and received as an associate member of the Western North Carolina Conference in 1971.


Payne was a gifted pastor and a “people person.” Everywhere he went, he loved his people and his people loved him. He was a beloved son, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, and friend. He was a kind man and had such a gentle soul. There are so many people whose lives he touched. He was always interested in the people he served and the things they faced. Payne was a humble man, well-known for his sense of humor, love of travel. He also was a fan of Duke Basketball and Atlanta Braves baseball, and he was an avid reader.

In 1994, Ardis and Alline retired and built a home on family land in High Point. They returned to Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church to worship where they grew up. During retirement, he again served the local church, first as Spring Hill UMC’s interim pastor and later as Pleasant Grove’s minister of visitation.

Following a hospital stay with pneumonia, he died at the Hospice House of High Point on August 15, 2019. He is survived by his daughters, Jane Mendenhall (Gary) and Susan Yow (the Rev. Jim). He is also survived by grandchildren Christopher Mendenhall (Cindy), Richard Mendenhall (Catherine), Jonathan Yow (the Rev. Erin), April Yow Travis (Chris), Michelle Yow Sheffield, (Matt); and great-grandchildren Haley Mendenhall, Hannah Mendenhall, Madelyn Travis, Maya Mendenhall, Elijah Sheffield, Rachel Travis, Noah Sheffield, Reese Mendenhall, Emily Travis, Abigail Yow, and Samantha Yow.

A service to celebrate Payne’s life was held at Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church, Thomasville, N.C., on Sunday, August 18, 2019, with the Rev. Chris Clontz, the Rev. Jim Yow, the Rev. Billy Rintz, and the Rev. Erin Yow presiding. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Payne had a great passion for serving God in any way he could.

James L. Yow

Lucy Strider Norton Ponder
December 13, 1920 – May 22, 2019

Lucy Strider Norton Ponder was born on December 13, 1920 in Asheville, N.C., to William Ernest and Mattie Davis Strider. Ponder was the only girl, having four brothers: Frank, William Jr., David, and Carroll. She attended Hendersonville High School, graduating in 1938. Afterward, she returned to the school to coach the girls’ basketball team and work at the Carolina Theatre.

It was at the Carolina Theatre that she met her loving husband of 53 years, Cleatus Norton, of Etowah, N.C. The two married after he returned from World War II with a Bronze Star, celebrating their nuptials on September 10, 1946. Together, they had three children: Patricia Ellen, Shirley Marie, and William “Bill” Cleveland.

Ponder attended Sue Bennett College in London, Ky., graduating in 1942. Afterward, she attended Scarritt College for Christian Workers in Nashville, Tenn., training in missions and outreach. After being called into ministry, she prepared for licensing and attended Course of Study at both Duke Divinity School and Candler School of Theology. Ponder was licensed to preach in June 1966 and ordained as a deacon in 1969. She was among the first women ordained in The United Methodist Church; archivist Jim Pyatt notes, “Historically, ordination of women in the predecessors of the UMC was allowed years before they were allowed full clergy right.”

Ponder’s years of service in the Western North Carolina Conference included appointments to: Edneyville, 1966-1972; and Bethel, 1972-1979. In 1979, Ponder took a sabbatical leave and then a leave of absence, though she went on to serve
Lawson’s Chapel and Mt. Zion United Methodist churches in Kentucky and Grace United Methodist Church in St. Augustine, Fla. Ponder retired in 1986, but continued to preach at revivals, retreats, and conferences, and continued to perform weddings, funerals, and bedside visitations.

Cleatus Norton predeceased Ponder, passing away on April 4, 1999. On November 26, 2005, Ponder married Austin D. Ponder of Garrard County, Ky., who also passed away before her. Ponder was “Nana” to five grandchildren: Ben Argo (Bridget), Emily Martin (Nathan), Georganna Flynn (Mark), Adam and Barrett Norton, and to nine great-grandchildren. Ponder died on May 22, 2019, in Louisville, Ky., at age 98. A service was held at Southern Hills Church of the Nazarene in Louisville on June 22, 2019.

Ponder was known for richness of heart and courage. As her ministry was recognized in the community early in her career; she was awarded “Woman of the Year” in 1967 by the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Hendersonville, N.C. Her family obituary included this tribute: “Wherever she ministered, her life’s work was humble devotion to serving the Lord and others. She shared the love of Jesus and the promise of salvation wherever she went, all throughout her life, even until her very last days.”

Sarah S. Howell-Miller

---

**Jackeline Bennett Porter**

**September 29, 1935 – April 3, 2020**

Jack Porter was born on September 29, 1935, in Blackstone, Va., to the late William Davidson and Mollie Jacqueline Grammer Porter.

As a youth, Porter was very active in his church as well as The Boy Scouts of America. He received the call to the Christian ministry at age 13. Earning a bachelor’s degree from Emory & Henry College in 1957 and a Master of Divinity degree in 1961 from Candler School of Theology at Emory University, he was licensed to preach in 1954 and ordained as a deacon in 1958.

While serving as a youth pastor, he met his beloved Ruth Barker Porter and married in 1956, a union of 63 years. Their lives were blessed with four children: William Davidson Porter II, Peter Bennett Porter, Sarah Esther Porter Bigelow, and Deborah Helen Porter Dickey. They would spend a life in ministry in Tennessee, Oregon, and North Carolina.


As a beloved father figure to campers and staff throughout his ministry, thousands of children were reached in the name of Christ, and the growing faith of hundreds of young adults brought many into the ministry today. Known for his hilarious and engaging “Jack Tales,” his gentle, chuckling laugh, and his kindness to every person who knew him, Porter had a twinkle in his eye as he worked and played at camp, modeling for us all how to share the love of God with children. You might find him climbing a tree, scaling a rock, or whistling as he wielded a chainsaw around camp. His infectious spirit led others always toward conservation of the Earth and the love of Christ.

Jack, his wife, Ruth, and his whole family will be remembered for their skits and adventurous innovation in camping ministry. He was recognized by WNCC for service as director of camping, outdoor and retreat ministries, “In Appreciation to His Witness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ,” in 2001. The National Camp and Retreat Ministries in 2011 also gave him an award, “In Appreciation of Significant Leadership in Camp and Retreat Ministries.”

After retiring in 2007, Jack and Ruth moved to Laurel Mountain Lake near Madisonville, Tenn., where he became active in the Tennessee Forestry Firewise and Community Preparedness program, receiving a recognition award in 2017.

Porter transitioned from this life to glory on April 3, 2020, at Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center in Knoxville, Tenn., with wife Ruth and daughter Helen holding his hands while praying and singing his favorite hymn, “Blessed Assurance.”

A private graveside service and interment were held April 5, 2020, at Hiwassee College cemetery. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date to be announced by the family.

Randy Tingle and Ruth Porter
Bonnie Jones Gehweiler Shinneman
December 12, 1932 – January 12, 2020

She cared. And she loved. And she sang … and sang … and sang. Bonnie Jones Gehweiler Shinneman was born Bonnie Mary Schuldt on December 12, 1932, during Advent, and she passed away on “The Baptism of our Lord” Sunday, January 12, 2020, at age 87. Her living and dying were framed by her love of the Church.

She was a child of a Methodist minister and a Methodist deaconess, Arthur and Esther Bahnson Schuldt. She was consecrated as a diaconal minister in The United Methodist Church in 1978 in the Rocky Mountain Conference, and she served several congregations as minister of music. Before transferring her membership to the Western North Carolina Conference, she also served in the conferences of Minnesota, North Carolina, and North Texas. At the time of her transfer to WNCC in 1988, she was serving as director of music at Andean Rural Health Care, until 1992. She began serving as interpreter of hymnody and coordinator of Palestinian ministries in 1992. Although she entered the retired relationship in 1993, she continued to serve into her call to minister with Christians in the Middle East for many years. She was a member of the Hymnal Revision Committee that developed the 1989 edition of The United Methodist Hymnal, and she chaired the group’s Hymns Subcommittee. She directed the Duke Divinity School choir from 1981-1983.

In addition to her love of church music, Shinneman also was deeply committed to missions. She led many work teams over the years, especially to Bolivia and Palestine. There is a playground on the Altiplano of Bolivia given in honor of her love of the Bolivian people and two preschools in Beit Sahour with the United Methodist cross-and-flame logo over their doors because of her ministry with the Palestinian people. Music and missions were her twin passions.

Her first husband of 29 years, S. Jameson Jones Jr., who was the ninth dean of Duke Divinity School, preceded her in death in 1982. Her husband of 16 years, Dean Shinneman and his extended family, survive her. She has been lovingly surrounded, not only by many wonderful caretakers, but by her two daughters, Shelley Rossbach of Placitas, N.M., and Jani Tsurumi of Arvada, Colo.; as well as two sons, Bishop Scott Jameson Jones of Houston, Tex., and L. Gregory Jones of Durham, N.C. (current dean of Duke Divinity School) and their spouses.

Shinneman delighted in 13 grandchildren and their spouses, as well as 12 great-grandchildren. The youngest of the great-grandchildren, Audrey Catherine Jones, was baptized on January 12, 2020, the very morning that Shinneman entered the Church Triumphant. A service celebrating her life was held at Covenant Living in Westminster, Colo., on January 17, 2020, where Hymn of Promise (no. 707 in The United Methodist Hymnal) was sung by her grandchildren. Hymn of Promise, which is now sung across the denomination for worship services and funerals in particular, was added to the 1989 hymnal in large part because of the friendship between Shinneman and Natalie Sleeth, who composed it in response to husband Ron’s declining health and death. Jameson and Bonnie and Ron and Natalie had served together at Iliff School of Theology and had been good friends over many years.

Shinneman is also survived by two sisters, Carol Zingg and Dawn Thompson; and a brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Robert and Shirley Jones. Finally, she is survived by stepson Bruce Gehweiler and his wife and by granddaughters of that family.

The heavenly choir is much richer now with its new mezzo soprano – or better yet, its new director! Many have said of Shinneman over the years: “We are better people for having been loved by her.”

Susan Pendleton Jones

James Edward Smith
December 29, 1933 – August 14, 2019

James Edward “Jim” Smith was born December 29, 1933, in Wayne County to the late Jim Berry and Exie Wells Smith. He had one sister, the late Joyce Smith Hare; two brothers, the late Billy R. Smith and Shelton Smith, who survives him.

Smith’s early church experience was in a small rural church, Bethel United Methodist Church, in Wayne County. There, he was greatly influenced by the Rev. J.D. Autry and the Rev. Tommy Tyson, who both inspired Smith to follow his heart and dream of the ministry.

Smith graduated from New Hope High School and was licensed to preach in 1954 and soon began his college studies at High Point College; graduating in 1958 receiving his bachelor’s degree. As a local pastor, his first appointments were in the North Carolina Conference: Walstonburg, 1957-1958; and Beaufort Circuit, 1958-1960.
After much prayer and soul-searching, Smith decided to move to the Baltimore Conference to further his education. He attended Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., while serving five churches as student pastor for the Shenandoah Circuit, 1960-1964. He was presented his Bachelor of Divinity degree from Wesley in June 1964.

He and his family moved back to the North Carolina Conference to serve the Aurora Circuit, 1965-1967. It was there that Smith originated the plan and success of purchasing a new parsonage.

Another move was put into place with a transfer to the Western North Carolina Conference and was granted. Appointments in WNCC included: Pinnacle (Winston-Salem District), 1967-1971; Marshville (Albemarle District), 1971-1975; Green Street (Winston-Salem District), 1975-1981; Pineville (Charlotte District), 1981-1985; Central (Charlotte District), 1985-1990; and sabbatical leave; 1990-1991. He also served Center (Salisbury District), 1993-1996, while in retirement. After serving The United Methodist Church for 39 years, Smith took full retirement in June 1996.

Smith met his soulmate, Mariam June Stallings, at High Point College where they were married August 8, 1957. They are blessed with four children, Carolyn Smith Walch (Artie), Michael James, Jana Smith Ashcraft (Scott), and Sherri Smith Bonham; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Smith spent his life sharing his gifts for preaching God’s Word, being a dedicated pastor and friend, teaching, and researching his family history and that of other families as well.

Smith entered his triumphant life on August 14, 2019, in Winston-Salem after a lengthy period of declining health. His last wishes were granted, that he be buried in the family cemetery where three generations of his family are laid to rest. A graveside service was held for Smith on August 26, 2019, at the Newsome Family Cemetery, Goldsboro, N.C.

Mariam Smith

Donald Sheldon Stanton
June 8, 1932 – October 30, 2019

Dr. Donald Sheldon Stanton of Lake Junaluska, N.C., passed away of natural causes October 30, 2019. He was 87. Born June 8, 1932, Stanton was a native of Baltimore, Md., the son of Kenneth Stanton and Dorothy Hetrick Stanton.

Stanton was an ordained as an elder in 1956, and he was a retired member of the Western North Carolina Conference. He also served in the Baltimore, Virginia, South Carolina, and Detroit conferences. He held degrees from Western Maryland College (1953), Wesley Theological Seminary (1956), American University (1960), and University of Virginia (1965). He received the John Wesley Society award from Wesley seminary, and he was awarded honorary doctorates by Columbia College, Western Maryland College, Albion College, and Oglethorpe University. The administration building at Adrian College was named for Dr. Stanton and his wife, Barbara.

Stanton started his ministry as an assistant pastor at his home church, Sudbrook Methodist in Baltimore, Md. He then served as associate at Walbrook in Baltimore while starting a new congregation at Epworth Chapel. Later, he served the Bethel Circuit and Dunnloring in northern Virginia. In 1959, Stanton became Wesley Foundation director for the City of Richmond, Va. In 1963, he became chaplain at Greensboro College in Greensboro, N.C., followed by his service as chaplain and professor at Wofford College in 1965 in Spartanburg, S.C. He was on staff at the United Methodist Division of Higher Education and Ministry in Nashville, Tenn., 1969-1975. In Nashville, he worked with colleges and universities all over the country and administered an international program. Stanton served as executive vice president at Wesleyan College, 1975-1978, and then became president of Methodist-related Adrian College in Michigan, where he hosted the Detroit United Methodist Annual Conference every year, 1978-1988. He served as president of Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, Ga., 1988-1999, later becoming president emeritus. More recently, he was called out of retirement to serve as interim president at North Carolina’s Haywood Community College.

In retirement, Stanton remained active in Rotary, church, and serving on college and community boards. He was a lifetime choir member and an accomplished bass-baritone soloist. He has delivered addresses or papers related to higher education in Europe, Asia, North America, and South America. Loving travel, he and his wife of 64 years, Barbara Hoot Stanton, whom he married on June 25, 1955, have visited every state in the country and every continent in the world. They have twin daughters, Debra Stanton and Diane Stanton; a son, Dale Stanton-Hoyle; and three grandchildren, Eric, Sara, and Jeremiah.

A memorial service was held November 16, 2019, at First United Methodist Church of Waynesville, N.C. His ashes will be placed in the Lake Junaluska United Methodist Assembly Garden of Memories.

Debra Stanton and Barbara Stanton
Lawrence Walton Staples Jr.
March 21, 1952 – March 9, 2020

Lawrence Walton "Larry" Staples Jr. was born on March 21, 1952, in Columbia, S.C., to the late Lawrence Walton Staples Sr. and Dorothy Kirby Staples. Larry grew up in Greensboro, N.C., and began attending High Point College in 1970. There, he met the love of his life, Donna Jean Hart. He graduated from High Point in May 1974 with a Bachelor of Arts in sociology and married Donna on June 1, 1974. He graduated with Master of Divinity degree from Duke Divinity School at Duke University in 1978.


Staples was a beloved husband, father, and grandfather. He loved people deeply and whole-heartedly. Staples and his wife, Donna, shared 45 years of marriage and were blessed with two daughters, Kelli Staples Brentnell and Hannah Staples Romero, along with two sons-in-law, and three grandchildren, whom he adored. He was a true gentleman and loving patriarch of the family.

Staples was also a gifted preacher, teacher, mentor, and friend. He loved being a pastor and working with people. He spent much of his career teaching and leading children, youth, and young adults along their faith journey. He was enthusiastic and passionate about bringing people to Christ. He led by example, lent a listening ear, and provided words of encouragement to all who were blessed to know and love him.

At his death, his family surrounded Staples as he joyfully went to be with his Lord and Savior. A celebration of life was held on March 12, 2020, at First United Methodist Church of Lenoir. The Rev. Dr. Dave Melton officiated.

Larry’s love, joy, and passion will carry on in the lives of those whom he touched. Well done, good and faithful servant.

Kelli Staples Brentnell

Emma Loretta Allen Stutz
May 29, 1943 – April 19, 2020

Emma Loretta Allen Stutz was born on May 29, 1943 in Detroit, Mich., to James Allen and Reba Johnson Allen Phillips. She was one of three children including her late brother, Lawrence Gene Allen, and her sister, Sue Allen Walker. In her younger years, Stutz lived in Thomson, Ga., graduating from Thomson High School in 1961. Stutz had two sons, Allen Frederick and Gary Robert.

At age 50, in 1993, Stutz graduated cum laude from Emory and Henry College in Emory, Va., with a Bachelor of Arts in religion, and she was licensed to preach in 1994. In 1997, she completed her Master of Divinity degree at Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville, Tenn., having been ordained a deacon in The United Methodist Church in 1995. In 2003, Stutz was ordained as an elder. She first served in the Western North Carolina Conference at Providence (Statesville), from 1999-2000. Subsequent appointments were: Thrift (Charlotte), 2000-2005; and Mt. Carmel (Lexington), 2005-2008. She went on leave in October 2008 and officially retired in 2014.

Throughout her life and ministry, Stutz was known for her love of sharing God’s word and her desire to help others. She had lifelong passions for family, music, reading, and teaching, and her family fondly remembers camping trips in the mountains near Cleveland, Tenn., where they lived for many years.

Stutz is survived by her sons, Allen of Salt Lake City, Utah, and Gary of Denver, Colo.; her sister, who lives in North Augusta, S.C.; granddaughters Devin and Jenna of Denver, Colo.; and several nieces and nephews. At the time of her death, Stutz was living in Salt Lake City. A graveside service will be held at Savannah Valley Memorial Garden in Thomson, Ga, after pandemic restrictions have been lifted, and family and friends may gather safely. In lieu of flowers, the family requested donations be made in her memory to the Alzheimer's Association in acknowledgement of the presence of that disease in Stutz’ later years. May she rest in peace and knowledge of God’s eternal love.

Sarah S. Howell-Miller
William Gene "Billy" Summey was born February 26, 1956 in Shelby, N.C., to the late Roy Gene and Mae Jewell Summey. He grew up in Forest City, joining First United Methodist Church of Forest City as a youth. It was in the church as a young adult that he met the church’s director of Christian education, Sally Stoffel, with whom he fell in love and subsequently married on August 10, 1980. Summey attended Limestone College and Pfeiffer University, from which he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1985. He later completed Course of Study at Duke Divinity School, then earned his Master of Theological Studies degree from Hood Theological Seminary in 2009. Summey is survived by his wife, Sally Summey; his son, Roy Gene Summey; his daughters, Virginia Summey (husband Graham Abee) and Sarah Katherine Summey; and his granddaughter, Hannah Abee.


This writer came to know Summey when appointed as pastor of New London United Methodist Church. Knowing many of his extended family from having served in Rutherford County, we quickly developed a friendship. Summey was one who was committed to serving Jesus faithfully, not just in word, but also by putting those words into action. When he was first appointed as a pastor, he quickly experienced some of the challenges of ministry. As soon as he arrived at his first appointment while a student at Pfeiffer, fresh out of Local Pastor’s Training School, one of his members died. This meant he had to conduct his first funeral the day before he preached his first sermon in his first appointment. As a result, Summey had quick on-the-job training of providing pastoral care in the midst of crisis. As a pastor, Summey sought to live out a statement once made by John Wycliffe, “The highest service that [one] may attain on earth is to preach the Word of God.”

Summey was a man of many loves. He was a die-hard Duke basketball fan, and he followed Duke athletics closely. He had quite a collection of Duke memorabilia to display his fondness for the school. Summey also loved music, dating back to his playing French horn at East Rutherford High School. He entered Limestone College as a music major, and his love of music continued to be an important part of his life, as could be seen in his collection of Beatles memorabilia, among many ways. In fact, his love for music even carried over into the naming of his pets, for Summey is the only person this writer has ever known who named his dog Tully (after the band, Jethro Tull) and his cat, Tucker (after The Marshall Tucker Band).

Tragically, his physical and mental health cut short his tenure of active service as a pastor, but they did not curtail his sense of calling or his passion for the gospel. Ongoing medical issues led to a reduction of quality of life for Summey, but they did not take away his laughter, his sense of humor, or his gracefulness toward those who were trying to assist him. Tragically, Summey suffered a heart attack the morning of December 20, 2019, entering the Church Triumphant while receiving medical care at Northeast Medical Center, Concord that same morning. A service celebrating his life and ministry was held on December 23, 2019, at New London United Methodist Church, conducted by this writer, who will always cherish his collegiality, friendship, and encouragement.

James L. Pyatt
Charles Edward Tyson
July 25, 1925 – January 6, 2020

The Rev. Charles Edward Tyson’s unprecedented journey was one that echoed the words of Frederick Douglass when he stated: “You will not be judged by the heights you have risen, but from the depths you have climbed.”

Born July 25, 1925 in Asheboro, N.C., Tyson grew up in the days of segregation in North Carolina and served eight years in a segregated U.S. Navy. While in the Navy, he married Maude Brady on July 14, 1947. They were married for 60 years until her death on September 26, 2007. Their family expanded with the birth of a daughter, Angeline, in November 1948. Tyson was honorably discharged in 1951, having risen from steward to petty officer first class. During the ensuing years, he felt a call to full-time ministry, in spite of the well-established segregation within the Methodist Church known as the Central Jurisdiction.

He enrolled at North Carolina A&T University. Tyson became an Approved Supply pastor in 1958 and was appointed to the Wilkesboro Circuit 1958-62. In May 1960, Tyson graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree, just four months after a major shift in the Civil Rights Movement occurred, when four N.C. A&T classmates created the “student sit-in movement” at a Woolworth Lunch Counter in Greensboro, N.C. That year, Tyson was admitted on trial in the North Carolina Conference of the Central Jurisdiction, having been ordained as a deacon in 1959.

Tyson then enrolled at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary at Wake Forest College with the support of his wife, Maude. While in seminary, he was admitted into full connection in 1962, and in 1963 was ordained as an elder. In 1964, he graduated with a Master of Divinity degree. Afterward, he enrolled in the Duke University Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program, one of the program’s first black students.

From 1962 to 1967, Tyson served as the pastor of Durham (now Asbury Temple). After graduating Duke’s CPE program, Tyson wanted to return to the Navy as a chaplain, but he was rejected for health reasons. He applied and successfully became a chaplain with the South Carolina Department of Corrections, serving from 1967 to 1970.

In 1970, Tyson became one of the first African American chaplains for the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Prisons. His first duty station was the Federal Correctional Institution in Texarkana, Texas (1970-73), followed by service as a chaplain in Milan, Mich. (1973-76), and Butner, N.C. (1976-83). Having served the bureau well, in 1983, Chaplain Tyson became the first African American promoted to Regional Administrator of Chaplaincy Services for the Federal Bureau of Prisons, appointed to the South-Central Region, supervising numerous states. During his time as administrator, he was also chaplain of the Fort Worth Federal Correctional Institution. Having himself overcome many obstacles and challenges, Tyson established an aggressive recruiting program of 25 black and female chaplains during this time.

In November 1987, violent events that became known as the Cuban Prison Uprising occurred, primarily at prisons in Atlanta, Ga., and Oakdale, La. More than 2,500 Cubans, facing deportation to Cuba, took staff hostages in an effort to negotiate their demands. Tyson was deployed to Oakdale, La., as the regional chaplaincy administrator of the critical incident team. Seeing the need, he requested several additional chaplains to deploy to Oakdale. Tyson sought the help of the auxiliary Roman Catholic bishop of Miami, Fla. The bishop had survived Fidel Castro’s regime in Cuba and had been expelled in 1961. As a result, he had the respect of many of the Cubans involved in the uprising. He called on the hostage takers to put down their arms (makeshift machetes, knives, and sharpened sticks) as he rode on the back of a truck. The Oakdale siege ended, and two days later, a similar effort in Atlanta ended the crisis there, too. During this uprising, 250 injuries occurred and one death. Tyson’s actions throughout the crisis made him the unsung hero who saved 28 hostage lives, if not more. In 1989, he received the Chaplain of the Year award from the Salvation Army.

Near the end of his Bureau of Prisons career, Tyson and his wife, Maude, moved back to Asheboro. He served as the assistant superintendent/chaplain at Federal Prison Camp, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, 1989-90. From 1990 to 1991, he returned to serving the S.C. Department of Corrections as chaplain of the newly-opened Evans Detention Center in Bennettsville. Tyson then resumed service in the local church, serving the Trinity Circuit 1991-94. He entered retired status with the Western North Carolina Conference in 1994, but he continued to serve Bethel-Liberty Grove through January 1, 2000, when he fully retired.

Tyson continued to be deeply involved in the community. He was the first African American to serve on the executive board of the Salvation Army of Asheboro. He also served on the Asheboro City Board of Education, was a life member of the Lions Club Foundation, and was a member of the American Legion and other community organizations. He was also an avid golfer, a master gardener, and a dog lover.

As a result of Tyson’s dedication to prison ministry, a scholarship endowment was created in September 2005, the Coleman-Tyson-Siekman Prison Chaplain Scholarship Endowment. This endowment with The United Methodist Higher Education Foundation supports young elders in The United Methodist Church seeking professional certification to serve as chaplains in the criminal justice system.
Along with his wife, Tyson was preceded in death by his parents, Levi and Martha Tyson; an infant son; siblings Thomas Tyson and Irene Johnson; and grandson Brian Cheek. Tyson, 94, died peacefully on January 6, 2020, at his home with his daughter, Angeline (Angie) Tyson-Cheek, present. In addition to his daughter, Tyson is survived by granddaughter Andra Tyson and Irene Johnson; and grandson Brian Cheek. Tyson, 94, died peacefully on January 6, 2020, at his home with his wife of 52 years, Katie S. Warren; his daughter, Jennifer Warren; his granddaughter, McKenna Stewart; his sister, Annie Jane Harris; an aunt, Margaret Dickens; and multiple nieces, nephews, friends, neighbors, and parishioners who deeply miss his loving smile and heart of compassion. Warren is also survived by his beloved Golden Retriever, Emma Rose, who knew a good man when she saw one.

A joyful man whose calm, humble presence could fill a room, Warren lived a life of maturing faith, willing to grow and change, learning new things, and trusting God enough to let go and trust God for the next phase of what life could bring. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Katie S. Warren; his daughter, Jennifer Warren; his granddaughter, McKenna Stewart; his sister, Annie Jane Harris; an aunt, Margaret Dickens; and multiple nieces, nephews, friends, neighbors, and parishioners who deeply miss his loving smile and heart of compassion. Warren is also survived by his beloved Golden Retriever, Emma Rose, who knew a good man when she saw one.

A celebration of life was held for Warren on August 9, 2019, at Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church where hundreds gathered to celebrate and remember the one who had often stood by them when they needed him most.

Beth M. Crissman
Louis Woodard

November 13, 1939 – July 1, 2019

Louis Woodard was born in Kinston, Lenoir County, N.C., on November 13, 1939, the third of seven children born to the late Ray Andrew and Effie Alice Burns Woodard. He attended the public schools of Kinston and graduated from Grainger High School. He enrolled at Campbell College (now University) for two years and then went to Wake Forest University, where he was awarded his A.B. degree in 1962. His Master of Divinity degree was earned at the Divinity School of Duke University in 1965. Trinity Theological Seminary conferred upon him the Doctor of Ministry degree in 1982.

His life through high school was lived as a member of the Baptist church and in the eastern part of our state, but he would later move to the west to live out his call to ordained ministry as a Methodist in western North Carolina. While living in Kinston, he became part of a close-knit group of young men who were very active in the life of Queen Street Methodist Church, particularly the Methodist Youth Fellowship. It was through the friendship and church involvement of that group of friends that Louis became a member of Queen Street Church while a student at Wake Forest.

In December 1962, during his first year at Duke, and in recognition of his call to ordained ministry, Louis was licensed to preach in The Methodist Church. At the end of that academic year in 1963, he was admitted on trial to the Western North Carolina Conference and ordained as a deacon. He was admitted to full connection and ordained as an elder in 1967.

In the summer of 1963, while serving a student assignment in Hot Springs, N.C., Louis went on a blind date with Sandra Leigh Jenkins, who was from Hickory, N.C., and Kingsport, Tenn., and who would become the love of his life. The next summer, on August 23, 1964, they were married in Kingsport. Sandra is herself a fine student of the scriptures and Christian literature and became a wonderful complement to Louis’ ministry. To them would be born two sons, Christopher Mark and Michael David.

Woodard was first appointed as a student at Duke, 1963-1965, and then served faithfully and well at: St. Mark’s (Marion), 1965-1967; Memorial-Sutton Park (Monroe), 1967-1969; Shiloh-Wesley Chapel (Statesville), 1969-1973; Fair View (Mt. Mourne), 1973-1977; Bethel (Midland), 1977-1983; Huntersville, 1983-1988; Kingswood (Rural Hall), 1988-1991; Pineville, 1991-1993; Kilgo (Charlotte), 1993-1999; and Asbury (Greensboro), 1999-2002. He retired in 2002, and he and Sandra moved to Little Switzerland. Louis, however, did not stop serving, and he held further appointments to Newland, 2002-2015, and the Michell-Yancey Parish, in and around Bakersville, 2015-2018. He and Sandra moved to Bermuda Village, the retirement community at Bermuda Run, in 2018 and were together there until his sudden death on July 1, 2019. Funeral services were conducted at Clemmons United Methodist Church on July 13 by J. Matthew Burton Jr. and Paula B. Northrup, pastors.

Louis Woodard was first and foremost a minister of the Gospel, a persuasive preacher, a loving pastor, a wise counsel. He devoted himself to the study of the Word and the truths of our faith. He always wanted to help people discover the true life that is Christ’s gift to all who follow him, and he sought to give them insight about how faith can impact and give meaning to life. He also believed that God’s people have a responsibility to keep themselves healthy and fit. Walking vigorously outdoors and on treadmills, lifting weights, watching his diet, staying in shape … all of this he did, and how ironic it is that his most unexpected death came to him during one of his daily workouts at Bermuda Village.

Louis served local congregations as his first priority, but he also had an abiding interest in how the church is organized and goes about its mission on regional, national, and global levels. He attended several general and jurisdictional conferences of the church at his own expense as a page or usher, and for many years he served as a member of the staff of the annual conference secretary, 25 of those years as associate secretary, with responsibility for managing legislation and editing the daily summaries of conference actions which were distributed to all attendees.

He is survived by Sandra, his wife of 54 years; his older son, Mark, along with his wife, Sharon, and their son, Joshua; his younger son, David, along with his wife, Debbie, and their sons, Gavin, and Owen; and two sisters, Alice English and Linda Wright.

All who knew Louis loved him, and news of his death was a tremendous shock. He was a great friend. Like so many of his colleagues, he was proudly a Duke alumnus and follower of Blue Devil athletics. He was possessed of a wry sense of humor that never failed him. He shared the love of Christ all his life. What a blessing it was to have known and served alongside him!

Charles Denny White Jr.
Jack Brown Yarbrough
April 3, 1934 – December 24, 2019

Jack Brown Yarbrough was born April 3, 1934, to the late George Washington Yarbrough and Lillie Mae Simpson Yarbrough in Concord, N.C.

Yarbrough began his college studies at Pfeiffer College in 1953, where he displayed a natural affinity for music. While at Pfeiffer, he participated in numerous Christian and musical organizations, and he was named president of The Order of the Sundial during his senior year. Also while at Pfeiffer, he began his ministry, becoming licensed to preach in 1955. He graduated from Pfeiffer in 1958. The same year, he was ordained as a deacon and admitted to the Western North Carolina Conference. In 1963, he received a Master of Divinity degree from Duke University, and he was ordained as an elder and admitted to full connection.


Yarbrough had a diverse ministry, including four years of service in crisis intervention while serving in High Point. His volunteer work was furthered as a pastoral counselor for five years at Hope Valley in Dobson, where he was recognized for his devotion and compassion to suffering alcoholics. While at Dobson, he also served as instructor for religious studies and comparative religion at Surry Community College. His leadership in the many churches he served included nine major building programs, which included sanctuaries, family life centers, education buildings, and parsonages.

Throughout his ministry, Yarbrough recognized humanity’s search for meaning in life through faith. In his own life, he believed that reason and faith were compatible disciplines. He considered it a moral duty to continue asking hard questions about both. Among his favorite quotes had been of Elie Weisel: “I must continue, for if not, despair will not be the question, but the answer. And despair is never the answer.”

After his retirement in 1999, he was invited to join the staff of Centenary United Methodist Church in Winston-Salem as associate minister of older adults and pastoral care. He had considered it among the most meaningful appointments of his service to The United Methodist Church. There, he pastored 11 more years, until health issues necessitated his permanent retirement in 2010. At that time, he was honored with the title, associate minister emeritus, at Centenary.

In 2009, Yarbrough suffered a series of strokes, which would commence his journey into the sunset of his life. He transitioned from this life to eternal glory in Winston-Salem on December 24, 2019, at Forsyth Medical Center, after 10 years of declining health. Among his last spoken words had been: “The Church is for our salvation.” By his side had been his devoted wife of 61 years, Sylvia Ann Rogers Yarbrough, whom he married on September 7, 1958. Also surviving are his two sons, Jack Anthony Yarbrough and wife Rachel, and Christopher Todd Yarbrough and wife Teresa; and three grandchildren, Ryan, Rebecca, and Jeremy.

A memorial service was held at Centenary UMC on Sunday, December 29, 2019, officiated by the Rev. R. Craig Ford and the Rev. Dr. P. Glenn Kinken III. A private inurnment at the Centenary UMC columbarium preceded the service.

Christopher T. Yarbrough
Western North Carolina Conference 2020 Business Session

We look forward to meeting virtually for the 2020 Annual Conference Session. Due to the restrictions on gathering because of COVID-19, we are grateful for this alternative. We will miss singing together, taking Holy Communion, meeting friends under the shade trees, and walking around the lake. We hope that we can gather again in 2021.

The information that follows will include information about what to expect and the changes that allow for a virtual conference.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE BROADCAST
The 2020 WNCC Annual Conference session will be streamed on various streaming platforms, including the WNCC Facebook and YouTube livestreams. A link will be available on the Annual Conference website: www.AC2020.org.

REGISTRATION AND VOTING
Annual Conference members will receive information about voting through the Election Buddy system (https://electionbuddy.com). Election Buddy will provide the ballots and record attendance whether one has chosen to vote via paper ballot and US mail or through an electronic ballot. All of the choices will be yes or no. The virtual voting will open during the business session and close at 11:59 p.m. on August 8. An email with a link to the virtual ballot will be sent to conference members on Saturday, August 8. Mail-in ballots should be received by annual conference members via U.S. Postal Mail by Wednesday, August 5 to those who requested them. Returned mail-in ballots will need to be postmarked by August 12. An addressed, stamped envelope will be included with the ballot. The results will be posted on the Annual Conference webpage as soon as they can be counted, following receipt.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
There is a Q&A available for questions about the meeting or the business. You can submit a question and the answer will be sent to you directly and/or published online. The online portal can be found at www.AC2020.org.

HOST CHURCH
We are grateful to the team at West UMC in Mooresville for hosting the Annual Conference session and providing technical support.

ALLOWING FOR A VIRTUAL CONFERENCE
Annual Conference lay and clergy members have approved, by paper ballot, the ability to have a virtual conference. See Rule 32 in the Conference Organization and Rules, on page 78 in this publication. Subsequently, the bishop and cabinet have approved the following procedures by which we will do our work together.

PROCEDURES FOR THE 2020 WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
These special standing rules are established according to Rule 32 of the Western North Carolina Conference Organization and Rules for the Western North Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church and shall apply to the 2020 Annual Conference meeting on Aug. 8, 2020.

Meeting Information and Credentialing

1. The 2020 WNCC Annual Conference session will be streamed on various streaming platforms, including the WNCC Facebook and YouTube livestreams. Voting will occur through the Election Buddy (https://electionbuddy.com) voting system.

2. Members will receive information through email to access the annual conference meeting stream and the voting system unless they specifically request to receive communication through the postal mail. A link to watch the Annual Conference meeting will be posted at www.AC2020.org. Members who expect to vote electronically and who don’t receive an email from the Conference Secretary on July 14 should contact their district office. Clergy communication will be through the conference email addresses unless there is a different email on file for retired clergy.

3. Attendance of the members of the annual conference will be recorded through the balloting system. Clergy members do not have to request an excused absence if they cannot be present.

4. The bar of the annual conference shall be those members of the annual conference (as defined by the Book of Discipline) who are present and voting by electronic means or submitting a ballot by mail.

5. Robert's Rules of Order will not be governing any part of the Annual Conference session while these special rules are in effect.

6. The business of the Annual Conference shall include what is required by the Book of Discipline for the ongoing function of the Annual Conference and such business as may be deemed essential by the chair.

7. Required reports requested by the conference secretary coming from boards, agencies and committees are posted online at www.AC2020.org in the Program and Reports book.
8. All materials needed to conduct the business of the Annual Conference meeting will be published in the Supplement to the Program and Reports book which will be posted online July 20.

9. Questions concerning the meeting or business of the annual conference will be received through an online portal at www.AC2020.org. Answers will be given directly to the questioner and, when applicable to all members, posted online.

**Balloting and Voting**

1. All votes shall be cast electronically or through a paper ballot. The electronic balloting system generates the paper ballots which ensures that no one can vote more than once.

2. All votes in an electronic meeting of the annual conference will be up-or-down votes with no amendments or debate.

3. Electronic voting will be held over the internet and shall begin by the order of the chair during the electronic meeting session and shall close at 11:59 Eastern Time, August 8, 2020.

4. Electronic voting shall be considered "written ballots" for the purposes of the Annual Conference sessions held under these rules.

5. Requests for a paper ballot and a printed copy of the Supplement should be made through the return ballot that was mailed to members of the annual conference.

6. The return-by-mail ballot must be returned by mail to the conference secretary postmarked no later than three (3) business days after the conclusion of the annual conference session.

7. The results of all voting will be certified and announced by the chair (posted online at www.AC2020.org) after the votes by mail have been received and counted.

Approved by the WNCC Cabinet 7/15/2020

**ORDERING OF MINISTRY SERVICE**

The Ordering of Ministry service will be held on Sunday, October 11 at 3:00 p.m. at Centenary United Methodist Church in Winston-Salem. The service will include those being commissioned and ordained. Details will be available on the conference website as they become posted.

We are grateful to the many people who are working to make the August 8 meeting a success.

Kimberly T. Ingram
Conference Secretary

---

**Annual Conference App**

We have created a new, free application “app” for the Western North Carolina Annual Conference where you can find many of the materials and information.

Go to your App Store and search “WNC AC 2020.”
PART I. PLAN OF ORGANIZATION

Pursuant to the action of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church as contained in sections IX and X (¶¶ 601-672) of The Book of Discipline (2016), the following plan of organization and rules of order and procedure of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference are hereby established.

A. MEMBERSHIP

1. All clergy of the conference in full connection and provisional and associate membership, and all local pastors under full-time (¶ 318.1) or part-time (¶ 318.2) appointment;
2. One lay member from every pastoral charge of the conference, elected as provided in ¶ 32 of the Discipline; provided, that each pastoral charge served by more than one clergy member under appointment shall be entitled to as many lay members of the conference as there are eligible clergy members appointed to that charge (see 1.a.);
3. The diaconal ministers of the conference;
4. The active deaconesses under episcopal appointment within the bounds of the conference;
5. The conference president of United Methodist Women;
6. The conference president of United Methodist Men;
7. The conference lay leader;
8. The conference president of United Methodist Youth;
9. The chairperson of the conference college student organization;
10. The district lay leader from each district;
11. The president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization;
12. The conference director of lay servant ministries.
13. The conference secretary of global ministries (if lay).
14. Two young persons between the ages of twelve and seventeen and one young person between the ages of eighteen and thirty from each district, elected by the district Program Ministries Council or equivalent structure; and,
15. Such additional lay members as may be necessary to equalize the lay and clergy membership of the conference, as provided below, based on the clergy membership as of July 1 of the previous year.

2. The district shall select from its district additional lay members so that the total number of lay members equals the total number of clergy members. The additional number of lay members from each district shall be determined in an equitable and proportional manner by the conference secretary based upon membership as recorded in the most recent conference Journal. Alternates to such additional lay members may be chosen at the discretion of the district superintendent and district lay leader and may be seated in place of such members who are unable to be present.

3. The completed registration process shall constitute the official membership roll of the annual conference.

4. A quorum for the transaction of business in any annual conference session shall be the number of registered conference members present and voting.

B. OFFICERS

1. The Presiding Officer: The presiding officer of the conference shall be the resident bishop.
2. Conference Secretary: The secretary of the conference shall be elected quadrennially by the conference at the annual session of the conference following each General Conference on nomination by the Committee on Conference Staff Relations and shall assume full responsibility of the office upon adjournment of the annual session at which he/she is elected, provided that the outgoing secretary shall be responsible for editing and publishing the journal of that session. If a vacancy occurs during the quadrennium, the bishop, after consultation with the district superintendents, shall appoint a person to act until the next annual session, at which time a successor shall be elected as provided herein. Upon nomination by the Committee on Conference Staff Relations, the conference may elect a conference secretary-designate for a term which the conference shall determine.
3. Associate and Assistant Secretaries: Upon nomination by the conference secretary, the conference shall annually elect an associate secretary and a sufficient number of assistant secretaries to handle the work of the conference.
4. Conference Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services: At the first session of the conference following the General Conference, a conference treasurer/director of administrative services shall be elected by the conference for the quadrennium upon nomination by the conference Council on Finance and Administration. If a vacancy occurs during the quadrennium, the Council on Finance and Administration shall fill the vacancy until the next session of the conference, at which time a successor shall be elected as provided herein. The DAS shall include the responsibility of the conference statistician and the Conference Benefits Officer.
5. **Conference Chancellor**: Upon nomination by the bishop, the conference may annually elect a layperson who is a member in good standing of one of the local churches of the conference, or a clergyperson who is a member of the annual conference, and who is a member of the bar of the state of North Carolina as conference chancellor to serve as legal advisor to the bishop and to the conference.

6. **Conference Parliamentarian**: A conference parliamentarian may be appointed annually by the bishop after consultation with the district superintendents.

7. **Conference Director of Connectional Ministries**: The conference director of connectional ministries shall function as a communication link between the conference and general church agencies, give leadership in the implementation of ¶ 608 of the *Discipline*, and relate to directors of connectional ministries in annual conferences throughout the connection.

8. **Conference Lay Leader**: The conference lay leader shall be elected for a four-year term by the conference upon nomination by the Board of Laity. No person shall serve more than two consecutive four-year terms in this office. A vacancy in this office during the quadrennium shall be filled by the Board of Laity, which shall name a new lay leader for the remainder of the quadrennium, subject to confirmation at the following annual session of the conference.

### C. CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

#### 1. Committees on Nominations:

a. For the purpose of nominations to the conference entities, there shall be a conference Committee on Nominations, composed of the bishop, who shall be chairperson; the conference secretary, who shall be secretary; the district superintendents; the director of connectional ministries; the assistant to the bishop; the conference lay leader; the conference president of United Methodist Men; the conference president of United Methodist Women; the chairperson of the conference Committee on Youth Ministries; a lay leader from each district and two laywomen and two laymen to ensure diversity, elected quadrennially by the conference upon nomination by this committee. Unless otherwise provided herein or by *The Discipline*, all members of conference entities prescribed herein shall be elected by the annual conference upon nomination by the conference Committee on Nominations.

b. There may be in each district a district Committee on Nominations or equivalent structure, composed of the district superintendent, who shall be chairperson; the district lay leader; and others who could include: the district president of United Methodist Men; the district president of United Methodist Women; a youth; two pastors who have served in the district for at least two years, named by the district superintendent; and two laywomen and two laymen who have been members of The United Methodist Church for at least four years. This committee may prepare nominations from the district for consideration by the conference Committee on Nominations and shall care for other necessary nominations within the district and for action by the conference.

c. The conference Committee on Nominations shall nominate the conference entities to be elected by the annual conference unless otherwise specified herein. Quadrennial nominations shall be submitted to the conference secretary and shall be printed prior to annual conference.

d. The districts and the conference Committee on Nominations shall take care that each of the various constituencies of the conference is represented throughout the organizational life of the conference insofar as possible. Persons shall be selected for nomination based upon their demonstrated or expressed desire, interest, concern, and/or involvement in the organization of the conference. The foregoing shall not preclude nominations from the floor of the conference at the time of the election (as allowed by *The Book of Discipline*).

e. Unless otherwise provided by *The Discipline*, the Connectional Table shall act to fill any vacancies on any of the conference entities which shall arise in the interim. Persons so appointed shall hold office until the next regular election of the members of the agencies involved.

f. Terms of Service: Except as hereinafter provided, no person shall serve simultaneously on more than one of the quadrennial or term election agencies of the conference, except in cases of *ex officio* membership, nor for more than eight consecutive years on any one such agency, except in cases of *ex officio* membership; provided, however, in the case of membership on a quadrennial agency, that, unless prohibited by *The Discipline*, a person elected to fill an unexpired term of two years or less shall be eligible to serve for a maximum of eight consecutive additional years on the same agency, and a person elected to fill an unexpired term of more than two years shall be eligible for a maximum of four consecutive additional years on the same agency. The Committee on Episcopacy, the Committee on Nominations, the Conference Committee on Organization and Rules, and the Petitions Committee shall not be included in the prohibition of simultaneous service. If a member of said agencies is appointed to the district superintendency, his or her agency membership shall terminate, unless the membership be *ex officio*, and any vacancy thus created shall be filled as heretofore set out. If a member of a conference entity is absent from two consecutive regular meetings of the entity without a reason acceptable to the entity, his or her membership thereon shall cease, and he or she shall be so notified. Such a vacancy shall be filled as heretofore set out.

g. Convening for Organization: The terms of service of the members of quadrennial or term agencies of the conference shall begin July 1. Each agency will organize at an event convened by the bishop and scheduled as soon as possible following the adjournment of the annual conference session at which they were elected.

h. Members of general church boards and agencies will be *ex officio* members (with vote) of the conference entity to which the general board or agency most closely aligns, or as indicated in *The Book of Discipline*. 

---
2. **Connectional Table**: This team shall be constituted quadrennially. The purpose of the Connectional Table is to connect the ministry and resources of the Annual Conference in order to increase and strengthen the number of vital congregations and conference entities and to coordinate, promote, and encourage the development of faithful disciples and fruitful leaders across the conference so that, lives and communities are transformed by the power of God. The Connectional Table shall consist of the chairpersons of the Council on Finance and Administration, the Conference Board of Trustees, the Board of Ordained Ministry, the Leadership Development Team, the Church Vitality Team, the Justice and Reconciliation Team, the Mission Engagement Team, the Council on Camp and Retreat Ministry, and the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry; the presidents of United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, and the Conference Council on Youth Ministries; the director of church development, the president of the United Methodist Foundation, the conference treasurer/director of administrative services, the director of ministerial services/confidence secretary, the director of communications, the director of connectional ministries, the resident bishop, the assistant to the bishop, and a district superintendent. The director of connectional ministries and the conference lay leader shall serve as co-chairpersons. Additional members may be nominated and elected to ensure diversity and inclusiveness. One young adult clergy person shall be a member.

3. **Councils**:
   a. **Conference Council on Finance and Administration**: There shall be constituted quadrennially a conference Council on Finance and Administration as provided in ¶ 611 and following of The Book of Discipline. The resident bishop, the assistant to the bishop, the conference treasurer/director of administrative services, and one district superintendent named by the cabinet shall be ex-officio members without vote.
   b. **Council on Camp and Retreat Ministry**: This council shall be constituted quadrennially and be composed of eight to twelve members. Special attention will be given to the election of persons knowledgeable and passionate in the areas of camp, retreat, and outdoor ministry, non-profit board experience, and business management. The council will promote all existing WNCC UMC camp and retreat centers. This includes camp facilities and cooperative ministry with the local church, districts, and conference. The council is responsible for establishing, implementing, and maintaining financial oversight of the Camp and Retreat Ministry Endowment fund. The Council will submit a yearly request to the Annual Conference for financial support on behalf of the camp and retreat centers. The council will be a source for support in non-profit board development, will encourage and support sustainable best practices for all current camp and retreat centers, and maintain positive relationships with each of the camps and their staff and board of directors. The Conference Coordinator of Camp and Retreat Ministry shall be an ex-officio member without vote.

4. **Boards**:
   a. **Board of Trustees**: An incorporated conference Board of Trustees shall be constituted annually as provided in ¶ 2512 of The Discipline. The conference treasurer/director of administrative services, the bishop, the assistant to the bishop, and a cabinet representative shall be ex-officio members without vote.
   b. **Board of Ordained Ministry**: This board shall be constituted quadrennially and shall be composed of forty-five elders in full connection, including one district superintendent named by the bishop; nine deacons in full connection; fifteen lay persons, and the conference lay leader; and, at least four associate members or local pastors who have completed the Course of Study; elected as provided in ¶ 635 of the Discipline. The director and associate director of ministerial services shall be ex-officio members without vote.
   c. **Board of Laity**: This board shall be constituted quadrennially and shall be composed of the conference lay leader, who shall be president; the president of conference United Methodist Men; the president of conference United Methodist Women; the vice-chairperson of the conference Council on Youth Ministries; the district lay leaders; the conference prayer advocate; twelve lay persons elected to ensure that the total membership of the council is representative of the various constituencies of the conference; and other persons deemed by the board as necessary to its work. The board shall foster an awareness of the role of the laity in achieving the mission of the church, and enabling and supporting lay participation in the planning and decision-making process of the conference, the districts, and the local churches. One district superintendent shall be an ex-officio member without vote.
   d. **Board of Pension and Health Benefits**: As specified in ¶ 639 of the Discipline, an incorporated Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall be constituted quadrennially and shall be composed of twelve members, arranged in two classes. The treasurer of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, Inc., shall be an ex-officio member, without vote. One district superintendent named by the cabinet and the conference treasurer/director of administrative services shall be ex-officio members without vote. As a sub-committee within its structure, the board shall quadrennially appoint a Health Benefits Committee, composed of such members of the board and other persons as the board may determine.
   e. **Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry**: This board shall be constituted quadrennially in fulfillment of the portions of ¶ 634 of the Discipline pertaining to campus ministry and shall be composed of twelve members, nominated by the conference Committee on Nominations and elected by the conference, with special attention being given to the election of persons knowledgeable in the areas of campus ministry, finance, marketing, and management. The associate director of ministerial services, shall be an ex-officio member without vote.
5. Ministry Teams: There shall be constituted quadrennially four Ministry Teams of the Annual Conference:

a. A Church Vitality Team consisting of 12-15 persons. The team will provide vision for and oversee the structures, processes and resources needed, to help existing church leaders know and practice vitality; help potential planting partners in finding, assessing and equipping leaders for new church development; assess effectiveness of current resources; learn and share best practices; and, coordinate funding for vitality and development projects. The nominations committee will name the chairperson and vice-chairperson of the committee and other officers will be chosen as needed by the committee. One member will be chosen by each District Church Vitality Team, resulting in 8 members. Other team members are to be nominated on the basis of giftedness and passion for the particular ministries for which the team is responsible. Conference staff members serve on the team for organizational support and to encourage the full implementation of team initiatives, without vote.

b. A Justice and Reconciliation Team consisting of 12-15 persons. This team will promote excellence and fruitfulness in congregational life and ecclesial structures that reflect the full diversity of the reign of God; works of justice bringing reform to social, ecclesial, and civic structures and institutions; and, participation of all the people of God in realizing the vision of following Jesus, making disciples and transforming the world. Included in the membership will be conveners of the following groups, named by the nominating committee: Religion and Race, the Status and Role of Women, African American Ministries, Asian American Ministries, Native American Ministries, Hispanic/Latino Ministries, and Ministries of Creation Care led by a Conference Earth-keeper. Each of these groups will be convened within 30 days of the organizational meeting by gathering persons with a passion for the ministry involved. The Justice and Reconciliation Team shall have a task force that will review the Ethnic Local Church Concerns grants. The work of Church and Society and Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships, Peace with Justice Ministries, and the ministries and connection to the NC Council of Churches are a part of this team. The nominations committee will name the chairperson and vice-chairperson of the committee and other officers will be chosen as needed by the committee. Team members are to be nominated on the basis of giftedness and passion for the particular ministries for which the team is responsible. Conference staff members serve on the team for organizational support and to encourage the full implementation of team initiatives, without vote.

c. A Leadership Development Team consisting of 12-15 persons. The purpose of leadership development is “To grow the capacity of leaders to Follow Jesus, Make Disciples, and Transform the World.” The task is to help shape a culture where life-long growth and development are expected to promote and support life-long fruitful ministries. The team will promote leadership excellence among congregational ministers (both clergy and lay professionals). It will also champion the development of the future leaders of the church with special emphasis on youth and young adults. Finally, it will encourage congregational ministers in the development of leadership among the laity within the congregation. The team will network with those entities in the conference who share in its purpose. The nominations committee will name the chairperson and vice-chairperson of the committee and other officers will be chosen as needed by the committee. Team members are to be nominated on the basis of giftedness and passion for the particular ministries for which the team is responsible. Conference staff members serve on the team for organizational support and to encourage the full implementation of team initiatives, without vote.

d. A Mission Engagement Team consisting of 12-15 persons. The team will engage and actively facilitate the connection of congregations and disciples to service in their local communities and the world at large. They will work to encourage general church mission efforts and emphases, provide appropriate avenues for training of mission leaders, and promote and foster abiding relationships with mission projects and mission workers throughout the world. This will include the traditional work areas of Disaster Response Ministry, the Mission Response Center, Volunteers in Mission Building Teams, and other historically related ministries. The nominations committee will name the chairperson and vice-chairperson of the committee and other officers will be chosen as needed by the committee. Team members are to be nominated on the basis of giftedness and passion for extending the mission witness of the conference. Conference staff members serve on the team for organizational support and to encourage the full implementation of team initiatives, without vote.

6. Administrative Commissions:

a. Commission on Archives and History: This commission shall be constituted quadrennially (¶ 641) and shall be composed of twelve members at large, the conference secretary, and the president or designated representative of the executive committee of the Conference Historical Society. The conference archivist shall be an ex-officio member without vote. Its membership shall not be subject to the limitations on terms of service set forth above.

b. Commission on Communications: This commission shall be constituted quadrennially and shall be composed of twelve elected members at large, up to five additional members selected by the commission for expertise in the areas of communication and technology. It shall function as a service agency for the entire conference in the area of communication and interpretation. The conference director of communications shall be an ex-officio member without vote.
c. **Commission on Equitable Compensation:** As specified in ¶ 625 of *The Discipline*, this commission shall be constituted quadrennially and shall be composed of fourteen persons, plus one district superintendent, named by the cabinet. The fourteen elected members shall consist of seven lay persons and seven clergy persons, including at least one lay person and one clergy person from charges of fewer than two hundred members which are receiving equitable compensation funds at the time of the election of commission members. The assistant to the bishop and one district superintendent shall be ex-officio members without vote.

7. **Committees:**
   a. **Committee on Conference Staff Relations:** This committee shall be constituted quadrennially and shall be composed of the bishop; the assistant to the bishop, the conference lay leader; the president of the conference Council on Finance and Administration; and the following members at-large: two ordained elders, one deacon in full connection, and three lay persons. The director of human resources shall serve as an ex-officio member of the committee, without vote. The chairperson shall be elected by the committee from among the at-large members. The committee shall support and provide oversight to the work of the human resources department within the annual conference.
   b. **Petitions Committee:** This committee shall be constituted quadrennially in order to do the following: (a) receive and review petitions to the annual conference; (b) prepare a calendar of petitions for each plenary session; and, (c) ensure that all petitions are in front of the conference until adjournment. This committee shall consist of 4-6 members, reflecting the diversity of the conference. The conference secretary shall be an ex-officio member without vote.
   c. **Conference Committee on Organization and Rules:** This committee shall be constituted quadrennially and shall be the primary steward of the Western North Carolina Plan of Organization and Rules of Order. Its work shall include the following: receive and review proposed changes and/or additions to the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order and report to the annual conference recommended changes to the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order to keep them in compliance with *The Book of Discipline*. This committee shall consist of 4-6 members, reflecting the diversity of the conference. The conference secretary, resident bishop, and director of connectional ministries shall be ex-officio members without vote.
   d. The following committees shall be constituted as required by *The Book of Discipline*: Committee on Episcopacy (¶ 637), Episcopal Residence Committee (¶ 638), Committees on Investigation (¶ 2703), Administrative Review Committee (¶ 636), and Joint Committee on Medical Leave (¶ 652).

D. **CONFERENCE JOURNAL**
   1. The conference secretary shall be the editor of the conference journal, assisted by the conference statistician in the publication of statistical data.
   2. The journal shall be edited in keeping with the *Discipline* and other regulations of the General Conference and the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference under the direction of the Committee on the Annual Conference Meeting.
   3. The annual journal shall contain the proceedings of the most recent conference session and the statistical tables for the calendar year preceding that session.
   4. In the event that the plan of organization and rules of order and procedure of the conference are published apart from the journal, this document shall be considered part of the journal.
   5. In view of the obvious difficulties and inequities involved in singling out one or more persons worthy of special recognition, the journal shall not be dedicated to the memory or honor of any person.

E. **DISTRICTS, DISTRICT CONFERENCES, AND DISTRICT COUNCILS**
   1. There shall be a total of eight districts in this annual conference, the boundaries of which shall be determined by the bishop after consultation with the cabinet.
   2. At the discretion of the district superintendent, a District Conference may be held in each district (according to Chapter 4, Section X, (¶ 658ff) of *The 2016 Book of Discipline*.) The membership of a District Conference shall consist of the lay and clergy members of the district of the Annual Conference session of the current calendar year.
   3. The district lay leaders shall be selected by the district for a four-year term and confirmed by the annual conference. No person shall serve as a district lay leader for more than two consecutive terms.
   4. District organization for missional purposes and impact: Each district may organize leadership teams that carry out the strategy and mission of the district within its context. Each team will reflect the diversity of the district.
   5. The district Board of Church Location and Building (¶ 2519), the district Board of Trustees (¶ 2518), the district Committee on the Ordained Ministry (¶ 666), and the Committee on District Superintendency (¶ 669) shall be organized in each district as provided for in *The Book of Discipline*.

F. **ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO GENERAL AND JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCES**
   1. Lay and clergy members as designated by *The Book of Discipline* shall be eligible to vote and to be elected as a delegate.
   2. Those voting must vote within the voting bar of the conference and at the time specified by the presiding officer for that ballot. Ballots shall be cast only in the manner provided and designated by the conference.
3. Vote counting procedures shall be the responsibility of the conference secretary, assisted by tellers duly elected by the conference from among the lay members and the ordained ministerial members in full connection upon nomination by the district superintendents. In addition, upon nomination by the conference secretary, the conference shall elect two chief lay tellers from among the lay members of the conference and two chief ordained ministerial tellers from among the ordained ministerial members of the conference in full connection.

4. A simple majority of the valid ballots cast shall be required for election.

5. The results of the ballots shall be announced by the presiding officer as follows:
   a. First Ballot for General Conference Delegates and First Ballot for Jurisdictional Conference Delegates: The names of all persons receiving ten or more votes shall be announced, with the total vote for each, in descending order.
   b. Second Ballots: The names of all persons receiving twenty or more votes shall be announced.
   c. Third and All Subsequent Ballots: The names of all persons receiving thirty or more votes shall be announced.
   NOTE: A person’s name not being announced because his or her vote total was less than the number necessary for announcement does not mean that the person is necessarily ineligible for election.

6. Individual ballots shall be valid only when cast for the prescribed number of eligible persons to be elected on each ballot and cast in the manner provided for and designated by the conference. Inclusion of the name of a person already elected, the name of an ineligible person, or an illegible name shall invalidate that entire individual ballot. Adjudication of illegibility shall be the responsibility of the chief tellers.

PART II. RULES OF ORDER

A. PRESIDING OFFICER:

Rule 1. Authority of the Chairperson: The resident bishop or the presiding officer designated by the bishop to preside in the bishop’s temporary absence shall be the chairperson of the conference. The chairperson shall decide points of order raised by the members and shall rule on points of order not raised by the members as the chairperson deems necessary to conform to these rules of order, subject, in both cases, to an appeal to the conference by any member without debate, except that the chairperson and the appellant, in that order, shall each have five minutes for a statement in support of their respective positions. A tie vote in the case of appeal shall sustain the chairperson. When any member raises a point of order, the member shall cite, by number, the rule alleged to have been violated. The chairperson shall have the right to recess a session of the conference at any time in the chairperson’s discretion and to reconvene at such a time as the chairperson shall announce, with only members, authorized personnel, and authorized guests permitted to attend such a session following recess.

B. RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS:

Rule 2. Frequency and Length of Speeches: No member shall speak a second time on the same question if any member who has not spoken desires the floor, no more than twice on the same subject under the same motion, and no longer than three minutes unless the member’s time shall be extended by the conference, except as provided in Rule 24. This three-minute limit may be reduced by a majority vote of the conference at any time and for any period of duration. The provisions of this rule shall likewise apply to the asking of a question or questions by an individual and to answers to that individual by the person or agency to whom the questions are directed.

Rule 3. Total Time for Debate on an Individual Proposal: When a proposal is to be presented as the main motion for debate, the conference may, by majority vote upon motion by any member, set a time limit for the total debate on that question, including any amendments or other secondary motions related thereto, provided that such limitation shall not be construed to conflict with Rule 2 or Rule 24. If such a limitation is set, the chairperson may direct the coordinator of calendar to allocate the total time among speakers for and against the question by such means as the coordinator deems appropriate, consistent with the provisions of Rule 2, and provided that the previous question may be ordered at any time as specified in Rule 20.

Rule 4. Voting Bar of the Conference: At the organizational session of the conference, the voting bar of the plenary sessions of the conference shall be set by vote of the members. When a vote is taken on any question, only those members within the voting bar of the conference shall be entitled to vote.

Rule 5. Voting Procedure: Voting shall be by show of hands or otherwise as ordered by the chairperson or by the conference. At the discretion of the chairperson, a count vote may be taken. A count vote may also be ordered at the call of any member supported by one third of the members present and voting, in which case the members shall rise from their seats and be counted. The count shall be made by tellers appointed by the conference secretary and shall include the votes of members in the portions of the voting bar separate from the main assembly. No other business shall be in order when a vote is being taken or when the previous question has been ordered, unless 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 tellers on a count vote.

Rule 6. Division of Question: Before a vote is taken, any member shall have the right to call for a division of any question, if it is subject to such division as the member indicates. If no member objects, the division shall be made. If there is objection, the chairperson shall put the question of division to vote, not waiting for a second.
C. BUSINESS PROCEDURE:

Rule 7. Organizational Session: The opening or organizational session of the conference shall include at least the following:

a. Roll call of conference members (see Part I.A.3).
b. Setting of the voting bar (see Rule 4).
c. Adoption of conference agenda.
e. Ordering to record of reports of boards and agencies not requiring conference action.
f. Election of associate and assistant secretaries and associate and assistant statisticians.
g. Election of coordinator of calendar (if warranted).
h. Announcement of necessary revisions of printed reports and recommendations.

Rule 8. Petitions: Petitions may be made to the conference by conference entities; the cabinet; lay and clergy members of the conference; councils, boards, and committees of the districts of the conference; and councils, boards, committees, and professing members of local churches of the conference. Each petition must be submitted to the conference secretary in writing, preferably by electronic means, by a date determined and announced by the conference secretary prior to the convening of the conference; must be signed by the maker(s) thereof (understood to mean the chairperson and secretary in the case of a petitioning group); and must contain information sufficient to validate the source (church or charge name, district, address, email address, etc.). Any petition containing personal references or dealing in personalities may be returned to the originator(s) with an explanation. The petitions committee shall review all petitions and assign a number and give a subject title to each petition prior to its publication.

Rule 9. Pre-Conference Publications:

a. Booklet of Program and Reports: All annual reports and petitions of conference entities shall be submitted in writing, preferably by electronic means, to the conference secretary by a designated date prior to the convening of the conference. Under the direction of the secretary, this publication shall be made available electronically for print.
b. Supplement: A Supplement to the booklet of Program and Reports shall be distributed to the members of the conference at the time of registration of members.

Rule 10. Referral of Matters with Financial Implications: All petitions and motions requesting a special offering or financial appeal or otherwise having financial implications for conference funds shall be referred to the conference Council on Finance and Administration, which shall offer its recommendations concerning the matter prior to action by the annual conference.

Rule 11. Consideration of Business Items: All petitions and other motions, including proposed amendments to the plan of organization and rules of order, printed and distributed in accordance with Rule 9, subject to correction of grammatical and editorial errors, shall be the property of the conference at the time of the opening of the conference without formal reading and shall be in order for consideration at any time thereafter.

Rule 12. Availability of Conference Actions: No later than ten days after the adjournment of the annual session, the conference secretary shall provide copies of all resolutions, proposals, and recommendations acted upon by the conference to the bishop, the conference director of connectional ministries, and the conference director of communications.

Rule 13. Special Study Reports: Special study reports ordered by a previous annual session shall be presented directly to the organizational session of the conference for such disposition as the conference may make, including referral if the conference so chooses.

Rule 14. Distribution of Unofficial Material: No leaflet, brochure, questionnaire, or other material shall be distributed on the floor of the conference or in the registration area except by prior approval of the Committee on the Annual Conference Meeting or by the order of the conference.

Rule 15. Consent Calendar: All petitions from conference entities printed in the booklet of Program and Reports, with the exception of the proposals of the Council on Finance and Administration concerning conference funds and financial policies, and upon recommendation of the petitions committee, shall constitute the consent calendar and shall be so designated in that booklet. At the request of any member, the conference may, by majority vote, lift any item from the consent calendar for consideration in plenary session. All items not lifted from the consent calendar shall be acted upon at one time in plenary session at such time as the chairperson shall direct. The proposals of the Council on Finance and Administration related to conference funds and financial policies, petitions which have been lifted from the consent calendar, and other petitions conforming to Rule 8 shall be presented for conference action in plenary session.

Rule 16. Undebatable Motions: The following motions shall be acted upon without debate:

a. To adjourn, when unqualified, except to adjourn the conference finally.
b. To suspend the rules.
c. To lay on the table, except as provided in Rule 24.
d. To take from the table.
e. To call for the previous question.
f. To reconsider a non-debatable motion.
g. To limit or extend the limits of debate.
h. To call for the order of the day.
Rule 17. 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 in the following order:

a. To fix the time to which the conference shall adjourn, which motion is subject to amendment or may be laid on the table.
b. To adjourn.
c. To take recess.
d. To lay on the table.
e. To order the previous question.
f. To limit or extend the limits of debate.
g. To postpone to a given time.
h. To commit or refer.
i. To amend or substitute (one amendment being allowed to an amendment).
j. To postpone indefinitely.

Rule 18. Referring Reports: The conference may refer any report, recommendation, or resolution, or any part thereof, which is before the conference for consideration, or any amendment offered thereto.

Rule 19. Consideration of Substitutes: A substitute motion may be offered for any report, recommendation, or resolution under consideration. The conference shall then first perfect the original, and then perfect the substitute. The question shall then be put first on the motion to substitute, followed by the motion to adopt the report, recommendation, or resolution.

Rule 20. Previous Question: When any member moves the previous question (that is, that the vote now be taken on the motion or motions pending), the member shall indicate to what he or she intends it to apply, if any secondary motion or motions are also pending. If the member does not so indicate, it shall apply 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.

Rule 21. When Motion to Limit or Stop Debate Not in Order: When the conference is considering a petition or other motion, no member, immediately after discussing the pending question and before relinquishing the floor, shall make a motion which, if adopted, would limit or stop debate.

Rule 22. 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 it is proposed to reconsider is non-debatable, the motion to reconsider may not be debated (Rule 16).

Rule 23. Calendar: The conference secretary, in consultation with the coordinator of calendar, shall keep a chronological record of orders of the day, reports, and other business items as recommended by the Committee on the Annual Conference Meeting and adopted by the conference as its agenda.

Rule 24. Speakers For and Against: Except for undebatable motions, a question under consideration shall not be adopted until the presiding officer has given opportunity for at least two speeches for and two speeches against said proposal, alternately, so long as any member desires to speak on the other side thereof, provided that the right is claimed before the person presenting the proposal is recognized to close debate. After three speeches for and three speeches against the motion, or when (and after) the previous question has been ordered, the vote on the motion shall then be taken; provided, however, that the person presenting the proposal shall be entitled to speak before the vote is taken. This right to close debate shall prevail in like manner to a limit of two minutes when a vote is about to be taken on a motion to amend, to substitute, to postpone, to refer, or to lay on the table or any other motion whose adoption would vitally affect the matter under consideration.

Rule 25. Consideration of Agenda Items: Items on the agenda of the conference shall be taken up on the day scheduled. Any calendar items for a certain day that are not received on that day or are not completed before adjournment shall not take precedence over calendar items for the day to which said item or items have been postponed. After the calendar items for that day have been completed, postponed calendar items shall be considered.

Rule 26. Motion to Adjourn: The motion to adjourn, when unqualified, shall be taken without debate and shall always be in order, except:

a. When a member has the floor.
b. When a question is actually being put, or a vote is being taken, and before it is finally decided.
c. When the previous question has been ordered and action thereunder is pending.
d. When a motion to adjourn has been lost and no business or debate has intervened.
e. 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.

Rule 27. Between sessions of the Annual Conference, the Connectional Table shall be empowered to complete any unfinished or emergent business of the Annual Conference that does not violate The Book of Discipline (2016), Judicial Council rulings, and/or Robert’s Rules of Order.
D. AUTHORITY, SUSPENDING, AMENDING, AND SUPPLEMENTING:

Rule 28. Authority: The plan of organization and rules of order of the annual session of the conference shall be the plan of organization and rules of order of the preceding annual session until and unless they have been amended or modified by the action of the annual conference.

Rule 29. Suspension: The operation of any of the provisions of these rules of order may be suspended at any time by a two-thirds vote of the conference, except as may otherwise be provided by Robert’s Rules of Order.

Rule 30. Amendments: The plan of organization and rules of order may be amended or changed by a two-thirds vote of the conference, provided that the proposed change or amendment has originated in the Committee on the Annual Conference Meeting and has been presented to the conference in writing or, if from a source other than this committee, has been presented to the conference in writing and referred to this committee. As identified in the Plan of Organization (E1), the number of districts may not be amended later than the second morning of the annual session. Changes and amendments printed in the booklet of Program and Reports shall be in order for consideration by the conference at any time during the annual session, provided that notice of such shall have been given in writing to the Committee on the Annual Conference Meeting prior to the opening of conference (see Rule 11). Otherwise, no proposed change or amendment shall be submitted to vote until and unless one day has elapsed from the initial presentation to the conference.

Rule 31. Supplemental Authority: In any parliamentary situation not clearly covered by the plan of organization and rules of order, the conference shall be governed in its actions by the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order.

Rule 32. Telephonic or Virtual Meetings of the Annual Conference:

A. Annual Conference Session. Upon a determination of exigent circumstances (such as war, civil emergency, public health emergency, natural disaster, terrorism, economic disaster, or similar events), in the discretion of the Bishop and majority of the cabinet, any regular and/or specially called meetings of the Annual Conference may be held telephonically or virtually, including both the general session or the clergy session of the Annual Conference.

B. Notification of such meetings shall be subject to the requirements for Annual Conference meetings specified in The Book of Discipline. The notice of an electronic meeting must include an adequate description of how to participate in it (for example, the telephone number to call for a teleconference must be provided, URL, etc.).

C. The conferencing platform must ensure that all people participating in the meeting can hear each other, can vote (if so entitled) and can have their attendance and vote recorded.

D. The Bishop and a majority of the cabinet shall set the rules and procedures for credentialing, parliamentary process, balloting and voting and shall publish those rules at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the session.

E. Conference Boards, Councils, Committees, and Teams may also conduct telephonic or virtual meetings, unless their governing documents expressly provide otherwise. If any such bodies have already adopted rules regarding such meetings, their own rules and procedures shall control but they must, at a minimum, provide adequate notice to participants of the meeting(s) and agenda and allow all participants to participate, hear, speak and vote. This rule shall in no way apply to separately incorporated entities governed by the North Carolina Non-Profit Corporation Act or the North Carolina Limited Liability Company Act.
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE NOMINATIONS FOR 2020-2024 QUADRENNIUM

The following members are the recommendation of the Committee on Nominations. Additional members of these conference entities are in ex officio, as outlined in the Plan of Organization.

CONNECTIONAL TABLE
Elected Young Clergy: Meg Gaston

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE
Elizabeth Coppedge-Henley
Myer Dahn
Carol Williams-Gilbert
Alternates
Mike Carr
Gloria Hughes

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION &
CAMPUSS MINISTRY
Jill Alventosa-Brown
Robbie Combs
Jessica Dayson
Torey Haynes
Josh Headen
John Howard Jr.
Eric Lanier
Rebecca McKnight
Cheryl Perkins
Amy Rio
Kyle Sigmon
Ethan Smith

BOARD OF LAITY
John Crane
Kylee Rose Frye
Patricia Graham
Casey Habich
Dorian Palmer
William Parrish
Christine Pharr
Mary Umbarger
Angela Webster

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY
Deacons
Amy Burton
Julia Trantham Heckert
Meredith Hinton
Troy Howard
Meredith Martin
Kevin Turner
Rene Wit
Carrie Wright

Elders
Aldana Allen
Steve Autrey
Eileen Ayuso
Sherri Barnes
Randy Blanton
Emmanuel Boakye-Yiadom
Fredrick Bowman
Mary Brown
Matthew Burton
Heidi Campbell-Robinson
Paul Christy
Al Everett
Lynda Ferguson
Randy Harry
Dan Hester
J. F. Howard

BOM Elders Cont.
Lory Beth Huffman
Jeff Johnsen
Mark Key
Uijeon Kim
Josh Kurtz
Justin Lowe
Dan Lyons
Jonathan Marlowe
Dan Martin
John McGill
Jeff Patterson
Sally Queen
George Ragsdale
Charlie Rivers
Lucy Robbins
Jim Sanders
Randy Sherrill
Mike Shuford
Wes Smith
Tom Steagald
Brad Thie
Ashley Thomas
Paul Thompson
Will Van Wieren
Norma Villagran
Cliff Wall
Avery White

Laity
Joe Beaman
Michael Blackburn
Ellen Coppley
John Crane
Martha Efird
Joyce Forth
Eunice Hannah
Andrea Johnson
Bob Penny
Mary Perkins
Jenny Reilly
Ceola Ross-Baber
Jatana Royster
Jaidy Smith
Jane Boatwright Wood

Local Pastors
Alexis Anthony
Tom Jones
Sue Anne Morris

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Michelle Chappell
Fred DeVore
Steve Felts
Karen Foster
Roslyn Harris
Eric Lane
Tonya Lanier
Ricky Leffft
Carl Manuel
Chad Shoaf
Phil Smith
Earonita Strong

CHURCH VITALITY TEAM
Cindy Wechter, Chairperson
Frank Ramos, Vice-Chairperson
Amy Foote
Tiffany Little
Meredith Menius
Brenda Ray
Walter Vaughan

District Representatives
Howard Fleming, Appalachian
Sam Burleson, Blue Ridge
Rob Hutchinson, Catawba Valley
Hugo Villagran, Metro
Morris Brown, Northern Piedmont
Wayne Dickert, Smoky Mountain
Jim Parsons, Uwharrie
Darren Crotts, Yadkin Valley

COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES & HISTORY
Brenda Alston
Kelly Crissman
Charlie Curtis
Phyllis Dudley
Irma Ellwanger
Russ Ford
Jason Harvey
Alan Keely
Ray Don Letts
Bill Taylor
Nancy Watkins
Sandrea Williamson

COMMISSION ON COMMUNICATIONS
Martin Bailey
Barbara Bowser
Earl Bradshaw
Kathy Bryant
Jonathan Coppedge-Henley
Sarah Davis
Fran Farrer
Bill Jones
Doug Peninger
Juston Smith
Lindsay Snipes
Shonnie Streder
COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCE STAFF RELATIONS
Paul Brown
Bonnie Burkett
Nancy Miller Campbell
Nancy Dozier
Faye Herbin
Robert Shepherd

COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION
Ann Aldridge
Paul Bethel
Phyllis Coates
Charlene Curtis
Timothy Fitzgerald
Tracy Fuller
Neal Jones
Patrick Ledford
Eric Lineberry
Fernando Little
Kevin Queen
Steve Reeder
Brad Treece
Frances Williamson

COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY
Clergy
Sandy Giles
Otto Harris
Paul Milton
Andrea Smith

Laity
Dennis Carroll
John Crane
Hank Dozier
Joyce Forth
Tom Jordan
Linda Linfors
Linda Masters
Suzanne Schilling
Ed Welch
Appointed by Bishop
Peg Aldridge, Laity
Shirley Canty, Clergy
John Fitzgerald, Clergy

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS
Mary Allen Conforti
Hank Dozier
Reola Jamerson
Ken Partin

COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION & RULES
Ella Hand
Denise Kilgo-Martin
Jonathan LeMaster-Smith
Dustin Mailman
Kelly Shrader

COUNCIL ON CAMP & RETREAT MINISTRY
Jason Boggis
Andrew Brown
Katie Henderson
Pam Humphrey
Andrew Johnson
Chris Lakey
Jonathan LeMaster-Smith
Kate May
Tresca McSwain
Chandler Ragland
Jill Rhinehart
Neill Shaw

COUNCIL ON FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION
Tom Adams
Diron Chloe
George Coates
Spencer Disher
Kaye Fry
Louretha Howze
William Hutaff
Joel Long
Angela Marlowe
Randy Perdue
Gregg Plott
Rose Rich
Julie Ann Roberts
Irish Spencer
Louis Timberlake
Mary Ann Wexler
Sara Williams

JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION TEAM
Donnell FitzJefferies, Chairperson
Renee Hayes, Vice-Chairperson
John Barbee
J.B. Byrch
Josette Ferguson
Jae Lee
James “Slice” Penny
Nikki Raye Rice
Convener: African American Ministries
Ronnie Roseboro
Convener: Asian American Ministries
May Lo Vang
Convener: Creation Care Ministries
Kim Richmond
Convener: Hispanic/Latino Ministries
Susan Suarez Webster
Convener: Native American Ministries
Joel Locklear
Convener: Religion & Race
Tammy Ingram
Convener: Status & Role of Women
Nancy Walton

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM
Kari Howard, Chairperson
Bill White, Vice-Chairperson
David Beam
Shirley Canty
Mark Conforti
Laura Danford
Deborah Daniels
Karen Easter Bayne
Jesse Enniss
Jon Gaylord
Parker Haynes
Carl Martin
Jeremy Pegram
Wil Posey
Lauren Sims-Salata

MISSION ENGAGEMENT TEAM
Stephen Cheyney, Chairperson
Amy Spivey, Vice-Chairperson
Richard Buff
Alexis Coleman
Carolyn Coram
Laina Davis
Laura Alexander Elliott
Catherine Gantt
Rod Ingram
Monique Luckey
Kris Mares
Camille Roddy
Patricia Settle
Dick Weaver
Marilyn Weiler

PETITIONS COMMITTEE
Lynne Gilbert
Sandy Giles
Sue Jones
Jonathan Marlowe
Christine Pharr
**ORGANIZATION AND BUSINESS OF THE 2020 SESSION**

The conference secretary and WNCC Petitions Committee have examined all petitions received from conference agencies and related institutions through the **April 1, 2020 deadline** and has caused them to be printed in this booklet, as follows:

### PETITIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Petition No.</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Page Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2021 Conference Funds and Financial Policies, including the Proposed 2021 Budget and Per Diem</td>
<td>49-56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pension and Benefits Programs and Policies (a and b)</td>
<td>57-63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Advance Specials for 2020-21</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Boards of Directors of Western NC Conference Camps</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Trustees of Brevard College</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Trustees of High Point University</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Campus Ministry Boards</td>
<td>43-44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Boards of Directors of Aldersgate: (a) Retirement Community, Inc. and (b) At Home, Inc.</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Board of Directors of Arbor Acres United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc.</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Crossnore School and Children’s Home</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Board of Directors of Givens Communities</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Trustees of UMAR Services, Inc.</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Board of Directors Chrysalis Counseling and Consultation Center</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Equitable Compensation Policies and Guidelines</td>
<td>46-47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Trustee of Cole Foundation</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Board of Directors of Wesley Community</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Mount Shepherd Retreat Center Conservation Easement</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**THE 2020 CONSENT CALENDAR WILL CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING PETITIONS: 3-16**

Kimberly T. Ingram, Conference Secretary
PROPOSAL: ADVANCE SPECIALS FOR 2020-2021

(Petition 3)
Churches are at liberty to support Advance Specials according to the wishes of the individual churches. The following ministries have been vetted and are approved as Annual Conference Mission Specials:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry Name</th>
<th>Fund/Collective</th>
<th>Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carolina Cross Connection</td>
<td>Missional Church Fund</td>
<td>Project AGAPE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congregations 4 Children</td>
<td>Mission Collective</td>
<td>WNCC Comm. on Relief (Disaster Response)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission Journey Teams</td>
<td>Northern Haiti Mission Connection</td>
<td>Youth Service Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission Response Center</td>
<td>Open Arms</td>
<td>Zoe Empowers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PROPOSAL: BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF WESTERN NC CONFERENCE CAMPS

(Petition 4)
It is proposed that the following be elected as members of the Board of Directors for the Conference Camps.

Mount Shepherd Retreat Center

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of 2020</th>
<th>Class of 2021</th>
<th>Class of 2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David Blankenburg</td>
<td>Carla Freemyer</td>
<td>Nikki Domally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerry Bohnsack</td>
<td>Paul Strahan</td>
<td>Angie Kern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dennis Carroll</td>
<td>Ryan Nunn</td>
<td>Frances Pariz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifford Del Grande</td>
<td>Ben Morgan</td>
<td>Christopher Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheryl Freeman</td>
<td></td>
<td>Michael Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlie Lyons</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katie Robinson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Camp Tekoa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of 2020</th>
<th>Class of 2021</th>
<th>Class of 2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Fletcher</td>
<td>Brad Cunningham</td>
<td>David Mitchell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan Lyons</td>
<td>Bill Porter</td>
<td>Candis Walker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Osborne</td>
<td>Kimberly Jackson</td>
<td>William Van Wieren</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keys Pendleton</td>
<td>Jimmy New</td>
<td>(vacant)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Camp GuilRock

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of 2020</th>
<th>Class of 2021</th>
<th>Class of 2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lori Buck</td>
<td>Rhonda Lee</td>
<td>Mike Shelton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Etta Richardson</td>
<td>Stan Hollis</td>
<td>Todd Freeland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bobby Jones</td>
<td>Lenora Graves</td>
<td>Cole Perkinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doug Berlin</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hil Peel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ex officio: Eric Hearn, Director, and WNCC UMC Camping Committee Liaison

PROPOSALS: NOMINATIONS OF COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY TRUSTEES

(Petition 5)
Brevard College


Life Trustee: C. Harley Dickson Jr.


Ex-Officio Trustees: David C. Joyce, Maxie G. Munro

(Petition 6)
High Point University

Kristine Mestdagh, Roy Carroll, and Ken Kahn
(Petition 7)

**PROPOSAL: CAMPUS MINISTRY BOARDS**

**Appalachian Wesley Board of Directors**

*Class of 2021:* Andrew Davis (alumnus), Matt Mize (Boone UMC, alumnus), Gwen Stevens (Boone UMC, parent)

*Class of 2022:* Susan Boyer (West Jefferson UMC), Marshall Boyer (West Jefferson UMC), Katherine Christie (FaithBridge UMC, alumna)

*Class of 2023:* Wes Austin (Deerfield UMC, pastor), Dodie Glowa (Boone UMC), Jack Simpson (Deerfield UMC)

*Student Members:* Emma Aldridge, Regan Duke, Luke Williams

*Pastor of Local United Methodist Church:* Anita Sain (Jefferson UMC)

*Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry Representative:* Kyle Sigmon (FaithBridge UMC, associate pastor)

*Appalachian District Superintendent:* Carl Arrington

*Campus Minister:* Juston Smith

**Asheville Wesley Foundation Board of Directors**

*Class of 2020:* Kayln Wiley (Chairperson), Andrea Lingle

*Class of 2021:* John McCullough (Treasurer), Bill Haggard, Dianna Johnston

*Class of 2023:* John Smith, Lindsay Rosson

*Campus Minister:* Jeff McCumber

**Common Ground at Lees-McRae College Board of Directors**

*Board Members:* Susan Staton (Chairperson), Rebecca Bolick (Secretary), Jana Greer, Vicki Lott, Jim Hart (Chaplain), Neil Hartley, Michelle Scott, Gina Phenneger (Finance Treasurer)

**Niner United at UNC Board of Directors**

*Board Members:* Ian Binns, Anne Brown, Jesse Caldwell, Olanda Carr, Sandra Cline, Beth Hardin, Mike Hoffman, Lyn Holt, Sam Moore, Trey O’Quinn, Chairperson, John Richards, Taylor Simmons, Ethan Smith, Beth Whitaker.

*Ex-Officio:* Stephen Cheyney, Campus Pastor, Cailee Franklin, Ben Rogers.

**Wesley Foundation at East Market Board of Directors**

*Board Members:*  
2020: Ron Cooper, William Waddell, George Coates  
2021: Harry Waddell, Dottie Troxler, Brandon Wrencher

*Student Members:* Jaala Harrison, Jovan Lawless

*Ex Officio:* Rev. Beverly Coppley, District Superintendent, Rev. Maria King, Rev. Ellis Carson

**Wesley Luther at UNC Greensboro Board of Directors**

*Board Members:* Veranita Alvord, Jessica Gregory, James Esterline, Jill Alventosa-Brown, Tom Herin, Jay Hilbinger, Don McCrickard, Carol Carlson, Carolyn Miller, Catherine Sevier, William Parrish, Paul Freeman, Mark Smith.

*Ex Officio:* Beverly Coppley, District Superintendent, Rebecca Kurt, Olivia Biro, Andrew Mails, Director of the Wesley-Luther Campus Ministries, Emily Saine, Associate Director of Wesley-Luther Campus Ministries

**Wesley Foundation at Western Carolina University Board of Directors**

*Board Members:* Ryan Pless, Mike Poston, Financial Secretary, Liz Davis, Bill Ogletree, Vice Chairperson, Sarah Speed, Secretary, Drew Carnes, Chairperson, Eric Sink, Sam McCarson, Jay Ruebel, Callie Moore, Savannah White, Adam Mottershead, Zack Georgopoulos, Rachel Gibby.

*Ex-Officio:* Linda Kelly, Smoky Mountain District Superintendent, David Reeves, Senior Pastor Cullowhee UMC, Jay Hinton, Director of the Wesley Foundation at WCU, Hannah Van Hooser, Associate Director, Scarlette Pless, Associate Director

**Winston-Salem Wesley Foundation Board of Directors**

*Board Members:* Roger Echols, Chairperson, Christy Buchanan, Elinor Starling, Steve Felts, Jonathan Philpot, Nicklaus Ashburn, Ryan Angi, Zechariah Kearns, Lamar Parker, Sara Miller, Grace Gach, Treasurer, Meredith Menius, Melanie Crossen.

*Ex Officio:* Samuel Moore, Yadkin Valley District Superintendent.
PROPOSAL: BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF ALDERSGATE
(Petition 8)
The boards of directors of Aldersgate United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc. and Aldersgate at Home, Inc. proposes that the following persons be confirmed as members of the boards:

(a) Board of Directors of Aldersgate United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc.
Chris Davis, Pat Garrett, Jerry Gaudet, Dave Guilford, Brad Crossley, Tommy Lawing, Fred Longietti, Billy Maddalon, Kevin McKane, George Moffat, William Springs, Bob Vaughn, Irene Vogelsong, Mary Wilson, Stanley Watkins

(b) Board of Directors of Aldersgate at Home, Inc.
Chris Davis, Pat Garrett, Jerry Gaudet, Dave Guilford, Brad Crossley, Tommy Lawing, Fred Longietti, Billy Maddalon, Kevin McKane, George Moffat, William Springs, Bob Vaughn, Irene Vogelsong, Mary Wilson, Stanley Watkins

PROPOSAL: ARBOR ACRES BOARD OF DIRECTORS
(Petition 9)

Scott J. Gerding Cynthia S. Graham David C. Hinton Kaye P. Lambert Kathryn A. Nelson William J. McGuinn Drewry H. Nostitz

Steven L. Reeder James M. Ruffin William F. Sayers Susan S. Schwartz J. Hill Stockton Wendy Walker-Fox John W. Willingham

Ex Officio
Bishop Paul L. Leeland Resident Bishop Michael F. Bailey Yadkin Valley District Superintendent Dale E. Driscoll Immediate Past Chairperson Margaret B. Hayden President, Resident Council

PROPOSAL: CROSSNORE SCHOOL AND CHILDREN'S HOME
(Petition 10)
The United Methodist Trustees for the class of 2020: Saribeth Dozier, Redge Hanes, Iris Sunshine
PROPOSAL: GIVENS BOARD OF DIRECTORS
(Petition 11)
It is proposed that the following be elected as members of the Board of Directors of Givens United Methodist Senior Ministries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of 2021</th>
<th>Class of 2022</th>
<th>Class of 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ann H. Aldridge</td>
<td>Grace Allen</td>
<td>Kathryn M. Atkinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suzanne E. Landis</td>
<td>Annette P. Coleman</td>
<td>Donna A. Broadwell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connie B. Martin</td>
<td>Adam K. Ennis</td>
<td>Alisa J. Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clifton B. Metcalf</td>
<td>Charles L. Fredrick</td>
<td>Kathryn R. Durity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Pine</td>
<td>Ronald C. Leatherwood</td>
<td>Patrick McGuire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenneth W. Swayne Jr.</td>
<td>Rob McKown</td>
<td>Murphy Horne Fletcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Edward Towson II</td>
<td>Chris B. Taylor</td>
<td>Rebekah Lowe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marjorie J. Tucker</td>
<td>David C. Whilden</td>
<td>Miles K. Hoffman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Ex Officio*
- William B. Cagle (Honorary Life)
- Robert E Shepherd (Honorary Life)
- Hal F. Starnes (Honorary Life)
- Alfred J. Whitesides Jr. (Honorary Life)

*Clergy*
- Robert M. Blackburn Jr.
- W. Michael Holder
- W. Mark Rails
- R. Keith Turman
- Christopher M. Westmoreland

Elizabeth M. Crissman, Blue Ridge District Superintendent

PROPOSAL: TRUSTEES OF UMAR SERVICES, INC.
(Petition 12)
It is proposed the following be elected as members of the Board of Trustees of UMAR Services, Inc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of 2019/20</th>
<th>Class of 2020/21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parks Hunter</td>
<td>Billy Morton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donna Frye</td>
<td>Morry Johnston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed Imbrogno</td>
<td>Pat Mirabelli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billy Morton</td>
<td>Mike Bailey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morry Johnston</td>
<td>Leslie Marsicano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patricia Mirabelli</td>
<td>Stephanie Hand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Bailey</td>
<td>Archie Pertiller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leslie Marsicano</td>
<td>Parks Hunter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gil Middlebrooks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PROPOSAL: CHRYSALIS COUNSELING AND CONSULTATION CENTER, INC.
(Petition 13)
Appreciation goes out to Chrysalis’ board members.

Amanda Kirby, Vice President
Jackie Selman
Donna Miller

Mary Lu Harmon, Secretary
Clarinda Crawford
Lynda Hodges

TBA (President & Treasurer)

*Ex Officio*
- Gary L. Kling, D. Min., LPC (Executive Director)
- Cathy G. Cole, Staff Counselor
- Leigh Loftin, Office Manager
3. Definitions and Classifications of Pastors

Types of Grants

1. Policies Pertaining to the Commission on Equitable Compensation

¶¶ 342 and 625 of The Book of Discipline 2016, direct the Commission on Equitable Compensation (CEC) to recommend a minimum level of pastoral compensation for clergy serving as local church pastors under episcopal appointment and to administer the Equitable Compensation Fund (ECF) as a source of funding of last resort for pastors-in-charge in order to maintain a living, equitable level of compensation for these itinerant ministers.

a. Executive Committee:
   During each quadrennium, at its organizational meeting, the CEC shall elect an executive committee consisting of a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, a secretary, and additional members from the full commission as needed, so that the executive committee consists of an equal number of clergy and laypersons. The assistant to the bishop and a cabinet representative will serve as ex-officio members of the executive committee.

b. Definition of Compensation:
   As used by the CEC, the term “compensation” includes the annual amount designated as cash salary for service rendered, additional insurance premiums over and above the conference-approved program of individual medical insurance for clergy, accountable professional expenses, household expenses paid by the local charge, and other fringe benefits. Compensation does not include housing allowance in lieu of parsonage to the extent of actual housing, fair market value of supplied parsonages, reimbursement for parish-related travel expenses paid by the local charge to the extent of actual travel expenses or use of an automobile for parish travel purposes, funds provided for continuing education to the extent they are used for that purpose, bona fide gifts or honoraria for special services, allowances for moving expenses paid by the annual conference or local church, or individual medical insurance premiums in the amount of the conference-approved program of insurance for clergy.

2. Types of Grants

Two categories of support are available from the ECF: emergency sustentation grants and regular grants.

a. Emergency sustentation grants are available under the provisions of ¶ 626, which states that each church or charge has an obligation to pay in full compensation, as approved by the charge conference, to its pastor(s). If it becomes apparent that a church or charge will be unable to so provide the compensation approved by the charge conference, the church or charge shall immediately notify the district superintendent and may request consideration for a short-term emergency grant from the Equitable Compensation Fund (cf. also ¶ 625).

b. Regular grants are available for those churches or charges which, at their annual charge conferences, determine that they will be unable to provide compensation at the minimum level set by the annual conference. In cooperation with the bishop and cabinet, the CEC offers grants, on a declining schedule, totaling no more than 30 percent of the appropriate minimum pastoral compensation for a period of three or fewer years. In the first year, a church or charge may receive up to 100 percent of the maximum available grant; in the second year, up to 70 percent; in the third year, up to 40 percent. During this period, the church or charge must adopt a plan, approved by the district superintendent, that eliminates the need for this assistance. After the third year, a church or charge will not automatically be eligible for a regular grant. Representatives of the CEC shall consult with the district superintendents about any clergy person or church that has received equitable-compensation grants for five consecutive years.

3. Definitions and Classifications of Pastors

a. Full-Time Pastors: Subject to these policies and guidelines, pastors appointed to full-time service under ¶ 338.1 or ¶ 318.1 shall have a claim upon the ECF and shall not receive less than the minimum compensation specified in the current schedule (¶ 342).

b. Pastors Serving Less Than Full-Time: Subject to these policies and guidelines, elders and provisional members serving as pastors appointed to less than full-time service under the provisions of ¶ 338.2 shall have a claim upon the ECF in one-quarter-time increments of either ¾, ½, or ¼ time as negotiated by the district superintendent at the time of the appointment, receiving not less than this percentage of the minimum compensation specified in the current schedule.

c. Pastors Attending School: Subject to these policies and guidelines, a pastor appointed to a church or charge who is enrolled in good standing in a college or seminary for a minimum of nine hours per semester or equivalent in fulfillment of the requirements for conference affiliation and who is not otherwise gainfully employed shall have a claim upon the ECF in an amount based upon the one-quarter-time increments as negotiated by the district superintendent at the time of the appointment, which shall not exceed ¾ time. In determining the compensation for a pastor attending school, grants received for educational expenses shall not be considered as part of compensation. Pastors who discontinue or complete their studies and intend to be considered as serving full-time shall be compensated at that level only after certification by the CEC.
d. Part-Time Local Pastors and Retired Supply Pastors: Since the ECF is designed to support those in full-time services as pastors of our local churches, those charges utilizing part-time local pastors or retired supply pastors shall not have a claim upon the ECF.

e. Pastors Engaged in Continuing Education: Inasmuch as continuing education is required of all ordained clergy, no pastor engaged in a program of continuing education under ¶ 351 shall by reason of such study leave be denied the minimum compensation support as specified in the current schedule, except that in cases of educational leave in excess of one month, the supplement shall be adjusted as negotiated by the district superintendent and the CEC.

f. Deacons in Full Connection: As provided in ¶ 331.10b, deacons in full connection serving within the local church “shall receive a salary from the local church, charge, or cooperative parish not less than the minimum salary established by the equitable compensation policy of the annual conference for full-time and part-time pastors,” although these entities should be reminded that they are fully responsible for the compensation of these individuals. If the bishop and cabinet appoint a deacon in full connection to a position as pastor-in-charge of a local church or charge, that individual shall have a claim upon the ECF and shall not receive less than the minimum compensation specified in the current schedule for elders in full connection.

4. Request Procedures

Regular grants from the CEC must be requested by a formal action of the charge conference, supported by a written grant application, using the CEC form available through the conference web page, and signed by the district superintendent, the pastor, and the secretary of the charge conference. Requests must be completed in full and be accompanied by all required documentation in order to be processed by the CEC. Required documentation must include, but is not limited to: written plan for decreasing reliance on equitable compensation, letters of support from pastor, church leadership, and district superintendent. The more information the CEC has about a local church situation, the better equipped the CEC is to provide support. Requests must be made at least 30 days prior to the month when the assistance is to commence. In these cases, the local church or charge must pay at least 70 percent of the minimum applicable to its pastor.

For emergency sustentation grants, the district superintendent is responsible for submitting documentation to the cabinet and CEC executive committee for immediate processing, approval, and payment authorization.

5. Guidelines for Recommending Minimum Compensation

The CEC desires to recommend minimum pastoral compensation that is equitable for both churches and pastors. It is acknowledged that economic conditions vary across the annual conference. To be equitable, therefore, there must be awareness of the financial impact of these recommendations upon the local churches in order to not make pastoral support an excessive burden, while providing clergy with fair, living, and equitable compensation.

In making these recommendations, the CEC refers to changes in the North Carolina Per Capita Income (NCPCI), as maintained by the United States Bureau of Economic Analysis, on a two-year-lag basis (the earliest time for which data are obtainable). The NCPCI offers a true measure of the underlying economy in which congregations exist and is independent of Western NC Conference actions. Additional consideration is given to the two-year-lag Conference Average Compensation (CAC) and other measures of the health of churches and the economy as deemed necessary, segmenting the minimum compensation levels into the following categories:

- Elders and Deacons in Full Connection;
- Provisional/Associate Members;
- Local Pastors who have completed the Course of Study/M.Div.;
- Local Pastors who have not completed the Course of Study.

PROPOSAL: EQUITABLE COMPENSATION POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

(Petition 14)
The CEC proposes the adoption of these policies, definitions, and classifications for administering the ECF and these guidelines and schedules for recommending minimum compensation for 2021.

A. Allocation of Requested Equitable Compensation Fund Budget for 2021:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount (in)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular Grants</td>
<td>$97,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Sustentation Grants</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses of the Commission</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$125,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Schedule of 2021 Minimum Compensation for Clergy Serving Full-Time Appointments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount (in)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elders and Deacons in Full Connection</td>
<td>$43,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisional/Associate Members</td>
<td>$38,934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Pastors who have completed the Course of Study/M.Div.</td>
<td>$36,230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Pastors before completion of Course of Study</td>
<td>$34,608</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Neil C. Jones, Chairperson
PROPOSAL: COLE FOUNDATION TRUSTEE
(Petition 15)
The trustees of the Eugene M. Cole Foundation propose that Rebecca Douglas, whose term as trustee expires in 2020, be re-elected for another three (3) year term, expiring in 2023.

PROPOSAL: WESLEY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
(Petition 16)
Randolph Harry
George Coates
Richard (Dick) Woods
Lynda Ferguson
David Hiatt
Philip Jones
Mark King
Willetta Ar-Rahmaan
Joseph (Ricky) Lefft
Don Pettigrew

BOARD OF LAITY

Conference Lay Leader Nomination: John Crane
John is a native of Gastonia, NC, where he and his wife, Roxanne, and sons Jonathan (20) and Zackery (17) are members of First UMC-Gastonia. He has most recently served on our Conference Board of Laity as a result of his service as the District Lay Leader for the Catawba Valley District, but has served previously as an at-large member Board, including serving as the director of the annual "Gathering of the Laity" event for several years. John also has a history of serving as a leader in our Lay Servant Ministry program, having been both a course instructor and the District Co-Director of Lay Servant Ministries in the former Gastonia District for over nine years.

John has worked in financial services and other industries for over twenty years, with a focus on human resources, project management, and change leadership. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Belmont Abbey College and an MBA from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

NOTE FROM THE RESOURCE CENTER
We are still here to provide for your needs.
resourcecenter@wnccumc.org • 704-535-2260
COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The purpose of the Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) is “to develop, maintain, and administer a comprehensive and coordinated plan of fiscal and administrative policies, procedures, and management services for the annual conference” (¶ 612.1, 2016 Discipline). CFA takes this directive seriously.

CFA seeks to wisely discern available and potential resources that match with the vision and implementation of ministry. It is the council’s deepest hope to ensure funds and other resources are available for the Western North Carolina Conference to achieve its mission.

CF&A believes that apportionments are solid pathways to tangible connectionalism. By joining together resources, our collective bonding achieves far more than we could ever accomplish alone. Yet, CF&A acknowledges that local congregations are engaged in vibrant ministries in their communities. CF&A, therefore, takes seriously the challenge to balance the needs of the local congregations and the needs of the annual conference.

Rather than regurgitate what your apportionment funds are realizing, CF&A simply invites you to further explore and keenly discern what all the teams, committees, boards, agencies, institutions and organizations are doing in Book of Programs and Reports.

It almost goes without saying that CFA urges every local church to support the fair share askings by paying 100% of its funds apportioned. We commend those churches in the conference who fully supported the connectional ministry of the church in 2019, sometimes at great sacrifice. In 2019, 81% of all congregations of our conference paid 100% of the total amount apportioned. Imagine if all our congregations paid 100% of the apportioned funds, what a great fulfillment of the Lord’s Commission to which Christ calls us.

If local congregations follow the dictates of The Book of Discipline, the expectation is that each congregation pay 100% of the total monies apportioned through the district, conference, jurisdiction, and general church. Pastors and lay members of the Annual Conference are to interpret and promote 100% payment of apportionments. The Conference Treasurer’s office produces promotional material each year to assist in this effort. Anyone may visit the WNCC web site (www.wnccumc.org/administration) and review their local congregation’s apportionment allocations, remittances and descriptions of each of the funds. In the average congregation in our conference, based on 2019 statistical data, the total apportionment payment (District, Conference and General Church) is about 5.75% of the total income from church members and friends. Congregations retain 94.25% of monies contributed. In using the biblical language of the tithe, apportionments are slightly more than half of a tithe and they do not represent the full 10% of the expenses of our congregations.

To these ends, CFA commends to the Annual Conference the 2021 budget which is focused on accomplishing the vision of the Conference, with the ultimate focus of developing vital churches. At a total of $13,747,745, the 2021 conference apportioned budget represents a decrease of 15.5%. The degree to which we accomplish this goal depends upon local churches’ support of the conference budget. Receipts on all funds for 2019 were $13,723,503 or 84.89% of the total apportioned, a decrease of 2.08% over 2018 receipts. The 2021 Budget does include a shift in the following areas:

- District Operations “Administry” costs are shifted from the conference budget to the respective districts. This allows for more localized approach with a fairness that districts receive what they require.
- The Conference Board of Pensions will now cover the costs of the Medical Leave Expense Fund.
- Significant reductions across the spectrum of General, Conference and other District apportionments compared to 2020.
- Episcopal Office Fund and Episcopal Residence Fund increased due to loss of grants from GCFA that covered majority of expenses in 2020 and prior.

Even with the decrease in the 2021 conference budget, the CFA is confident that we will be able to provide for growth in the ministries of the Conference. This budget represents the best efforts of the conference staff and ministry teams of the Western North Carolina Conference as a funding ministry plan to achieve the goal of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our world.
PROPOSALS: 2021 CONFERENCE FUNDS AND FINANCIAL POLICIES

(Petition 1a)

The Council on Finance and Administration proposes:

1. That each of the funds described in the section of this report headed “Conference Funds for 2021” be approved and that the traditional decimal formula be used in determining the apportionments for 2021 for each chartered church/charge for these funds. (New church starts will participate in the apportionments in a “phasing” period and churches deemed “mission churches” are excused from apportionments):
   - District Superintendent Fund
   - Equitable Compensation Fund
   - Conference Support Fund
   - Mission and Ministry Fund
   - District Administry Fund
   - District Mission Engagement Fund
   - District Benevolence Fund
   - District Church Vitality Fund
   - Africa University Fund
   - Black College Fund
   - Episcopal Fund
   - General Administration Fund
   - Interdenominational Cooperation Fund
   - Jurisdictional Administration Fund
   - Ministerial Education Fund
   - World Service Fund

   The decimal formula shall be based on the average of the amounts paid by each mission or chartered church/charge during 2017, 2018, and 2019 on the following items:
   - Items from Table Two of the Year-end Statistical Reports
   - Total Conference Apportioned Funds Paid (29a and 29b)
   - Pastor(s) Pension Premiums (39)
   - Pastor(s) Health Insurance Premiums (40)
   - Salaries, Housing, Utilities, Travel, and Other Cash Allowances Paid to Pastor and Associate(s) (41-44)
   - Compensation of All Other Church Employees & Diaconal Ministers (45)
   - Local Church Expenses for Program (46)
   - Other Local Church Operating Expenses (47)

2. That the following policy be approved and observed:
   - At the beginning of the calendar year, the Council on Finance and Administration shall determine which portions of the Conference Support Fund and the Mission and Ministry Fund are “fixed costs” (salaries, benefits, etc.) and shall thus be authorized to be paid at 100% of the approved budget. The District Operations Fund will be funded at 100% of the approved budget. On the basis of prior year receipts to these funds, CFA shall then determine a percentage of the approved budget to be authorized for expenditure in the remaining items of each budget, so that expenditures shall not exceed income.
     a. Each church is expected to support all funds at 100% of the apportioned amount. (¶ 247.14 of the 2016 Book of Discipline)
     b. The churches are requested to make payments thereon aggregately, with the understanding that the conference treasurer will allocate such payments according to the appropriate percentage due the fund according to the Conference Budget.

3. That an Unrestricted Fund Balance Account be maintained by the annual conference at a goal level of 30% of the current total of the Conference Funds and that any undesignated interest income plus unused balances in budget accounts be transferred to the undesignated fund balance at the end of the fiscal year.

4. That all apportioned funds, pension and health benefits costs, both receipts and disbursements, be managed through the office of the conference treasurer and that all districts, boards, agencies, committees, and commissions use the conference treasurer as fiscal agent.

5. That the group medical insurance plan be continued and that all churches be required to participate, based on the eligibility requirements of the plan, through the payment of premiums to the office of the conference treasurer.

6. That local churches should be aware that, for apportioned funds for bishops (Episcopal Fund), district superintendents (District Operations), and the Equitable Compensation Fund, the church has an obligation to observe the rule of proportional payment (¶¶ 622 and 639.4, 2016 Discipline), and that ¶ 639.4(c) be observed by the statistician in
reporting these apportionments. The rule of proportional payment requires that each local church/charge makes payments for these apportioned funds in the same proportion as payment for the support for the clergy appointed to the charge, i.e., if a church pays their clergy on a monthly basis, then these apportioned funds are to be submitted monthly.

8. That, for 2012 and beyond, the Conference Staff Relations Committee (CSRC) set the salary and benefits (including clergy housing allowances) for district superintendents, and district and conference staff within the approved total salary budget. The salary of the District Superintendents for 2021, as recommended by CSRC, is to be set at $113,618 the same as 2020.

9. That the amount of compensation designated as housing allowance for ordained staff members and district superintendents be set by an annual resolution of the conference Council on Finance and Administration after consideration of a statement of amounts to be used during the year.

10. That Conference-related travel expenses of all members of conference boards, agencies, committees, and commissions and conference and district staff will be reimbursed per the Per Diem Reimbursement Policy approved by the Annual Conference. Church-related travel by local church clergy be paid by voucher on a mileage basis at the business mileage reimbursement rate allowed by the Internal Revenue Service. This will be considered as a church-related business item and will not be factored into any compensation package by the Cabinet.

11. That the governing boards of:
   - Aldersgate United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc.
   - Arbor Acres United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc.
   - Givens Estates United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc.
   - Crossnore School & Children’s Home
   - UMAR-WNC, Inc.
   - The United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc.
   - Methodist Youth Camp of Western NC Conference, Inc. (Camp Tekoa)
   - Guilrock United Methodist Camp, Inc.
   - Mount Shepherd Retreat Center
   - Bennett College
   - Brevard College
   - Greensboro College
   - High Point University
   - Pfeiffer University
   - Western North Carolina Conference Brotherhood/Sisterhood
   - Western North Carolina Conference Historical Society
   - Sanctuary Counseling Group, Charlotte
   - Chrysalis Counseling Center, Greensboro
   - Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries of NC, Inc.
   - NETworkX
   - Methodist Home for Children
   - New Faith Communities Fund, Board of Congregational Development
   - Campus Ministries to include: Appalachian State University, UNC-Asheville, NC A&T, UNC-Charlotte, UNC-Greensboro, Western Carolina University, Winston-Salem Wesley Foundation

be granted the privilege of soliciting and receiving funds from churches, individuals, and other sources (but not from conference-wide offerings except as indicated in the list which follows) in keeping with *The Book of Discipline*; no capital campaigns be approved for 2021; and that the following, and only the following, conference-wide offerings be approved for 2021:

- Human Relations Day ........................................................................................General Conference
- UMAR Sunday ....................................................................................................Annual Conference
- UMCOR Sunday .................................................................................................General Conference
- Native American Awareness ...........................................................................General Conference
- Medical Mission Teams ..................................................................................Annual Conference
- Mother’s Day (Aldersgate, Arbor Acres, Givens) ..........................................Annual Conference
- Disciple Bible Outreach ..................................................................................Annual Conference
- Project AGAPE ..................................................................................................Annual Conference
- Peace with Justice .............................................................................................General Conference
- Crossnore School and Children’s Home Sunday ..........................................Annual Conference
- World Communion ..........................................................................................General Conference
- United Methodist Student Day ........................................................................General Conference
12. That clergy be reimbursed for moving expenses in the following manner, effective upon adjournment of the 2020 conference session:
   a. IN-CONFERENCE MOVES: The conference shall pay a moving allowance, plus $2.50 per mile, one way, on those moves which are required from one appointment to a new appointment. If an appointment requires a move from one parsonage/home into another parsonage/home, the moving allowance will be set at $500. If the appointment does not require a move from a parsonage/home, the moving allowance will be set at $150.
   b. MOVES INTO THE CONFERENCE: The conference shall pay on the same basis as in item 11a above. The moving allowance will apply to the number of miles on the most direct route traveled from the conference boundary to the pastoral appointment.
   c. MOVING AT RETIREMENT: Retiring clergy, surviving spouses of active clergy who died during the year, and clergy who go on medical leave during the year shall receive a moving allowance of $750, plus $2.50 per mile, from the pastoral appointment to the retirement residence or the conference boundary. A retiree who moves to a parsonage and serves a pastorate in retirement is eligible for an in-conference moving allowance upon approval of the district superintendent.
   d. MOVES OUT OF THE CONFERENCE (moving to another conference, withdrawing from conference membership, leave of absence, or not receiving an appointment, etc.): No allowance will be paid.
   e. SABBATICAL LEAVE: No allowance is granted when the leave begins; however, an allowance will be given when the leave is completed, and the clergy person is again available for appointment by the bishop. The amount will be consistent with items 11a and 11b above.
   f. In many instances, the moving allowance will not cover the total expense of the move. This reimbursement is given to help with the over-the-road cost of the move. Each church/charge receiving a new pastor is strongly urged to pay any out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the new pastor as a result of the move. The district superintendent will negotiate the request with the church/charge well in advance of moving day.
   g. The district superintendent is asked to make a very special appeal for each church/charge to be especially sensitive to both parsonage families during this stressful time. The appeal should include assistance with meals, packing, unpacking, loading, and unloading where helpful and appropriate for the parsonage family.
   h. Due to the Federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, clergy should continue to be aware of the provisions of moving reimbursements that may impact their tax situation and are urged to consult with their tax advisor.

13. That the president, vice-president, and secretary of the conference Council on Finance and Administration, the chairperson of the Audit Review Committee, the conference treasurer-director of administrative services, a Cabinet representative, and one lay member of the CFA constitute the executive committee of the conference Council on Finance and Administration. The principal duties of the Executive Committee include annual review, compensation and benefits of the Conference Treasurer, and review and recommendation to CFA all Statements of Relationship for ministries relating to the Conference.

14. That the Council on Finance and Administration be authorized to appoint a conference auditor.

15. That each local church makes a very special effort to undergird the meal, transportation, and lodging expenses of annual conference members attending annual conference by adding a minimum of $100 to the church budget for each lay and clergy delegate. The district superintendents are asked to encourage such support at each charge conference.

16. That conference funds not be permitted to carry over unspent funds from one conference year to another unless specifically authorized by the Council on Finance and Administration. Agencies receiving funds from sources other than apportioned funds, such as fee-based events, may carry over such unspent funds into the next year.

17. That 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 6, 2021, be the cutoff time by which all payments from local churches must be in the office of the conference treasurer in order to be applied to the 2020 year.

18. That each conference board, agency, or institution receiving or disbursing funds not managed by the conference treasurer maintain adequate financial records and prepare and submit annual audit reports to the conference treasurer and the conference Council on Finance and Administration. All treasurers should be properly bonded.


20. That the conference Council on Finance and Administration be responsible for designating depositories for conference funds.

Dr. P. Glenn Kinken, III, President
Dr. R. Mark King, Treasurer

The 2021 WNCC Proposed Budget on the following pages is Petition 1b.
### Western North Carolina Conference

#### Petition 1B: Proposed Budget 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Name</th>
<th>Approved 2019</th>
<th>Actual Receipts 2019</th>
<th>Actual Expenses 2019</th>
<th>Approved 2020</th>
<th>Proposed 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conference Funds</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Operations</td>
<td>$2,559,478</td>
<td>$2,188,975</td>
<td>$2,457,860</td>
<td>$2,592,405</td>
<td>$1,890,945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Superintendents Salaries</td>
<td>890,344</td>
<td></td>
<td>890,344</td>
<td>908,945</td>
<td>908,945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits and District Staff Costs</td>
<td>1,029,134</td>
<td></td>
<td>927,516</td>
<td>1,043,460</td>
<td>982,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Office Operations</td>
<td>640,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>640,000</td>
<td>640,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Support (Schedule 1)</td>
<td>4,109,460</td>
<td>3,491,652</td>
<td>3,370,157</td>
<td>4,089,414</td>
<td>4,135,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Services Support</td>
<td>688,350</td>
<td></td>
<td>376,898</td>
<td>634,405</td>
<td>603,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Staff Support</td>
<td>2,661,410</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,407,533</td>
<td>2,573,024</td>
<td>2,625,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Administrative Support</td>
<td>759,700</td>
<td></td>
<td>585,926</td>
<td>811,985</td>
<td>907,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equitable Compensation</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>128,361</td>
<td>107,977</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>125,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clergy Medical Leave Benefit Supplement</td>
<td>450,000</td>
<td>424,639</td>
<td>258,987</td>
<td>425,000</td>
<td>-100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission and Ministry (Schedule 2)</td>
<td>2,996,640</td>
<td>2,534,106</td>
<td>2,566,538</td>
<td>3,005,847</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Conference Funds</strong></td>
<td>10,265,578</td>
<td>8,767,733</td>
<td>8,761,520</td>
<td>10,262,666</td>
<td>8,651,345</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### General Church Funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Name</th>
<th>Approved 2019</th>
<th>Actual Receipts 2019</th>
<th>Actual Expenses 2019</th>
<th>Approved 2020</th>
<th>Proposed 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa University</td>
<td>90,797</td>
<td>88,222</td>
<td>88,222</td>
<td>92,468</td>
<td>81,362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black College</td>
<td>405,715</td>
<td>343,295</td>
<td>343,295</td>
<td>413,180</td>
<td>361,899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Episcopal Fund</td>
<td>891,794</td>
<td>753,023</td>
<td>753,023</td>
<td>908,204</td>
<td>1,003,978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Administration</td>
<td>357,578</td>
<td>298,711</td>
<td>298,711</td>
<td>364,157</td>
<td>307,910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interc denominational Cooperation</td>
<td>79,545</td>
<td>66,286</td>
<td>66,286</td>
<td>81,009</td>
<td>10,825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jurisdictional Conference Administration</td>
<td>46,980</td>
<td>41,367</td>
<td>46,980</td>
<td>46,980</td>
<td>46,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministerial Education</td>
<td>1,017,107</td>
<td>860,147</td>
<td>860,147</td>
<td>1,035,822</td>
<td>783,110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Service Fund</td>
<td>3,011,387</td>
<td>2,504,719</td>
<td>2,504,719</td>
<td>3,066,798</td>
<td>2,500,336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total General Church Funds</strong></td>
<td>5,900,903</td>
<td>4,955,770</td>
<td>4,961,383</td>
<td>6,008,618</td>
<td>5,096,400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grand Total of all Conference Apportioned Funds**

| | $16,166,481 | $13,723,503 | $13,722,903 | $16,271,284 | $13,747,745 | -15.51% |

Increase (decrease) in budget from 2019 to 2020; 2020 to 2021

| | 104,803 | (2,523,539) |
| Increase (decrease) | 0.65% | -15.51% |

#### District Apportioned Funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Name</th>
<th>Approved 2019</th>
<th>Actual Receipts 2019</th>
<th>Actual Expenses 2019</th>
<th>Approved 2020</th>
<th>Proposed 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District Administry</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Mission Engagement</td>
<td>532,000</td>
<td>490,434</td>
<td>490,434</td>
<td>532,000</td>
<td>409,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Benevolence Grants</td>
<td>641,800</td>
<td>591,461</td>
<td>591,461</td>
<td>641,800</td>
<td>584,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Church Vitality</td>
<td>678,700</td>
<td>629,402</td>
<td>629,402</td>
<td>678,700</td>
<td>564,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total District Funds</strong></td>
<td>1,852,500</td>
<td>1,711,297</td>
<td>1,711,297</td>
<td>1,852,500</td>
<td>2,242,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grand Total of all Conference & District Apportioned Funds**

| | 18,018,981 | 15,434,800 | 15,434,200 | 18,123,784 | 15,989,745 | -11.77% |
## WNCC 2021 Proposed Budget

### Petition 1B: Proposed Budget 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Name</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conference Support</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Services Support:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabinet Support</td>
<td>55,500</td>
<td>51,526</td>
<td>56,055</td>
<td>55,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archives and History</td>
<td>14,350</td>
<td>9,830</td>
<td>14,350</td>
<td>14,350</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource Center</td>
<td>54,000</td>
<td>45,658</td>
<td>52,000</td>
<td>52,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committees Support</td>
<td>16,500</td>
<td>7,972</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Conference</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Sessions</td>
<td>102,000</td>
<td>95,550</td>
<td>102,000</td>
<td>102,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General &amp; Jurisdictional delegate expenses</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>4,654</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministers Moving Fund</td>
<td>140,000</td>
<td>98,210</td>
<td>130,000</td>
<td>120,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contingency</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>63,298</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Conference Services Support</strong></td>
<td>688,350</td>
<td>376,698</td>
<td>634,405</td>
<td>603,350</td>
<td>-4.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conference Staff Support:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>1,827,728</td>
<td>1,988,236</td>
<td>1,759,755</td>
<td>1,760,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related Benefits costs</td>
<td>833,682</td>
<td>419,297</td>
<td>813,269</td>
<td>865,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Conference Staff Support</strong></td>
<td>2,661,410</td>
<td>2,407,533</td>
<td>2,573,024</td>
<td>2,625,000</td>
<td>2.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conference Administrative Support:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Operations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Episcopal Office</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>9,042</td>
<td>8,500</td>
<td>85,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant to Bishop</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>1,870</td>
<td>3,800</td>
<td>3,800</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasury Services</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>14,926</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>96,000</td>
<td>55,524</td>
<td>96,000</td>
<td>96,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministerial Services/Conference Secretary</td>
<td>19,000</td>
<td>11,849</td>
<td>17,250</td>
<td>17,250</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Technology</td>
<td>165,000</td>
<td>119,754</td>
<td>312,760</td>
<td>315,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General Support</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liability &amp; Property Insurance</td>
<td>38,200</td>
<td>27,954</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal</td>
<td>62,500</td>
<td>55,176</td>
<td>63,125</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>79,700</td>
<td>75,000</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Travel/Education</td>
<td>154,000</td>
<td>102,697</td>
<td>155,500</td>
<td>125,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Episcopal Residence</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>2,434</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Office</td>
<td>105,000</td>
<td>105,000</td>
<td>106,050</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Conference Administrative Support</strong></td>
<td>759,700</td>
<td>585,926</td>
<td>881,985</td>
<td>907,050</td>
<td>2.84%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Fund 505 - Conference Support:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$4,109,460</td>
<td>$3,491,652</td>
<td>$3,370,157</td>
<td>$4,089,414</td>
<td>$4,135,400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### WNCC 2021 PROPOSED BUDGET

**Western North Carolina Conference**

**Petition 1B: Proposed Budget 2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Name</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approved</td>
<td>Actual Receipts</td>
<td>Actual Expenses</td>
<td>Approved</td>
<td>Proposed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Schedule Two

**Conference Mission and Ministry**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Connectional Table</th>
<th>7,000</th>
<th>1,512</th>
<th>7,000</th>
<th>5,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Connectional Ministry</td>
<td>$116,760</td>
<td>$92,391</td>
<td>96,000</td>
<td>80,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contingency</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>17,030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Camping Ministries</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>91,019</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>83,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WNCC Council on Campus Ministries</td>
<td>615,000</td>
<td>522,750</td>
<td>621,150</td>
<td>518,039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ordained Ministry</td>
<td>286,000</td>
<td>217,672</td>
<td>288,750</td>
<td>233,417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Lenity</td>
<td>12,450</td>
<td>2,954</td>
<td>7,550</td>
<td>6,665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Connectional Table</strong></td>
<td>1,137,210</td>
<td>928,298</td>
<td>1,120,450</td>
<td>943,451</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Church Vitality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Faith Communities Ministry and Grants</th>
<th>724,000</th>
<th>674,009</th>
<th>731,240</th>
<th>608,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Church Vitality</strong></td>
<td>724,000</td>
<td>674,009</td>
<td>731,240</td>
<td>608,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Mission Engagement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry and Grants</th>
<th>170,250</th>
<th>100,649</th>
<th>170,250</th>
<th>136,500</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mission Church Grants</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission Response Center</td>
<td>58,930</td>
<td>60,893</td>
<td>59,500</td>
<td>21,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Mission Engagement</strong></td>
<td>479,180</td>
<td>411,542</td>
<td>479,750</td>
<td>407,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Leadership Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry and Grants</th>
<th>352,000</th>
<th>300,956</th>
<th>345,000</th>
<th>281,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Leadership Development</strong></td>
<td>352,000</td>
<td>300,956</td>
<td>345,000</td>
<td>281,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Justice and Reconciliation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry and Grants</th>
<th>164,250</th>
<th>139,733</th>
<th>189,407</th>
<th>160,049</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Justice and Reconciliation</strong></td>
<td>164,250</td>
<td>139,733</td>
<td>189,407</td>
<td>160,049</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Mission/Ministry Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partnership Fund with WNCC-UMC Colleges, Retirement</th>
<th>140,000</th>
<th>112,000</th>
<th>140,000</th>
<th>100,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Mission and Ministry Grants</strong></td>
<td>140,000</td>
<td>112,000</td>
<td>140,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Mission and Ministry Fund**

- **2,996,640**
- **2,534,106**
- **2,566,538**
- **3,005,847**
- **2,500,000**

-16.83%
**Petition 1c**

With the intent to standardize expenses and reduce costs associated with conference-related travel expenses for all members of conference boards, agencies, committees, and commissions, and conference and district staff, the Conference Council on Finance and Administration proposes the Annual Conference adopt the following:

**Per Diem Reimbursement Policy**

A. **Travel**
   1. Utilize virtual meetings as much as possible to eliminate the need for travel for both staff and volunteers. Budgets may incorporate one face to face meeting annually, but all other meetings should be held virtually.
   2. Volunteers (non-staff laity and clergy members of conference entities): Travel reimbursed at the IRS Charitable Mileage Reimbursement Rate. If a particular hardship exists, the chairperson or leader of the group may discuss with the Conference Treasurer for additional assistance which will come from the group’s budget. For 2020, that amount is $0.14 a mile.
   3. Conference staff without use of conference-provided vehicles: Continue the practice of the standard IRS Business Mileage Reimbursement Rate. For 2020, that amount is $0.575 per mile.
   4. Require for overnight or long day trips the option of renting a car under the conference’s Enterprise / National Rental Car agreement. Staff should calculate what the round-trip mileage reimbursement would be versus the cost of the rental car including fuel. Whichever is less is the required option to utilize.
   5. Encourage ride share whenever possible and feasible.

B. **Lodging**

Committees and groups that require overnight accommodations are allowed at conference expense, including both volunteers and staff. Set the per diem rate for overnight lodging expense at the maximum IRS rate for Charlotte NC. With travel to other cities, check IRS rates for mediated allowance. If lodging cannot be found at this rate, then exception may occur. Safety and location must be considered. If participant prefers higher rate, the difference will be at their cost. For 2020, this amount is $129 per night.

C. **Meals**

Occasionally committees, groups, and staff who meet close to a mealtime have the option of providing a meal for those attending.
   1. Implement the standard IRS per diem rates for the following meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner and incidentals. For 2020, the allowances per the IRS are as follows:
      a. Breakfast: $13
      b. Lunch: $15
      c. Dinner $23
      d. Incidentals: $5
      e. DAILY TOTAL: $56
   2. If a staff person desires to order items over the rates, the difference is at their cost.
   3. Schedule committees and organizational meetings and agendas to not occur close to mealtimes. Limit committee and organizational meals to once annually at most. If exceptions to such scheduling must occur, allow meal breaks for participants to procure from area restaurants on their own. Utilizing virtual meetings will eliminate the need for providing meals.

**NOTE:** all rates are set at 2020 IRS rates. Annually, these will be adjusted per the IRS notices.
The Board of Pension and Health Benefits, Inc., Western North Carolina Conference, The United Methodist Church, acting as an auxiliary to Wespath Benefits/Investments, is charged with caring for the work of providing for and contributing to the support, relief, assistance, and pensioning of clergy and their families in the Western North Carolina Conference.

In 2021, the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits will send invoices monthly to the churches for clergy appointed in accordance with the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) adopted by The United Methodist Church. Through December 31, 2016, CRSP covers all US United Methodist Church clergy, including elders, local pastors and deacons, appointed within the annual conference, subject to the time designations described below with the effective date of January 1, 2014.

Since the implementation of direct billing for pension and health benefits in 2007, the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits have been investing the net proceeds from these billings in various investment vehicles with The United Methodist Foundation. Over the years, these investments have provided better than projected earnings for the conference. As a result, the board has approved the sharing of these resources with the local church by reducing the cost of pension benefits (without reducing any pension benefits to the pastors) by $2,378 per full-time pastor in 2021, invoicing $3,093 to the local church. The actual cost invoiced to the conference for the CRSP DB full-time benefit will be $5,471. This is the tenth year of reductions in our CRSP defined benefit pension billings to each local church for each full-time pastor as shown in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Cost (in thousands)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>$6,903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$6,504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>$6,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$5,518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$4,092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$3,824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$3,713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$3,402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>$3,093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>$3,093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>$3,093</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The board rejoices in the ability to share these resources with the local church so that more of their resources may be used for ministry within their communities.

As published in the 2013 report, new provisions of the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), enacted at General Conference 2012, became effective January 1, 2014, as follows:

- **Eligibility**: Full-time clergy are eligible to participate and earn benefits. Annual conferences may elect to cover clergy who are appointed as three-quarters or one-half time. Clergy who are appointed one-quarter time are no longer eligible to earn CRSP benefits. Any benefits already earned through December 31, 2013 remain in place.

- **Benefit Formulas**: The formula for determining the defined benefit (DB) component was reduced for the multiplier from 1.25% to 1.0% to be applied to Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) per year of service beginning January 1, 2014. Additionally, for the defined contribution (DC) component, the local church will contribute 2% of the clergy’s compensation, reduced from 3% in 2013. If the clergy person contributes up to 1% of his/her plan compensation, the local church will also contribute an additional 1% amount as a dollar-for-dollar match of the UMPIP contributions, up to 1%.

- **Surviving Spouse Benefits**: Beginning January 1, 2014, the initial dollar amount of the benefit paid to a married participant will be reduced to offset the value of spousal benefits.

- **Disabled Adult Child Benefits**: Beginning January 1, 2014, participants may designate a disabled adult child as a secondary contingent annuitant. After the participant and his or her spouse die, the disabled adult child would continue to receive DB benefits for life. The initial participant benefit would be reduced to pay for this extra benefit.
The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits, in consensus with the Cabinet of the Western North Carolina Conference, recommends that the annual conference approve the continuation of eligibility of those clergy who are appointed to three-quarter or half-time designations.

Based on the above, invoices will be prepared using the following criteria:

A. Pension Plan Compensation (PPC) is the total annual compensation reported by the charge conference for 2021; included in the PPC is the housing component. The housing is either 25% of the aforementioned annual compensation, if a parsonage is provided, or the cash paid in lieu of a parsonage.

B. Clergy Retirement Security Program – In 2021, the Core Defined Contribution Part (CRSP-DC) is 3% of PPC. Continuing from 2014 (the effective date of this change) CRSP-DC will continue to be invoiced at 3% of PPC, with 2% being an employer contribution and 1% as a matching contribution to the pastor’s United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP).

C. Clergy Retirement Security Program – Core Defined Benefit Part (CRSP-DB) is an actuarially determined normal cost provided by Wespath. For 2021, the cost is $3,093 for each full-time clergy. For those clergy appointed ¾ and ½ time (based on the eligibility approved by this session of the annual conference), the cost is that percentage times $3,093. Wespath has provided that the conference actuarially determined normal cost contribution due December 31, 2021 will be $3,958,245. Effective January 1, 2014, as approved by General Conference 2012, clergy appointed to ¼ time positions will not be eligible to earn benefits under the CRSP–DC plan and will not accrue benefits in the CRSP–DB plan after that date. (All previously earned benefits will remain in place.) The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits of Western North Carolina highly recommends that any local church which is served by a clergy person appointed to a ¼ time position sponsor the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) and provide an employer contribution on behalf of the clergy person under appointment.

D. Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) is the death and disability program administered through Wespath. In 2013 and prior years, premiums of 3% of PPC have been required to be paid for full-time clergy. The premium is 3% of PPC to a maximum amount of 200% of Denominational Average Compensation (DAC). General Conference 2016 approved a change that would permit Annual Conference Boards of Pension to enroll clergy appointed to ¾ time and full-time positions in the CPP. GC 2016 also changed the minimum compensation to 25% of DAC. For the year 2021, the CPP premium will be invoiced to the churches with full-time and ¾ time clergy at the rate of 2.50% of PPC, and the remaining 0.50% will be funded from conference board reserves.

The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) provides that the Past Service Annuity Rate (PSR) for service years prior to 1982 will increase 2% per annum. The conference board is proposing that the 2021PSR be set at $823.00 per service year, which represents the aforementioned 2% increase and is greater than 1% of Conference Average Compensation as provided by Wespath for the Western North Carolina Annual Conference.

Paragraph 1506.6 of The Book of Discipline 2016, requires each annual conference to develop, adopt and implement a formal comprehensive funding plan or plans for funding all of its benefit obligations. Such funding plan must be submitted to Wespath Benefits/Investments for review in order to obtain a favorable written opinion from Wespath. Under this requirement, the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits has developed, adopted, and implemented such formal comprehensive funding plan upon obtaining a favorable written opinion from Wespath. By approval of the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits and inclusion of a summary of the Comprehensive Funding Plan, with the favorable written opinion received, this plan is deemed to be approved by the Annual Conference of Western North Carolina.

Proposal: Pension Programs and Policies

(Petition 2a)
The conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits proposes:

1. That the basic cost of pastor’s pension be invoiced to churches in 2021 as pension responsibility to support the Clergy Retirement Security Program.

2. That supplemental funds for the cost of the Clergy Retirement Security Program – Core Defined Benefit Part (CRSP-DB) for clergy appointed on medical leave be included in the 2021 conference budget at Fund 507, named "Clergy Medical Leave Benefits." The 2021 budget request for the CRSP–DB pension component for clergy on medical leave is $0 (zero).

3. That the Past Service Annuity Rate for service years prior to 1982 be set at $823.00 per service year, effective January 1, 2021, and that the eligibility for the Clergy Retirement Security Program be determined to include clergy appointed for full, ¾ and ½ time positions. That the eligibility for the Comprehensive Protection Plan be determined to include clergy appointed for full and ¾ time positions earning a minimum of 25% of the DAC in pension plan compensation (PPC).
4. That the following resolution be adopted for calendar year 2021:

**Resolution Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired, Disabled, or Former Clergypersons of the Western North Carolina Conference**

The Western North Carolina Conference (the “Conference”) adopts the following resolution relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, terminated or disabled clergypersons of the conference:

Whereas, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the “Church”), of which this Conference is a part, has in the past functioned and continues to function through ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained, commissioned or licensed ministers of the Church (“Clergypersons”);

Whereas, the practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active Clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation;

Whereas, pensions or other amounts paid to active, retired, terminated, and disabled Clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired, terminated and disabled Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and

Whereas, The Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as the appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for Clergypersons who are or were members of this Conference and are eligible to receive such deferred compensation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT an amount equal to 100% of the pension or disability payments received from plans authorized under The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (the “Discipline”), which includes all such payments from Wespath, the Western North Carolina Conference Superannuate Endowment Fund, and The Duke Endowment during the period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 by each active, retired, terminated or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

THAT the pension, severance, or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance designation applies will be any pension, severance or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the Discipline, including such payments from Wespath and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a Wespath plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the Discipline, that result from any service a Clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that an active, a retired, a terminated or a disabled Clergyperson of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the Clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund, for such an active, a retired, a terminated or a disabled Clergyperson’s pension, severance, or disability plan benefit as part of his or her gross compensation.

NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergyperson’s gross income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2) and regulations thereunder to the least of: (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergyperson’s employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolution) for such year; (2) the amount actually expended by the Clergyperson to rent or provide a home in such year, or (3) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year. Retired Clergy are encouraged to consult their tax advisor concerning this resolution.

**Clergy Debt Reduction Peer Program**

The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits is working in partnership with the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc. (the Foundation) on a Clergy Debt Reduction Peer Program. The program is sponsored and funded by the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits and administered by the Foundation. The program is already impacting its participants, and holds possibilities for improving clergies’ general welfare and well-being. As of December 31, 2019, loans outstanding for clergy debt reduction and refinancing totaled $2,076,362.

**Balances Due from Churches**

Beginning in 2007, direct clergy benefit costs were invoiced to each local church. According to conference action, recorded in the 2004 journal, page 234, “Non-payment of direct clergy benefit costs (pension and health benefits) result in a default recorded against the church (see ¶639.4, The Book of Discipline 2016). While individual clergy will not lose benefits, the church will incur a liability to the conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits. The default will be reported by the conference benefits officer to the district superintendents, and the church will be led to correct this situation.
The following is the 2019 list of churches with balances greater than $50.00 as of June 30, 2020, resulting from non-payment of direct clergy benefit costs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Church</th>
<th>2019 Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appalachian</td>
<td>Boone (Boone)</td>
<td>$9,429.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Crossfire (N. Wilkesboro)</td>
<td>$1,223.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fairmount (Statesville)</td>
<td>$76.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Green Hill (Lenoir)</td>
<td>$684.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nathan’s Creek (Crumpler)</td>
<td>$95.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pisgah (Linville Falls)</td>
<td>$88.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Snow Creek (Statesville)</td>
<td>$1,020.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Ridge</td>
<td>Addie’s Chapel (Marion)</td>
<td>$14,097.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oak Hill (Candler)</td>
<td>$812.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Selica (Brevard)</td>
<td>$434.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catawba Valley</td>
<td>Brown’s Chapel (Catawba)</td>
<td>$348.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>El Bethel (Kings Mountain)</td>
<td>$919.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kadesh (Lawndale)</td>
<td>$3,141.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Knob Creek (Lawndale)</td>
<td>$3,141.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Linnville (Morganton)</td>
<td>$3,103.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mundy’s Chapel (Mooreboro)</td>
<td>$1,188.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. Peter’s (Lawndale)</td>
<td>$3,141.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tucker’s Grove (Iron Station)</td>
<td>$14,862.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metro</td>
<td>Hunter’s Chapel (Cornelius)</td>
<td>$9,546.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mill Grove (Indian Trail)</td>
<td>$51.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Park Avenue (Mooresville)</td>
<td>$192.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sanctuary (NS) (Charlotte)</td>
<td>$5,203.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoky Mountain</td>
<td>Love’s Chapel (Sylva)</td>
<td>$551.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uwharrie</td>
<td>Central (Monroe)</td>
<td>$1,775.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rehobeth (Ramseur)</td>
<td>$95.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Union Chapel (Albemarle)</td>
<td>$426.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yadkin Valley</td>
<td>Centenary (Clemmons)</td>
<td>$387.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Mount Vernon (Winston-Salem)</td>
<td>$1,208.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>$77,248.84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Health Benefits Committee

The Health Benefits Committee serves as a subcommittee of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits (BOPHB), with responsibility in two specific areas: health benefits and group term life insurance.

The committee is composed of at least 12 members appointed by the board to quadrennial terms, as follows: three from BOPHB, one serving as chair of the committee, one being an officer of BOPHB, and one being the Cabinet representative to BOPHB; one from the conference Board of Ordained Ministry; one from the conference Council on Finance and Administration; two retired clergy persons; and five professional persons involved in the insurance industry. Typically, there are six lay members and six clergy members. The various agencies represented nominate their representatives to BOPHB for appointment.

Group Life Insurance

Wespath, through the Comprehensive Protection Plan, provides a death and disability benefit for eligible clergy, along with death benefits for members of clergy families. In addition to this coverage, the conference offers basic life insurance coverage of $10,000 for active clergy enrolled in the conference group health plan, with premiums for this coverage collected through the invoice. Clergy members may elect to increase their coverage by enrolling in additional coverage in the amounts of $25,000, $50,000, $75,000, $100,000 or $150,000. A new feature to the plan is critical illness and accident coverage. As an added benefit, a clergy member may elect to enroll his/her spouse and dependent children. This additional coverage is available from a group policy secured by the committee for a quarterly premium to be collected by the insuring company. The continuation of this optional benefit is dependent on normal participation of those eligible. Newly eligible clergy will receive information about this coverage from the Treasury Services Office. To obtain coverage without evidence of insurability, enrollment must be made within 30 days of eligibility.

Enrollment Deadlines for Health and Life Insurance

Responsibility rests with the individual to make application in writing for the group health insurance and the group life insurance. In addition, any changes in dependents’ status must also be submitted in writing. The effective date of coverage for new applicants is July 1 following the session of annual conference. Applications must be made within 30 days of appointment at annual conference. Anyone seeking to apply following the 30-day grace period will have a 12-month waiting period for all pre-existing conditions.
Health Benefits Continuation Policy
The conference benefits plan provides for group members and eligible beneficiaries to continue coverage if they become ineligible for the plan. The policy is available from the plan administrator.

Premium Collection Policy
Payment of the medical/health insurance premiums for pastors is the responsibility of the local church(es). This premium payment is invoiced monthly. For churches with more than one pastor on the staff, the church is responsible for the payment of the insurance premium for each eligible pastor. It is the responsibility of the pastor to pay the premium costs for dependents.

The Health Benefits Committee requires the conference treasurer to notify dependent accounts which are delinquent by sixty (60) days or more that their coverage is immediately subject to termination. If full payment is not made by thirty (30) days after the delinquency, coverage will be terminated.

2019 Financial Summary of Health Benefits Plans through December 31, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sources of Funds</th>
<th>Fund 575</th>
<th>Fund 125</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Premiums-Active-Church Contributions</td>
<td>9,388,250</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premiums-Active-Clergy/Dependent/Conf. Personnel</td>
<td>2,469,165</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premiums-Retiree Contributions</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,082,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premiums-Cole Foundation</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>185,792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other-Stop Loss Claims</td>
<td>411,663</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other-Drug rebates/Misc</td>
<td>56,329</td>
<td>17,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other-Clodfelter Trust</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other-Retiree Stabilization Fund</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Sources</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,325,407</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,285,432</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Uses of Funds</th>
<th>Fund 575</th>
<th>Fund 125</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benefit Payments</td>
<td>12,806,975</td>
<td>1,140,304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wellness program</td>
<td>40,148</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Charges</td>
<td>824,569</td>
<td>273,835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSA Seed Expense</td>
<td>7,200</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Insurance Premium</td>
<td>36,751</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Expenses</td>
<td>4,710</td>
<td>8,039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACA Fees</td>
<td>3,883</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Claims Incurred but not received</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claims – Medical Leave</td>
<td>13,999</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>19,663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bad Debt Expense</td>
<td>61,554</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Uses</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,799,789</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,441,841</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sources less Uses</th>
<th>Fund 575</th>
<th>Fund 125</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-1,474,382</td>
<td>-156,409</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Balance, January 1</th>
<th>Fund 575</th>
<th>Fund 125</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-1,983,850</td>
<td>1,172,585</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excess/Deficit</th>
<th>Fund 575</th>
<th>Fund 125</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-1,474,382</td>
<td>-156,409</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Balance, December 31</th>
<th>Fund 575</th>
<th>Fund 125</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-3,458,232</td>
<td>1,016,176</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Retiree Stabilization Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning Balance, January 1</td>
<td>$7,647,971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>$1,578,211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Payment</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Balance, December 31</td>
<td>$9,226,182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined Total Fund Balance</td>
<td>$10,242,358</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion

The committee appreciates the fine spirit in which subscribers and local churches are supporting the work of the Health Benefits Committee. It seeks their continuing support as it makes every effort to provide a health benefits program that meets all needs.

Members of the committee are: Frank A. Stith III (chairperson), Sandra McNiel, Al Jones, Marvin Melton, Rey Rodriguez, J. Zachery Christy, Phillip B. Cole, Winifred Helton, Andrea Conder, Ken Poe, and Beverly Coppley, Cabinet Representative, R. Mark King, Conference Treasurer, Dale C. Bryant, Benefits Administrator, and M. Lynne Gilbert, CBOPHB Treasurer.

Proposal: Health Benefits Program and Policies

(Petition 2b)

The Health Benefits Committee proposes:

1. That the Board of Pension and Health Benefits be authorized to secure a hospital/medical insurance contract for 2021 that will be advantageous in terms of coverage, premium rates, and administrative costs.
2. That the hospital/medical insurance program be continued for all eligible persons working 30 hours or more per standard workweek.
3. That each local charge and eligible pastor be expected to participate in the conference program of hospital/medical insurance by contributing an amount equal to the pastor's coverage premium for each eligible pastor appointed to that charge and that these premium payments be remitted to the conference Treasury Services Office rather than to the pastor or other insurance carrier. The participant participation schedule should be used to calculate the eligible pastor’s portion.
4. That premium cost information is made available to local churches and pastors immediately after the 2021 plan has been determined and rates established.
5. That a pastor may exclude himself/herself from coverage by signing a written waiver, releasing the conference and any local church from legal or moral responsibility for medical or accident claims.
6. That, in the discussion of salaries and benefits for 2021 and all succeeding years, local church committees on staff-parish relations consider designating a portion of compensation for dependents' healthcare coverage.
7. That medical/hospital coverage be provided for persons terminated from the plan for not more than a 12-month period, with the premium costs to be paid by the person terminated.
8. That continued endorsement be given to the optional life insurance program provided by a top-quality life insurance company as supplemental coverage for active clergy.
9. That the following Retired Clergy Medical Plan, which became effective on January 1, 2003, and was amended at the special session of the conference on February 2, 2008, be continued:
   a. Benefit Design: The basic benefit design for all participants will be a comprehensive Medicare supplement.
      (complete benefit description available from the conference Treasury Services Office).
   b. Funding Design:
      (1) Creation of the Retiree Security Supplement Fund, which was created December 31, 2008. This Restricted Fund shall be vested with a minimum of $5,000,000. Subsequently, additional contributions to this Fund (corpus or principal) shall be made of all free reserve available at year-end. Free reserve is defined as the fund balance in excess of the Claims Reserve required by the Plan. The Claims Reserve is 25% of the prior year’s claims paid.
      (2) The purpose of the Retiree Security Supplement Fund is to secure the retiree medical benefit by contributing 4% of the fund balance (which consists of corpus or principal and earnings from dividends, interest and appreciation) each year to the Retired Clergy Medical Plan. The Fund’s contribution will reduce the Net Estimated Claims Cost of the Retired Clergy Medical Plan to the Base Estimated Claims Cost.
      (3) Net Estimated Claims Cost is defined as Total Estimated Claims Costs (including administration, stop-loss insurance and other operating expenses), less all contributions from other charitable trusts, foundations or individuals, such as The Cole Foundation.
c. Premium Design:

(1) Participants enrolled prior to January 1, 2003 will contribute the Base Estimated Claims Cost.
(2) Participants enrolled in the retiree plan on or after January 1, 2003 will contribute based on “years enrolled in the Active Health Benefits Plan.” The contribution will be based on a percentage of the plan year’s Net Estimated Claims Cost, as follows:
   (a) 1-10 Years: 100% of the Net Estimated Claims Cost.
   (b) Beginning in the 11th year, the contribution will decline approximately 1% per year to an amount equal to the Base Estimated Claims Cost.
   (c) All of the years prior to 2003 that a clergyperson has been appointed to a local church or conference position will be considered “years enrolled in the Active Health Benefits Plan.”
   (d) Participants must be enrolled in Medicare Parts A & B to be eligible for the Retired Clergy Medical Plan.

10. That each participant electing dependent coverage be required to remit premium payments in the method established by the Health Benefits Committee and that dependent coverage remain in effect only when premium payments are current.

11. That each participating participant be required to remit premium payments in the method established by the Health Benefits Committee and approved by the 2009 Annual Conference and coverage remain in effect only when premium payments are current. The current participating participant method is a progressive scale percent of premium based on salary.

12. That sufficient funds for hospital/medical coverage be included in the appropriate 2021 apportioned funds to pay premiums for district superintendents and administrative, program, and support staff members of the conference headquarters.

13. That supplemental funds for insurance for clergy on medical leave be included in the 2021 conference budget at Fund 507, “Clergy Medical Leave Benefits.” The 2021 budget request for the health benefit component for clergy on medical leave is $0 (zero).

Words of Appreciation

The board extends its gratitude and that of the conference to Dale C. Bryant, benefits administrator since October 1998.

Questions dealing with pension, health insurance, or group life insurance should be directed to Bryant at 704-535-2260 or 704-714-2332; e-mail dbryant@wnccumc.org.

Michael Watson, President of the Board
Lynne Gilbert, Treasurer of the Board
R. Mark King, Conference Benefits Officer
The Board of Pension and Health Benefits, Inc.

---

Developing and Implementing an Outward Mindset

Changing the culture in our communities where people shift from an “inward mindset” (self) to an “Outward Mindset” (others) and experience growth in relationships, collaboration, engagement, and accountability.

In this virtual workshop, participants will learn of inward and outward mindsets. They will learn how to turn their mindsets and behaviors outward by applying the toolsets of: self-awareness, mindset change, accountability, and collaboration. Nine clergy and laity have been trained by the Arbinger Institute to lead Developing and Implementing an Outward Mindset workshops for groups in the WNCC.

This is a great opportunity for your church council, missional network, clergy peer group, Sunday school class, or other groups of clergy and laity.

For more information, contact Rev. Rene Wilt.
To request a workshop, visit the website.
RECOGNITION OF RETIREEs

Dennis Allen Ammons
Spouse: Theresa
Licensed 2014
Appointments: 2014 Mount Olive (Yadkinville); 2019 Retired

John Vincent Arey
Spouse: Sandra
Licensed 1975
Probationary 1975
Ordained Deacon 1975
Ordained Elder 1978
Full Connection 1978
Appointments: 1975 Student; 1977 Kannapolis: Trinity Assoc; 1979 Mt. Bethel; 1981 Student; 1984 Richfield-New Mt Tabor; 1985 Counselor; 1986 Director, Human Enrichment, Pastoral Counseling Service, El Paso, Texas; 2002 Clinical Services; 2008 Executive Director, Methodist Counseling and Consultation Services; 2016 Executive Director, Sanctuary Counseling Group (name change from MCCS); 2019 Retired

James McCoy Armstrong Jr.
Probationary 1985
Ordained Deacon 1985
Ordained Elder 1988
Full Connection 1988
Appointments: 1985 Student; 1986 Statesville: Broad St Associate; 1989 Gastonia: Trinity; 1993 Bryson City; 1996 Charlotte: Hawthorne Lane; 2003 Greensboro: Centenary; 2008 Lenior: First; 2014 First (Lexington); 2018 Medical Leave; 2020 Retired

Michael Ford Bailey
Spouse: Lauralee
Licensed 1976
Probationary 1979
Ordained Deacon 1979
Ordained Elder 1985
Full Connection 1985

Neal Franklin Brower
Spouse: Toni
Licensed 1981
Probationary 1981
Ordained Deacon 1981
Ordained Elder 1984
Full Connection 1984

Fred Efird Carpenter
Spouse: Susan
Licensed 1995
Probationary 2000
Ordained Deacon 2000
Ordained Elder 2003
Full Connection 2003
Appointments: 1995 Grace-Dix Creek; 1999 Bell-Dix Creek-Grace; 2003 Francis Asbury; 2011 Albemarle: Main Street; 2020 Retired

Mark Everette Clontz
Spouse: Debra
Licensed 1984
Probationary 1991
Ordained Deacon 1991
Ordained Elder 1994
Full Connection 1994
Appointments: 1984 Mt Carmel-Midway; 1988 Haw River; 1992 Stony Point; 2004 Bethel (Midland); 2020 Retired

George Michael Davis
Spouse: Billie
Licensed 2004
Appointments: 2004 Bell; 2006 Bell-Brown's View; 2007 Brown's View-Elkwood; 2010 Asheville: Bethel-Bethesda; 2015 Emma (Asheville) - Elkwood (Asheville); 2019 Ebenezer (Elkin)-Maple Springs (Ronda); 2020 Retired

Mary Katherine Laborsky Doub
Spouse: Ronald
Diaconal Minister 1997
Ordained Deacon 2000
Full Connection 2000

Ronald Dean Doub
Spouse: Mary Katherine
Probationary 1989
Ordained Deacon 1989
Ordained Elder 1992
Full Connection 1992

Ronnie Eugene Dry
Spouse: Cynthia
Licensed 2013
Appointments: 2013 Green Memorial; 2020 Retired
Terry Ryan Duckworth
Spouse: Janice
Licensed: 1993

Gary Lyon Elrod
Spouse: Sandra
Licensed: 2003

Margaret Carol Arthur Finch
Spouse: Amelia
Ordained Elder: 2004
Full Connection: 2004
Appointments: 2001 Thomasville: Memorial Associate; 2019 Memorial - Unity (Thomasville): Memorial Associate; 2020 Retired

John Keith Franklin
Spouse: Amelia
Ordained Elder: 1988
Full Connection: 1988

Jonathan Lohr Golden
Spouse: Waneta
Ordained Elder: 1986
Full Connection: 1986
Appointments: 1980 Student; 1981 Avery's Creek-Fanning Chapel; 1986 Student; 1987 Mount Vernon; 1992 Asheville: Asbury Memorial; 1995 Student, Loyola; 2002 Hickory: First Associate/Therapist, Methodist Counseling Service; 2004 Therapist, Methodist Counseling Center; 2016 Pastoral Psychotherapist, Sanctuary Counseling Group (name change from MCCS); 2019 Retired

Nancy Kathryn Griswold
Spouse: Ralph
Ordained Deacon: 2012
Full Connection: 2012

Charles Byron Halipilias
Spouse: Sally
Ordained Deacon: 1980
Ordained Elder: 1983
Full Connection: 1983

David Franklin Lawrence
Spouse: Candace
Ordained Elder: 1985
Full Connection: 1985

Lynne Denise Moose Lepley
Spouse: Ralph
Ordained Elder: 1991
Full Connection: 1991
Appointments: 1988 Student; 1991 Kermersville: Cherry St-Hiatt; 1992 Enka-Candler Co-Pastor; 1997 Shiloh-Wesley Chapel; 1999 Director, Leadership Development, Statesville District; 2001 Statesville: Broad St Associate; 2002 Catawba Associate; 2003 Instructor, Catawba Valley Community College/Chaplain, Mitchell College; 2004 Chaplain, Mitchell College; 2010 Hospice Chaplain, Iredell Co; 2012 Mount Bethel (Turnersburg(Harmony)) and Hospice Chaplain, Iredell County; 2015 Mount Bethel (Harmony) - Fairmount and Hospice Chaplain, Iredell County; 2020 Retired

Michael Andrew McDonald
Spouse: Susan
Ordained Elder: 1987
Full Connection: 1987
Daniel Gray Martin
Spouse: Anne

Donald Eugene McCoy
Spouse: Levonia

Sandra Jean Mestler McGarrah
Spouse: Robert
Diaconal Minister 1997
Appointments: 1997 Environmental Educator, Charlotte YMCA; 2020 Retired

David Frank McHale
Spouse: Eugenia

Johanna Chavles Miller
Spouse: Laurence
Provisional 2008  Ordained Deacon 2012
Appointments: 2008 Prospect Minister of Education; 2009 Mill Grove Minister of Spiritual Development; 2017 New Hope - Trinity (Monroe); 2020 Retired

Bart William Milleson
Spouse: Helen
Appointments: 1982 Student; 1983 Tabernacle; 1986 Good Hope; 1990 Bethany; 1994 Gray's Chapel; 2000 Greensboro: Hinshaw Memorial; 2008 Stallings; 2013 Trinity (King); 2020 Retired

John Lewis Mitchell
Spouse: Judith
Licensed 2018
Appointments: 2018 Wesleyanna (Sylva); 2019 Retired

Jimmy Laird Myers
Spouse: Carol
Probationary 1976  Ordained Deacon 1977  Ordained Elder 1979  Full Connection 1979

Samuel Om
Spouse: Syvany
Probationary 2004  Ordained Elder 2007  Full Connection 2007
Appointments: 2002 Charlotte: Cambodian Mission; 2004 Transfer from Cambodian Evangelical Church; 2010 Charlotte: St. John's; 2014 GBGM Missionary to Cambodia; 2017 GBGM, Director of Resource Development in Cambodia; 2020 Retired

Clarence Earl Osborne
Spouse: Donna
Licensed 2006  Associate Member 2014
Appointments: 2006 Mitchell's Grove Assistant (High Point); 2007 New Hope (Mt Airy); 2010 Morganton: Bethel; 2020 Retired

Evelyn Barton Owen-Patterson
Licensed 2017
Appointments: 2017 English Chapel (Pisgah Forest); 2018 Retired

Ivan Hugh Macdonald Peden
Spouse: Carol
Probationary 1989  Ordained Elder 1977  Full Connection 1977
Walter Pegues
Spouse: Brenda

Probationary 2003  Ordained Elder 1986  Full Connection 1986
Appointments: 2001 Brown’s Chapel-Mott’s Grove; 2003 Transfer from AME Zion Church; 2004 Charlotte: Simpson-Gillespie; 2014 Addie’s Chapel (Marion); 2015 Addie’s Chapel - Cross (Marion); 2019 Addie’s Chapel - Clinchfield (Marion); 2020 Retired

Saxon Cayce Scarborough
Spouse: Patricia

Probationary 1997  Diaconal Minister 1990  Ordained Deacon 1997
Appointments: 1999 Transfer from South Georgia Conference; 1999 Gastonia: First Minister of Music; 2020 Retired

Nathan Thomas Snider
Spouse: Margaret

Appointments: 1994 Muldraugh-Bewlyville (Louisville Conf); 1995 High Point: Montlieu Ave; 2000 Shiloh; 2004 Chestnut Grove; 2012 Grays Chapel; 2017 Fair Grove (Thomasville); 2020 Retired

Cynthia Johnson Spicer
Spouse: William
Licensed 2013
Appointments: 2013 Beulah-Concord; 2018 Snow Hill (Danbury); 2020 Retired

Carol Ann Dailey Stoneking
Spouse: Hal

Appointments: 1996 Transfer from Memphis Conference; 1996 Assistant Professor, High Point University; 1998 Associate Professor, High Point University; 2002 Full Professor/Department Chair, High Point University; 2007 Dean/Professor, High Point University; 2020 Retired

William Christopher Thore
Spouse: Rebecca

Probationary 1979  Ordained Deacon 1979  Ordained Elder 1982  Full Connection 1982

Elaine McNeill Treece
Spouse: Max
Licensed 2010
Appointments: 2010 Pineville Assistant; 2020 Retired

Mary Catherine Haynes Turman
Spouse: Theodore
Licensed 2005
Appointments: 2005 Pilot View-Shoals-Whitaker’s Chapel Assistant; 2008 East Bend-Stony Knoll; 2013 West Lincoln; 2019 Providence (Rutherford); 2020 Pilot View - Stony Knoll (Dobson); 2020 Retired

William Lynn Upchurch
Spouse: Sylvia

Appointments: 1983 Student; 1985 Waynesville: First Associate; 1988 Mount Pleasant; 1993 Faith (Lake Park/Indian Trail); 2007 Shady Grove; 2012 Blair Road (Mint Hill); 2020 Retired

Margaret Russell Wannemacher
Spouse: Ted
Licensed 2006
Appointments: 2006 Mt Bethel; 2012 Warrensville; 2020 Retired

Roger Dean Weisner
Spouse: Cindy


Joseph Michael Westfall
Spouse: Lori

Appointments: 1986 Transfer from West Virginia Conference; 1986 Virginia Fellowship; 1987 Morganton: First Associate; 1991 Canaan; 1997 Mount Pleasant; 2012 Shady Grove; 2016 St. Luke’s (Hickory); 2020 Retired
(Petition 18)

Subject: Mount Shepherd Retreat Center to grant and create 87.935 acre Conservation Easement

Submitted by: Board of Directors of Mount Shepherd Retreat Center, Inc., Asheboro, NC, Uwharrie District

Text:
Whereas, ¶ 2516 of the Book of Discipline states that “Title to annual conference...camps, conference grounds, and retreat centers held in trust by an incorporated board...can be mortgaged, or sold and conveyed by such corporation...only after authorization by the annual or district conference to which such body is related; and

Whereas, Mount Shepherd Retreat Center, Inc., located in Asheboro, North Carolina, is a separately incorporated annual conference camp and retreat center which holds its 543.3 acres of real property in trust for the benefit of the Annual Conference; and

Whereas, one of the primary purposes of Mount Shepherd is to promote environmental stewardship and to teach creation care; and

Whereas, Mount Shepherd has reached an agreement with The Piedmont Land Conservancy (PLC) that will preserve the natural beauty and ecological harmony of 87.935 acres in perpetuity by insuring the land will not be developed; and

Whereas, PLC is offering $2000 per acre for this Conservation Easement, providing critical capital in the midst of a global pandemic that has severely impacted Mount Shepherd's ability to generate revenue; and

Whereas, the proceeds of $175,870 will allow Mount Shepherd to reach financial security by paying off all indebtedness to the Western NC Conference and providing an essential cash resource for ongoing operational needs; and

Whereas, the beneficial trust interest of the Annual Conference in the real property would be subordinate and subject to the perpetual conservation easement;

Whereas, the board of directors of Mount Shepherd have approved this project; be it

Resolved that the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church approves the grant of easement rights by Mount Shepherd Retreat Center to Piedmont Land Conservancy in the 87.935 acres for $175,870, as agreed upon by the parties, and further authorize The Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference, United Methodist Church, Inc. to execute all documents and agreements necessary to carry out the same.
DISAFFILIATION OF CHURCHES

The Special Session of the General Conference in February 2019 created a pathway for churches to leave the denomination under certain circumstances. ¶ 2553 allows a church to disaffiliate “for reasons of conscience regarding a change in the requirements and provisions of the Book of Discipline related to the practice of homosexuality or the ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals as resolved and adopted by the 2019 General Conference, or the actions or inactions of its annual conference related to these issues which follow.” ¶ 2553 stipulates that the church must hold a church conference whereby at least 2/3 of the members in attendance vote to disaffiliate. The church then negotiates a “disaffiliation agreement” with the Conference Board of Trustees. Finally, the annual conference must approve the agreement. The following churches are requesting disaffiliation under ¶ 2553 of the 2016 Book of Discipline at this session of the annual conference: Bethel (Midland), Brown’s View (Bostic), Cedar Grove (Bostic), Golden Valley (Bostic), Hardison (Mocksville), Mount Pleasant (Thomasville), Mount Zion (Lenoir). On the pages that follow, you will find the disaffiliation agreements approved by the Conference Board of Trustees. We will vote on the disaffiliation of each church individually.

PDFs of the legal documents for disaffiliation for each church are posted at www.AC2020.org.

Subject: Disaffiliation of Bethel United Methodist Church, Midland, NC, Metro District

Submitted by: Board of Trustees, Board of Stewards, and Planning & Preparation Team of Bethel United Methodist Church, Midland, NC, Metro District

Text:

Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Bethel United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the “traditional plan” as presented; and

Whereas, the Bethel United Methodist Church believes the “traditional plan” as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey the Book of Discipline; and

Whereas, the Bethel United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the “traditional plan” on the basis of the standard of human sexuality affirmed by the “traditional plan” to which our congregation would also affirm, and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan, thus resolving to petition General Conference 2020 to alter the Discipline’s standard on matters of sexual practice; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of the United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, the Bethel United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church per the Book of Discipline, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees and the Board of Stewards, with appointed Planning and Preparation Team, of Bethel UMC has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out;

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Bethel UMC have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2020 meeting of the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Bethel UMC from The United Methodist Church.
Subject: Disaffiliation of Brown’s View United Methodist Church, Candler, NC, Blue Ridge District
Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Brown’s View United Methodist Church, Candler, NC, Blue Ridge District
Text:
Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Brown’s View United Methodist Church has expressed
disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional
plan" as presented; and
Whereas, Brown’s View United Methodist Church believes the "traditional plan" as approved does not sufficiently address the
lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey the Book of Discipline; and
Whereas, Brown’s View United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The
Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the "traditional plan" on
the basis of the standard of human sexuality affirmed by the “traditional plan” to which our congregation would also affirm,
and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional
plan, thus resolving to petition General Conference 2020 to alter the Discipline’s standard on matters of sexual practice;
and
Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of
the United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and
Whereas, Brown’s View United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church
conference has voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church per the Book of Discipline, paragraph 2553; and
Whereas, the Board of Trustees of Brown’s View United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and
enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc.
needed to carry it out;
Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Brown’s View UMC have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as
Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it
Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2020 meeting of The Western North Carolina
Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of
Brown’s View UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Subject: Disaffiliation of Cedar Grove United Methodist Church, Bostic, NC, Blue Ridge District
Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Cedar Grove United Methodist Church, Bostic, NC, Blue Ridge District
Text:
Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Cedar Grove United Methodist Church has expressed
disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional
plan" as presented; and
Whereas, Cedar Grove United Methodist Church believes the "traditional plan" as approved does not sufficiently address the lack
of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey the Book of Discipline; and
Whereas, Cedar Grove United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The
Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the "traditional plan" on
the basis of the standard of human sexuality affirmed by the “traditional plan” to which our congregation would also affirm,
and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional
plan, thus resolving to petition General Conference 2020 to alter the Discipline’s standard on matters of sexual practice;
and
Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of
the United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and
Whereas, Cedar Grove United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church
conference has voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church per the Book of Discipline, paragraph 2553; and
Whereas, the Board of Trustees of Cedar Grove United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and
enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc.
needed to carry it out;
Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Cedar Grove UMC have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as
Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it
Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2020 meeting of The Western North Carolina
Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of
Cedar Grove UMC from The United Methodist Church.
Subject: Disaffiliation of Golden Valley United Methodist Church, Bostic, NC, Blue Ridge District
Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Golden Valley United Methodist Church, Bostic, NC, Blue Ridge District

Text:
Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Golden Valley United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented; and
Whereas, Golden Valley United Methodist Church believes the "traditional plan" as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey the Book of Discipline; and
Whereas, Golden Valley United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the "traditional plan" on the basis of the standard of human sexuality affirmed by the “traditional plan” to which our congregation would also affirm, and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan, thus resolving to petition General Conference 2020 to alter the Discipline's standard on matters of sexual practice; and
Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of the United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and
Whereas, Golden Valley United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church per the Book of Discipline, paragraph 2553; and
Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Golden Valley United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out;
Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Golden Valley UMC have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it
Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2020 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Golden Valley UMC from The United Methodist Church.

Subject: Disaffiliation of Hardison United Methodist Church, Mocksville, NC, Yadkin Valley District
Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Hardison United Methodist Church, Mocksville, NC, Yadkin Valley District

Text:
Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of the Hardison United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented; and
Whereas, the Hardison United Methodist Church believes the "traditional plan" as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey the Book of Discipline; and
Whereas, the Hardison United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the "traditional plan" on the basis of the standard of human sexuality affirmed by the “traditional plan” to which our congregation would also affirm, and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan, thus resolving to petition General Conference 2020 to alter the Discipline's standard on matters of sexual practice; and
Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of the United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and
Whereas, the Hardison United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church per the Book of Discipline, paragraph 2553; and
Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Hardison United Methodist Church has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out;
Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Hardison UMC have entered into a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it
Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2020 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Hardison UMC from The United Methodist Church.
Subject: Disaffiliation of Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, Thomasville, NC, Yadkin Valley District

Submitted by: Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, Thomasville, NC, Yadkin Valley District

Text:
Whereas, by near unanimous consent the congregation of Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented; and

Whereas, Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church believes the "traditional plan" as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey the Book of Discipline; and

Whereas, Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the "traditional plan" on the basis of the standard of human sexuality affirmed by the "traditional plan" to which our congregation would also affirm, and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan, thus resolving to petition General Conference 2020 to alter the Discipline’s standard on matters of sexual practice; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of the United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church per the Book of Discipline, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Mt. Pleasant UMC has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out;

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Mt. Pleasant UMC have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2020 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and further ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church from The United Methodist Church.

Subject: Disaffiliation of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, Lenoir, NC, Appalachian District

Submitted by: Board of Trustees of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, Lenoir, NC, Appalachian District

Text:
Whereas, by near unanimous consent, the congregation of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church has expressed disagreement with the results of the 2019 special session of the UMC Conference regarding the adoption of the "traditional plan" as presented; and

Whereas, Mt. Zion United Methodist Church believes the "traditional plan" as approved does not sufficiently address the lack of accountability for Bishops and Clergy who openly disobey the Book of Discipline; and

Whereas, Mt. Zion United Methodist Church does not agree with the passage of petitions at the 2019 session of The Western North Carolina Conference, one of which presented the tenants of UMC Next which rejects the "traditional plan" on the basis of the standard of human sexuality affirmed by the "traditional plan" to which our congregation would also affirm, and another petition which stated the annual conference's strong disagreement with and condemnation of the traditional plan, thus resolving to petition General Conference 2020 to alter the Discipline’s standard on matters of sexual practice; and

Whereas, the 2019 General Conference did provide a disaffiliation process for congregations that disagree with the actions of the United Methodist Church and its language regarding human sexuality and accountability to the church; and

Whereas, Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, with a more than two thirds vote of members at special, duly called church conference has voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church per the Book of Discipline, paragraph 2553; and

Whereas, that the Board of Trustees of Mt. Zion UMC has been given the authority to negotiate and enter into a formal disaffiliation agreement with the Conference Trustees and execute all deeds, contracts, instruments, etc. needed to carry it out;

Whereas, the Conference Trustees and Mt. Zion UMC have entered to a formal Disaffiliation Agreement (attached hereto as Exhibit A), per the requirements of paragraph 2553, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Disaffiliation Agreement be affirmed and approved by the 2020 meeting of The Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and ask that the Annual Conference affirm and approve the disaffiliation of Mt. Zion UMC from The United Methodist Church.
CABINET REPORT

RESOLUTIONS OF CHURCH DISCONTINUANCE AND ABANDONMENT

Resolution for the Closing of
Brevard’s Chapel United Methodist Church, Lincoln County, Catawba Valley District
GCFA: 967642 DcNo: CV-095

Whereas, the membership of Brevard’s Chapel United Methodist Church, Lincoln County, Catawba Valley, has declined to 10 in worship; and,
Whereas, the church is no longer financially able to support the pastor’s salary and pension, nor to maintain its facility; and the church is unable to fulfill the purpose and mission of a local church according to the 2016 Book of Discipline, ¶ 201-204;
Whereas, the Catawba Valley District Superintendent, the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and a majority of the Catawba Valley District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Brevard’s Chapel United Methodist Church, Lincoln County, Catawba Valley District, be discontinued and declared abandoned effective July 31, 2020; and that the Wesley Community Development, and the Board of Trustees of Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc., be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of The Book of Discipline (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

Resolution for the Discontinuance of
Columbus United Methodist Church, Polk County, Blue Ridge District
GCFA: 2165707 DcNo: BR-830

Whereas, Columbus United Methodist Church, Buncombe County, Blue Ridge District, has declined to 12 members, with worship attendance averaging 6; and,
Whereas, the church is financially unable to support a pastor’s salary and district and conference apportionments, nor adequately maintain the buildings; and
Whereas, Columbus United Methodist Church is no longer able to fulfill its mission and purpose as required by ¶ 201-204 of The Book of Discipline (2016) of The United Methodist Church; and,
Whereas, members present from Columbus United Methodist, Buncombe County, Blue Ridge District, made a faithful decision to discontinue as a congregation by greater than ¾ majority vote at a special called session of church conference on March 18, 2020; and
Whereas, Columbus United Methodist Church has planned to hold a closing worship celebration on April 26, 2020; and
Whereas, the presiding bishop, a majority of the cabinet of the Western North Carolina Conference, the Blue Ridge district superintendent, and the Blue Ridge District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

Resolved, that Columbus United Methodist Church, Polk County, Blue Ridge District be considered discontinued effective April 30, 2020; and that the property be transferred to the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference, The United Methodist Church, Inc., which is hereby instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of The Book of Discipline and the policies of the annual conference.

Further resolved, that on the date of closure, all current officers and directors of Columbus United Methodist Church, Inc. tender their resignation and appoint Rev. Amy L. Coles and Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram as the interim directors and interim President and Vice President of the corporation, respectively.
Resolution for the Discontinuance of  
Davis Chapel United Methodist Church, Buncombe County, Blue Ridge District  
GCFA: 290791  
DeNo: BR-320

Whereas, Davis Chapel United Methodist Church, Buncombe County, Blue Ridge District, has declined to 10 members, with worship attendance averaging 4; and,

Whereas, the church is financially unable to support a pastor’s salary and district and conference apportionments, nor adequately maintain the buildings; and

Whereas, Davis Chapel United Methodist Church is no longer able to fulfill its mission and purpose as required by ¶ 201-204 of The Book of Discipline (2016) of The United Methodist Church; and,

Whereas, members present from Davis Chapel United Methodist, Buncombe County, Blue Ridge District, made a faithful decision to discontinue as a congregation on December 10, 2019; and

Whereas, Davis Chapel United Methodist Church held a closing worship celebration on January 5, 2020; and

Whereas, the presiding bishop, a majority of the cabinet of the Western North Carolina Conference, the Blue Ridge district superintendent, and the Blue Ridge District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

Resolved, that Davis Chapel United Methodist Church, Buncombe County, Blue Ridge District be considered discontinued effective January 31, 2020; and that the property be transferred to the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference, The United Methodist Church, Inc., which is hereby instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of The Book of Discipline and the policies of the annual conference.

Further resolved, that on the date of closure, all current officers and directors of Swannanoa United Methodist Church, Inc. tender their resignation and appoint Rev. Amy L. Coles and Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram as the interim directors and interim President and Vice President of the corporation, respectively.

Resolution for the Closing of  
Grace United Methodist Church, Cleveland County, Catawba Valley District  
GCFA: 293704  
DeNo: CV-210

Whereas, the membership of Grace United Methodist Church, Cleveland County, Catawba Valley, has declined to 13 in worship; and,

Whereas, the church is no longer financially able to support the pastor’s salary and pension, nor to maintain its facility; and the church is unable to fulfill the purpose and mission of a local church according to the 2016 Book of Discipline, ¶ 201-204;

Whereas, the Catawba Valley District Superintendent, the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and a majority of the Catawba Valley District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Grace United Methodist Church, Cleveland County, Catawba Valley District, be discontinued and declared abandoned effective December 31, 2019; and that the Wesley Community Development, Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc., be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of The Book of Discipline (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

Resolution for the Discontinuance of  
Hanes United Methodist Church, Forsyth County, Yadkin Valley District  
GCFA: 303382  
DeNo: YV-285

Whereas, the membership of Hanes United Methodist Church, Forsyth County, Yadkin Valley District, has declined in worship and has limited resources to the point that the church is unable to fulfill the purpose and mission of the local church according to the 2016 Book of Discipline, ¶ 201-204; and

Whereas on Feb 2, 2020, the charge conference of Hanes UMC unanimously made a faithful decision to discontinue as a congregation on April 30, 2020; and

Whereas, the Yadkin Valley District Superintendent, the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and a majority of the Yadkin Valley District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Hanes United Methodist Church, Forsyth County, Yadkin Valley District, be discontinued effective April 30, 2020, that the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc., be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of The Book of Discipline (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.
Resolution for the Closure of
Lilesville United Methodist Church, Anson County, Uwharrie District
GCFA: 292301 DcNo: UW-275

Whereas, Lilesville United Methodist Church, Anson County, Uwharrie District, has declined in attendance and in financial resources;

Whereas, the church is unable to fulfill the purpose and mission of the local church according to the 2016 Book of Discipline, ¶ 201-204; and

Whereas Lilesville United Methodist Church is a legal corporation;

Whereas, the Uwharrie District Superintendent, the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and a majority of the Uwharrie District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Lilesville United Methodist Church, Anson County, Uwharrie District, be discontinued and the legal corporation dissolved on October 31, 2019, and effective October 31, 2019, that the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc., be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of The Book of Discipline (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

Resolution for the Closure of
Louisa Chapel UMC, Haywood County, Smoky Mountain District
GCFA: 303052 DcNo: SM-045

Whereas, the membership of Louisa Chapel United Methodist Church, Haywood County, Smoky Mountain District, has declined to an average worship of 9 persons; and,

Whereas, due to declining attendance and limited financial resources, the church has discerned it is no longer able to fulfill the purpose and mission of the local church according to the 2016 Book of Discipline, ¶ 201-204; and

Whereas, the Smoky Mountain District Superintendent, the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and a majority of the Smoky Mountain District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Louisa Chapel United Methodist Church, Haywood County, Smoky Mountain District, be discontinued effective June 30, 2020, that the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc., be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549.3 of The Book of Discipline (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

Resolution for the Closure of
Main Street United Methodist Church, Rowan County, Uwharrie District
GCFA: 299062 DcNo: UW-127

Whereas, Main Street United Methodist Church, Rowan County, Uwharrie District, has declined in attendance and in financial resources;

Whereas, the church is unable to fulfill the purpose and mission of the local church according to the 2016 Book of Discipline, ¶ 201-204; and

Whereas, the Uwharrie District Superintendent, the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and a majority of the Uwharrie District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Main Street United Methodist Church, Rowan County, Uwharrie District, be discontinued effective June 30, 2020, and that the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc., be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of The Book of Discipline (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.
Resolution for the Discontinuance of
Northwood United Methodist Church, Guilford County, Northern Piedmont District
GCFA: 296046 DcNo: NP-466
Whereas, Northwood United Methodist Church, Guilford County, Northern Piedmont District, has declined to worship attendance averaging 15; and,
Whereas, Northwood United Methodist Church is no longer able to fulfill its mission and purpose as required by ¶ 201-204 of The Book of Discipline (2016) of The United Methodist Church; and,
Whereas, members present from Northwood United Methodist Church, Guilford County, Northern Piedmont District, made a faithful decision by vote on June 14, 2020 to discontinue as a congregation, effective June 30, 2020; and
Whereas, Northwood United Methodist Church has planned to hold a closing worship celebration on June 14, 2020; and
Whereas, the presiding bishop, a majority of the cabinet of the Western North Carolina Conference, the Northern Piedmont district superintendent, and the Northern Piedmont District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it
Resolved, that Northwood United Methodist Church, Guilford County, Northern Piedmont District, be considered discontinued effective June 30, 2020; and that the property be transferred to the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference, The United Methodist Church, Inc. which is hereby instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of The Book of Discipline and the policies of the annual conference.

Resolution for the Discontinuance of
Peachtree United Methodist Church, Cherokee County, Smoky Mountain District
GCFA: 302695 DcNo: SM-175
Whereas, the membership of Peachtree United Methodist Church, Cherokee County, Smoky Mountain District, has declined to 4 in worship; and,
Whereas, due to declining attendance and limited financial resources, Peachtree United Methodist Church is no longer able to fulfill its mission and purpose as required by ¶ 201-204 of The Book of Discipline (2016) of The United Methodist Church; and,
Whereas, the presiding bishop, a majority of the cabinet of the Western North Carolina Conference, the Smoky Mountain district superintendent, and the Smoky Mountain District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it
Resolved, that Peachtree United Methodist Church, Cherokee County, Smoky Mountain District, be discontinued effective March 31, 2020, that the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc., be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549.3 (abandonment) of The Book of Discipline (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

Resolution for the Closing of
Pine Bluff United Methodist Church, Cabarrus County, Metro District
GCFA: 298717 DcNo: ME-405
Whereas, the membership of Pine Bluff United Methodist Church, Cabarrus County, Metro District, has declined to 10 in worship; and,
Whereas, the church is no longer financially able to support the pastor’s salary and pension and district and conference apportionments, nor to maintain its facility; and the church is unable to fulfill the purpose and mission of a local church according to the 2016 Book of Discipline, ¶ 201-204; and,
Whereas, the Metro District Superintendent, the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and a majority of the Metro District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it
Resolved, that the Pine Bluff United Methodist Church, Cabarrus County, Metro District, be discontinued and declared abandoned effective December 31, 2019; and that the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc., be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of The Book of Discipline (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.
Resolution for the Closing of
Plaza United Methodist Church, Mecklenburg County, Metro District
GCFA: 292414  DcNo: ME-415

Whereas, the members of Plaza United Methodist Church, Mecklenburg County, Metro District, are seeking to connect with their community in new and more vital ways; and,
Whereas, the Bishop, Cabinet, and the Western NC Conference Office of Church Development are committed to the formation and support of new congregations to reach our increasingly ethnically and racially diverse communities;
Whereas the Metro District and the Western NC Office of Church Development are committed to the formation of a new United Methodist Church based at the Plaza UMC location;
Whereas on July 22, 2019 a majority of the members of Plaza UMC voted to close in order to become partners in a new church start,
Whereas, the Metro District Superintendent, the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and a majority of the Metro District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Plaza United Methodist Church, Mecklenburg County, Metro District, be discontinued effective September 30, 2019; and that the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc., be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of The Book of Discipline (2016), the policies of the annual conference, and with the understanding of the intent to plant a new United Methodist Church at the Plaza location.

Resolution for the Discontinuance of
Rosman United Methodist Church, Transylvania County, Blue Ridge District
GCFA: 290654  DcNo: BR-932

Whereas, Rosman United Methodist Church, Transylvania County, Blue Ridge District, has declined to 15 members, with worship attendance averaging 10; and,
Whereas, the church is financially unable to support a pastor’s salary and district and conference apportionments, nor adequately maintain the buildings; and
Whereas, Rosman United Methodist Church is no longer able to fulfill its mission and purpose as required by ¶ 201-204 of The Book of Discipline (2016) of The United Methodist Church; and,
Whereas, members present from Rosman United Methodist, Transylvania County, Blue Ridge District, made a faithful decision to discontinue as a congregation by unanimous vote on June 12, 2019; and
Whereas, Rosman United Methodist Church has planned to hold a closing worship celebration on June 30, 2019; and
Whereas, the presiding bishop, a majority of the cabinet of the Western North Carolina Conference, the Blue Ridge district superintendent, and the Blue Ridge District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Rosman United Methodist Church, Transylvania County, Blue Ridge District, be considered discontinued effective July 31, 2019; and that the property be transferred to the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference, The United Methodist Church, Inc., for repurposing for new ministry in the Blue Ridge District which is hereby instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of The Book of Discipline and the policies of the annual conference.

Further resolved, that on the date of closure, all current officers and directors of Rosman United Methodist Church, Inc. tender their resignation and appoint Rev. Amy L. Coles and Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram as the interim directors and interim President and Vice President of the corporation, respectively.
Resolution for Closure for Exigent Circumstances
Siloam United Methodist Church, Davidson County, Uwharrie District
GCFA: 330515    DcNo: UW-102

Whereas, the membership of Siloam United Methodist Church, Davidson County, Uwharrie District, has requested a church conference for the purpose of discontinuance in order to buy back real estate and other assets;

Whereas, at least two-thirds of the membership of the church conference has approved this resolution;

Whereas, the Uwharrie District Superintendent, the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and a majority of the Uwharrie District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Siloam United Methodist Church, Davidson County, Uwharrie District, be discontinued effective December 31, 2019; and that the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc., be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of The Book of Discipline (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

Resolution for the Discontinuance of
Swannanoa United Methodist Church, Buncombe County, Blue Ridge District
GCFA: 291226    DcNo: BR-910

Whereas, Swannanoa United Methodist Church, Buncombe County, Blue Ridge District, has declined to 12 members, with worship attendance averaging 7; and,

Whereas, the church is financially unable to support a pastor’s salary and district and conference apportionments, nor adequately maintain the buildings; and

Whereas, Swannanoa United Methodist Church is no longer able to fulfill its mission and purpose as required by ¶ 201-204 of The Book of Discipline (2016) of The United Methodist Church; and,

Whereas, members present from Swannanoa United Methodist, Buncombe County, Blue Ridge District, made a faithful decision to discontinue as a congregation by unanimous vote at a special called session of church conference on November 3, 2019; and

Whereas, Swannanoa United Methodist Church has planned to hold a closing worship celebration on June 28, 2020; and

Whereas, the presiding bishop, a majority of the cabinet of the Western North Carolina Conference, the Blue Ridge district superintendent, and the Blue Ridge District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Swannanoa United Methodist Church, Buncombe County, Blue Ridge District be considered discontinued effective June 30, 2020; and that the property be transferred to the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference, The United Methodist Church, Inc. which is hereby instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of The Book of Discipline (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

Further resolved, that on the date of closure, all current officers and directors of Swannanoa United Methodist Church, Inc. tender their resignation and appoint Rev. Amy L. Coles and Rev. Kimberly T. Ingram as the interim directors and interim President and Vice President of the corporation, respectively.
Resolution for the Discontinuance of
Transou United Methodist Church (Laurel Springs), Ashe County, Appalachian District
GCFA: 288731  DcNo: AP-600

Whereas, Transou United Methodist Church, Ashe County, Appalachian District, has declined to an average worship attendance of thirteen (13) persons,
Whereas, due to declining attendance, the church is unable to fulfill the purpose and mission of the local church according to the 2016 Book of Discipline, ¶ 201-204; and
Whereas, the district superintendent, the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and a majority of the Appalachian District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it
Resolved, that the Transou United Methodist Church, Ashe County, Appalachian District, be declared discontinued and abandoned effective October 31, 2019; and that the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc., be instructed to handle all property matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of the 2016 Book of Discipline and the policies of the annual conference.

Resolution for Closure for Exigent Circumstances
White’s Chapel United Methodist Church, Randolph County, Northern Piedmont District
GCFA: 289702  DcNo: NP-587

White’s Chapel United Methodist Church, Randolph County, Northern Piedmont District, 1843 Low Bridge Road, Liberty, NC 27298 (GCFA: 289702)
Whereas, the reported membership of White’s Chapel United Methodist Church for 2019 was 60, with reported worship attendance of 17; and
Whereas, White’s Chapel United Methodist Church is no longer willing to fulfill its mission and purpose as required by The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church; and
Whereas, the membership of White’s Chapel United Methodist Church has requested discontinuance in order to buy back real estate and other assets; and
Whereas, the Northern Piedmont District Superintendent, the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and a majority of the Northern Piedmont District Board of Church Location and Building have consented to the following action; therefore, be it
Resolved, that the White’s Chapel United Methodist Church, Randolph County, Northern Piedmont District, be considered discontinued effective July 10, 2020; and that the Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, Inc., be instructed to handle all matters in accordance with ¶ 2549 of The Book of Discipline (2016) and the policies of the annual conference.

Note: The Cabinet approved the discontinuance effective on the date that the property is transferred to White’s Chapel.

UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
PROPOSAL: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

New Members
Pamela Blackstock, Charlotte, Clergy serving at Central UMC
David Mildenberg, Charlotte, Member at Dilworth UMC, Editor of Business North Carolina Magazine
Leesa Sluder, Asheville, Member at Central Asheville, Financial Advisor at Earth Equity Advisors
2016-2020 Quadrennium: Four Focus Areas
The United Methodist Church
The church is called to be a Christ-centered, disciple-making, transformational community

Vital Congregations: Creathing and Sustaining New Places for New People
- One million new disciples who profess their faith through new and renewed communities around the world.
- Double the number of highly vital congregations excelling in the five markers of vitality: disciples in worship, new disciples (professions of faith), disciples in small groups, disciples in mission, and giving to mission.

Calling and Shaping Principled Christian Leaders
Equipping 3 million people across the connection to be “difference makers,” called out to serve as principled Christian leaders in our world today.

Ministry with the Poor
Build 400 vibrant, flourishing, and transforming communities addressing issues of poverty and ministry with the poor, particularly with children.

Abundant Health for All
Reach 1 million children with life-saving interventions.

Read stories about ways United Methodists follow Jesus, make disciples, and transform the world at http://www.umc.org/how-we-serve/four-areas-of-focus-overview

Photo Credits: from top: Central (Concord) Re-consecration Service, by Meg Irvin; 2016 Service of Ordination, Western NC Annual Conference, by Gregg Forwerck; East Greensboro Missional Network packs Meals of Hope for area food pantries; WNCC Young Adults join the walk for water in Cange, Haiti.