

# *Danny G. Allen (1008)*

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**Current Appointment:** Washington:First

**Current District:** Beacon

## **Local Church and District Activities**

I began serving as a pastor in the North Carolina Conference in June, 1971 and have served small and large membership churches. Over the years, I have served on and in some instances, chaired District Councils on Ministry, Committees on Superintendency, Committees on Ministry and one District Board of Trustees.

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

I have served on the Commission on Evangelism, was privileged to chair the commission for 4 years and was honored with the Harry Denman Evangelism Award. I was trained by Kennon Callahan as one of the consultants for the Vitalization Project for the North Carolina Conference. I have served on the Conference Council on Finance and Administration as Vice President and President and continue as a member of the Board of Directors for the United Methodist Foundation.

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

I have served churches in 9 of the previous 12 districts and bring familiarity with the people, issues, understandings and positions of the United Methodists of Eastern North Carolina. I will bring a personal faith and prayer life, wisdom gained by experience and a sense of balance to the delegation.

# *Gary Allred (1011)*

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**Current Appointment:** Holland's

**Current District:** Capital

## **Local Church and District Activities**

Local Church: Currently serving, and beginning the 8th year, as lead pastor of 1400 member congregation with an average worship attendance of 500.

-- Preach, teach, leadership development, administration

-- Four worship services: relaxed traditional, traditional,

non-traditional (contemporary), non-traditional (coffee house)

-- Previously served rural and suburban churches

-- Successful planting pastor of new church, 1996-2003

District: No current activity. Previously: District Committee on Ordained Ministry 1998-2006, chair 1999-2006) ... District Committee on Church Location and Building 2007-2009, chair 2008-2009)

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Evangelical Fellowship

Conference: No current activity. Previously: New Faith Communities Lead Team 2004 - 2012, chair 2008-2012 ... Conference Connectional Table 2008- 2012 ... Congregational Development Fund, Inc. 2008-2012 ... Conference Commission on Stewardship 2000-2008 ... Conference Commission on Camping Ministries 1994-1998

Civic & other activities: Garner Rotary Club ... Heart of Carolina Emmaus Community

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

My passion for ministry is to do all I can to invite and equip people to follow Jesus. In doing so, I am committed to work for the extension of God's Kingdom through the ministries of our denomination. I also seek to do good and add value to people in any way I can. My theological stance would be best characterized as Wesleyan Orthodox Evangelical.

As a Delegate to GC or JC I will employ the gifts with which God has blessed me to fulfill the above statement and in the context of the spirit of that statement.

# *Patricia Archer (1014)*

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**Current Appointment:** Pine Valley - Wilmington

**Current District:** Harbor

## **Local Church and District Activities**

- Pastor of Discipleship at Pine Valley UMC-Wilmington

Oversee discipleship ministries for all ages

Worship Leader for the contemporary worship service

Clergy leader for Celebrate Recovery (Christian 12 Step ministry)

- District Committee of Ordained Ministry (1997-present), past Committee Chair for five years

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

- Conference Connectional Table since 2008, current team leader of the Leadership team
- Chair of the Administrative Review Committee
- Mentor for Ministry Candidates
- Past Chair of the Order of Deacons 2000-2008
- Board of Ordained Ministry 1999-2008, member of Executive Committee (2001-2008) and other related committees (Conference Relations Committee, Sexual Ethics Committee and District Relations Committee).
- Delegate to General Conferences 2008 & 2012
- Delegate to Jurisdictional Conferences 2008 & 2012
- Secretary for the 2012 Delegation

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

I am willing to pray and listen to God's direction as the United Methodist Church makes important decisions for ministry in our changing world. I'm willing to give my time, focus and prayerful commitment for this important work. If I am elected, it will be my privilege to serve the North Carolina Annual Conference.

# *Nathan Arledge (1016)*

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**Current Appointment:** Front Street

**Current District:** Corridor

## **Local Church and District Activities**

District:

District Mission Strategy Team

Local Church:

Developed sister church relationship with La Resurrecion Metodista in Puerto Rico. The church in Puerto Rico not only receives our teams but also sends a team in the summer for two weeks to help Front Street journey and connect with our Hispanic brothers and sisters of Burlington.

Grew a thriving missions ministry at Front Street through multiple international: Haiti, Honduras, and Costa Rica. By product of these international mission experiences it has influenced and grown the local awareness and contribution to our own neighbors in town. In the life and heartbeat of Front Street one of the first questions now asked before we do ministry is, "how will this help us connect with and transform our local community?" It is now about working with and not giving to.

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Vice Chair of Church and Society

Vice Chair of Young Adult Committee

Candidacy Mentor

For the past two years I have been a member of Pastores Caminantes at Duke Divinity School. Through this program I have had an opportunity to grow my voice and awareness of the need for our church to walk alongside with our Hispanic brothers and sisters. Best things learned actively listening, hearing with compassion and acting with our neighbors.

"Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born from God. Whoever loves someone who is a parent loves the child born to the parent. 2 This is how we know that we love the children of God: when we love God and keep God's commandments. 3 This is the love of God: we keep God's commandments. God's commandments are not difficult, 4 because everyone who is born from God defeats the world. And this is the victory that has defeated the world: our faith. 5 Who defeats the world? Isn't it the one who believes that Jesus is God's Son?" 1 John 5:1-5

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

As a delegate I will contribute a genuine, transparent and authentic voice on behalf of the NCCUMC. I will be a strong representative by living into our gospel conviction - to truly love our neighbors - this will be the lens and voice I will speak and read going into General and Jurisdictional.

# *G. Kevin Baker (1026)*

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Address: 112 N. Main Street Suite 301 Graham, NC 27253

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**Current Appointment:** Graham First UMC

**Current District:** Corridor

## **Local Church and District Activities**

1994-1997 Pastor of Creswell Charge

1997-2004 Associate Pastor of Reconciliation UMC

2004-2011 Lead Pastor of Reconciliation UMC

2011-2015 Lead Pastor of First UMC Graham

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

1995-1997 Member of Conference Commission on Church and Society

1997-2000 Member of Conference Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns

2000-2004 Member and Chair of Conference Multicultural Ministries Circle

2001-2011 Member of Conference Hispanic Ministries Circle

1997-2001 Served as member and chair of Durham District Taskforce on Hispanic Ministries

2004-2010 Member of Commission on Congregation Development for NC Annual Conference

2007-2010 Member of Durham District on Superintendency

2011-2015 Member of AC Delegation and delegate to 2012 SEJ Conference

2013-2015 Residency In Ordained Ministry (RIOM) Group Leader

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

While many predict the continuing demise of our church, citing both our decline in membership and growing concerns about schism, I remain hopeful and even boldly confident. I firmly believe that Christ is still Lord of the UMC and still has a unique calling and task for the people called Methodists, especially in our increasingly fractured and broken world.

I grow weary of the reductionist categories of "us vs. them" and "conservative vs. liberal" that often dominates so many of our meetings, conversations, and conferencing as a body. Mistrust and fear has become too much a part of our common life together. If elected, my hope would be to serve as a voice that represents those who desire both unity as well as fidelity to the faith, even as we engage around hard conversations that call for us to embrace compassion, justice, and scriptural holiness.

# *David Beam (1041)*

Telephone:

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Address: 4111 Airport Road Pinehurst, NC 28374

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**Current Appointment:** Pinehurst UMC

**Current District:** Fairway

## **Local Church and District Activities**

Lead Pastor—Pinehurst UMC (2012-Present)

Associate Pastor—First UMC, Rocky Mount (2009-2012)

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Conference Connectional Table (2012-Present)

Christian Formation Committee (2012-2013)

Worship Committee (2012-Present)

NC Preaching Festival Advisory Team (2014-Present)

Academy for Leadership Excellence Fellow (Class of 2016)

Young Clergy Focus Group (2009-2012)

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

For the past 3 years, I have had the privilege of serving the wildly diverse congregation of Pinehurst UMC. How diverse is our church? Let's just say our core leadership team consists of a black republican working in healthcare, a white democrat serving in the military, a Texan-born broker who grew up in New York City, and a long-time resident of Moore county who has never left home.

Needless to say, it's a complicated place.

As a church, we represent many different backgrounds, theologies, political persuasions, and social values. We disagree on much, yet through the work of the Holy Spirit we have watched God bless our community. In just 3 short years, we have seen an increase in worship attendance of over 33%, moving from an average of about 300 weekly worshipers in 2012 to over 450 in 2015.

I believe the greatest strength of the United Methodist church is our diversity—12 million members, 12 million opinions, 12 million backgrounds all worshipping in one place. This type of diversity is not easy to navigate, but it is beautiful watch. One of my great passions is working with people from every background in the church's shared mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ. General Conference provides a unique opportunity to bring together the entire connection in this work. I would love the privilege to share in this effort. While I know it will not be easy, I trust that God's spirit will make it beautiful.

# *Bob Bergland (1051)*

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**Current Appointment:** First: Wilson

**Current District:** Capital

## **Local Church and District Activities**

I have served appointments that include a student appointment to large membership congregations with multiple staff members. Henderson: City Road (1979); Bahama: Mount Bethel (1983); Clinton: Grace (1988); Elizabethtown: Trinity (1991); Apex (1999); First: Rocky Mount (2005); First: Wilson (2012). At the district level I have served as chair of the former Rocky Mount District Committee on Ordained Ministry; member of District Committees on Superintendency in former Wilmington, Raleigh, and Rocky Mount Districts.

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Currently serving of the Board of Ordained Ministry and member of the Camping Commission Board. Past chair of the Order of Elders; past member of Executive Committee Board of Ordained Ministry; Delegate to the 2008 & 2012 General and Jurisdictional Conferences; Council Member of the 2011 World Methodist Council (Durban, South Africa); degate to the 2006 World Methodist Conference (Seoul, South Korea); Past member of the Board of Visitors at NC Wesleyan College; Instructor at various UMW Schools of Christian Mission (NC Annual Conference & Holston Annual Conference); former Board Member of Apex Chamber of Commerce (1999-2004)

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

My entire ministry has been given to serving the local church. I have a deep understanding of the challenges facing the local church today and an equally deep conviction that the local church continues to be "the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs." My experience as a delegate to previous General and Jurisdictional Conferences as well as two World Methodist Conferences have given me the opportunity to establish working relationships with other United Methodists world-wide. I will be able to draw upon these relationships and my understanding of the process to provide steady and faithful leadership as a delegate representing the NC Annual Conference.

# *Allen Bingham (1052)*

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Address: 1206 Woodberry Rd Kinston, NC 28501

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**Current Appointment:** Queen Street

**Current District:** Sound

## **Local Church and District Activities**

Currently: Pastor of Queen Street. Member of the District Committee on Ordained Ministry and Candidacy mentor and supervisor.

Prior: Pastor of Rehoboth-Harris, Swansboro (associate), Nashville, and Pinehurst. Chair of District Committee on Ordained Ministry, Chair of District Council on Ministry.

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Currently: Teach Transformation Leadership for the Course of Study program at Duke Divinity School, congregational coach with the Conference Connectional Team, and supervisor in the Residency in Ordained Ministry program. Provide personal coaching through Passion In Partnership for fellows in the Academy of Leadership Excellence and Residents in Ordained Ministry programs across the connection.

Prior: Member of the Conference Connectional Table, Board of Ordained Ministry, and Chair of the Commission on Congregational Development.

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

Our unity as a church is being challenged by multiple forces within and without the denomination. Our unity is ultimately rooted in finding the middle way, the *via media*, that holds the tension of current struggles together with the faith of our mothers and fathers. I am willing to live in this middle way as we discern together where the Spirit of God is calling.



# *Robert Brewer (1071)*

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**Current Appointment:** Greensboro College

**Current District:** N. Piedmont District/Capital District

## **Local Church and District Activities**

For the past 10 years I have served as the chaplain and assistant professor of religion at Greensboro College. I preach and teach regularly in local congregations in both the North Carolina Conference and the W. North Carolina Conference.

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

I am actively involved in helping churches be more hospitable towards young adults and college students through teaching and guest preaching in local congregations.

I am a participant in the Reynolds Academy for Campus Ministry.

I have been an adjunct professor of preaching at Wake Forest Divinity School.

I have written for "Feasting on the Gospel," and "Abingdon's Theological Companion to the Lectionary."

I am a contributor to the new Common English Student Study Bible, which will be published this summer.

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

As a college chaplain and professor, I have the honor to work with students who are discerning their relationship to the church and for many their call to ministry. I seek to foster greater ways for the church to be supportive and welcoming of young adult leadership so to create a culture where students can explore their call to ministry. The students I work with lead in worship, intern at local churches, volunteer in local agencies, and teach bible studies regularly.

I believe the United Methodist Church has a great future, because I see it everyday. I would love to bring this perspective to General/Jurisdictional Conference and help the church grow into the future God has in store.

# *James L.(Jerry) Bryan (1085)*

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**Current Appointment:** Retired Full Elder

**Current District:** Corridor

## **Local Church and District Activities**

My Charge Conference Membership is Cedar Cliff UMC, Graham, NC. I am an active participant and supporter of this fine and vitally active local church. I serve on the Council, and assist as called upon by my pastor. I participate in various District activities as my DS requires, and have been active, throughout my ministry, in a wide variety of District Work Activities. I have served several local churches in and around the Corridor District as Interim Pastor, on many occasions over the years, as my retirement has been, and continues to be, an active involved one.

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

I have been elected to serve as NCC Secretary 5 times, which puts me in my 18th year in the position. The various requirements of the office call for me to be committed to serve the wide ranging population of the NCC, and to help plan and produce our yearly Conference. This requires coordination skills and experience, that I have gained over 50 plus years of ministry in the parishes of the NCC, and as an US Army Chaplain (Retired). I am able to work across a broad spectrum of people with many cultural and varied church experiences. I have made many friends, and contacts, over the years that serve to cooperate with people from many of the Conferences which make up the UMC, It was the Methodist Church which nourished me as a young person, and led me to make my commitment to Jesus Christ early, and fostered my growth as a Christian. I am committed to the biblical stance of the UMC and the social movement that has been and continues to be our message to the world.

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

I would like to serve as a Delegate to the GC and/or SEJ because my understanding of life and the Christian Church and its movement was, and is, grounded in the historical and existential life of the modern day Christian. I believe my experience has given me an ability to work across many societal boundaries, with people and organizations. I understand the structure and the movement called the United Methodist Church. And I feel that the Local Church and the Annual Conference are the places whereby we as a united people can and will make a difference in this marvelous creation our God has made available to us, to signal his love and salvation for all mankind. With this understanding I believe that I can represent a wide swath of Jesus' people, in the larger arena of our denomination. I would like to feel that I have made a worthy contribution to such a movement as our denomination can and will, I believe, make in the years ahead.

# *Tim Catlett (1114)*

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Address: 100 S. Hughes St. Apex, NC 27502

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**Current Appointment:** Apex UMC Family

**Current District:** Fairway District

## **Local Church and District Activities**

Over the last seven years, I have served as a church planter, a campus pastor, and currently as the managing executive pastor for the Apex UMC Family of Faith Communities.

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Board of Ordained Ministry Executive Team

Board of Ordained Ministry, Secretary

Academy for Leadership Excellence

Academy for Leadership Excellence, Curriculum Team

Young Clergy Network, NCCUMC

Leadership Development Incubator, NCCUMC

Young Clergy Initiative Grant, NC Ministry Fellows

The George Washington University Executive Leadership Program, Doctoral Candidate

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

I love our church. I love our denomination. I believe the power of the Holy Spirit is still alive and at work in this movement called Methodism. I also believe that when we stay united and connected together, our local church has an incredible power to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. I have witnessed this life change and continue to witness it all the time through the work of Jesus Christ in and through our local churches and across our connection.

During my experience in the local church, across our denomination, and in the corporate context, I have witnessed and experienced significant organizational and institutional change. Over the last two years, I also have spent time in a doctoral program focused on Human Organizational Learning and Leadership with a focus on exploring organizational leadership, organizational culture, adult learning, and organizational change. This program has offered insight into large global institutions, inside and outside the church, that have had to navigate the difficulties of complex institutional changes.

# *Marty Cauley (1115)*

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**Current Appointment:** Director of Coaching & Content for New Faith Communities: North Carolina Conference

**Current District:** Heritage

## **Local Church and District Activities**

- Local Church – I have served a variety of churches since my first appointment in 1992. Having served rural, suburban, and urban congregations ranging in size from eight to more than two hundred I am keenly aware of the struggles and issues facing the local church.
- District – I have served as district coordinator of youth ministries, congregational development, and evangelism in four districts across the NC Conference.
- General Church – I was privileged to spend five years as the Southeastern Jurisdiction Director of Ministry with Young People. Working for the SEJ allowed me to work with a variety of General and Jurisdictional Church organizations. I served on the SEJ Congregational Development team, coordinated the SEJ Youth/Young Adult Coordinators Networking Group, facilitated the SEJ Multi-Cultural event at Lake Junaluska, and assisted with the coordination of other events including the SEJ Conference, SEJANAM's annual events, and planned and implemented all SEJ youth events.

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

More than a twenty years ago I began serving the North Carolina Conference on the Commission on Evangelism. Realizing that the local church is the hope of the world, I was instrumental in designing the first Academy of Christian Witness, the Lay Academy of Christian Witness, and the Clarity Academies to train teams for local church. These academies continue to train pastors and lay persons in effective evangelism strategies. Additionally I have served as an adult on the CCYM, and have served on design teams and staff at dozens of conference sponsored youth events. Currently I serve as Director of Coaching and Content for New Faith Communities. I strive to assist them to remain connected and increase their personal and evangelistic effectiveness while they launch new missional initiatives for the NC Conference.

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

The local church is the hope of the world. It is the only organization that can reach into every community and make a difference spiritually, socially, and culturally. Having worked with all levels of the General Church I believe that I would be able to advocate for the needs and ministries of the local church and assist those agencies to realize that they serve best when they resource and serve the local church. As I strive to be a faithful United Methodist I embrace an evangelical faith balanced with a desire to bring justice and be in mission with those around the corner and around the world. To find out more about my perspective and beliefs as well as my spiritual journey visit: [www.MartyCauley.org](http://www.MartyCauley.org)

# *Laurie Hays Coffman (1137)*

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**Current Appointment:** Croasdaile Village

**Current District:** Corridor

## **Local Church and District Activities**

Chaplain for 640 residents at United Methodist Retirement Homes

Interfaith Hospitality Network overnight volunteer

Panelist/Presenter at Fairmont UMC and Duke Memorial UMC

Participant in Corridor District Sabbath Day at the Farm

Mentoring Divinity students

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Co-leader of Bishop's Unity Dialogue

Conflict Transformation Minister

National officer for Methodist Federation for Social Action

Planner/Host for Jack Crum Conference on Prophetic Ministry

Taize worship participant

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

After meeting Christians in other countries (South Africa, Palestine/Israel, Scotland, France, Costa Rica), I yearn to be a bridge builder for the church. Having pastored the first reconciling church of the Carolinas and serving fifteen years on the Unity Dialogue, I understand some of the plight of those who have often felt marginalized by the church. I have recently been trained in Conflict Transformation and see this as useful skills to help the UMC resolve some of its inner dissension. I care about racial justice, care of the poor and elderly, and openness to the new life Christ's Spirit is bringing through fresh voices.

# *Edgardo Colon-Emeric (1141)*

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Address: 1120 Orange Factory Road Bahama, NC 27503

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**Current Appointment:** Duke Divinity School

**Current District:** Corridor

## **Local Church and District Activities**

At New Creation UMC I assist with preaching and presiding on a quarterly basis.

I also preach in the Butner Prison Complex on a quarterly basis.

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

The chief way I am active in the annual conference is by forming clergy for ministry through my teaching of theology and Methodism at Duke. I also serve on the Board of Ordained Ministry.

At the denominational level, I serve on the UMC Committee on Faith and Order, the UMC-Roman Catholic Dialogue, and I chair the Joint Committee of the ELCA-UMC.

At the international level, I direct the Methodist Course of Study for Central America and the Methodist Certificate Program in Guatemala. Also, I am a member of the World Methodist Council-Roman Catholic Dialogue.

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

I do not believe that I can provide adequate reasons for why I should be elected, that would be presumptuous on my part. But if elected, what I would contribute to the church's spiritual conferencing is my service in theological education, my work in ecumenism, my passion for ethnic reconciliation, my love for the church, and my commitment to the truth of the good news of Jesus Christ.

# *Eugene Cox (1150)*

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**Current Appointment:** Covenant Church

**Current District:** Sound

## **Local Church and District Activities**

Campus Pastor / Covenant ECU (multi-site of Covenant Church)

Collaborative Team / Wesly Foundation - ECU

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Serve on the Board of Ordained Ministry

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

To represent the voice of the rising generation of young men and women who champion the Wesleyan theology and spirit of the United Methodist Church.

To help continue its tradition of scriptural Christianity in a time of great moral relativism.

To help support the mission of the UMC in "making disciples of Jesus Christ that will transform the world."

# *Dalma G. Cribb (1154)*

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**Current Appointment:** Trinity/Olivet

**Current District:** Gateway

## **Local Church and District Activities**

The activities in the local church where I serve include and are not limited to Youth Club, UMW, UMM, food pantry, outreach, Armenia shoe box ministries, Christmas for the UM foster children of Robeson County, local missions of food, clothes and construction, mission team leader to Leon, Nicaragua, mission team leader to Red Bird in Beverly, Kentucky, counseling and visitation. The activities in the district where I serve are Robeson County Church and Community, Partners in Ministry, and UM Children's Home in Lumberton. I mentor the local pastors of the Gateway District who have not completed Basis Course of Study and I have been selected to serve on the Bishop's Conflict Transformation Ministries Team.

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

The annual conference activities where I serve are 3MC and I am a certified disaster response person through UMCOR. I support Pilgrimage by taking the youth of the church and I am an active leader in two Emmaus Communities. The district ministries where I serve that are also conference wide activities are Robeson County Church and Community, Partners in Ministry, the UM Children's Home and the Bishop's Conflict Transformation Ministries Team.

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

I would like to serve as a delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference because of my love for God, His people and the organized Church. God has pressed upon my heart a desire to serve as a leader among leaders at General Conference; using my God given talents that I have been using at a local level for many years. Too many churches are facing a reduction in attendance having forgotten their original purposes in life. It is time to remind the Church that our main purpose in life is to be devoted to God and His Kingdom through loving service, missions and outreach. It is time for the church to look beyond the walls of their buildings and see what God is doing within their communities. Through serving at General and/or Jurisdictional Conference, I hope to make a difference for God and help transform the minds and hearts of our people to be the church created by God for God's glory.



# *Eldrick Davis (1169)*

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**Current Appointment:** Bailey/Pleasant Grove

**Current District:** Capitol

## **Local Church and District Activities**

33rd year as a pastor

Churches served- Walls Chapel, Mt Zion, Cool Springs, Philadelphia, Harry Hosier, First UMC Havelock, Bailey UMC, Pleasant Grove

District Board of Ordained Ministry, Rockingham District, Fayetteville District, Newbern District, Rocky Mount District, Capitol District

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Conference Board of Ordained Ministry -8 years-3 years as Vice Chair and 1 year as Chair

Served twice on the Conference Connectional Table, currently finishing my second term

Served on Board of Evangelism, Missions, Zoe Ministries, Strengthen the Black Church

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

I have attended General and Jurisdictional conference many times as an observer. It would be a humbling opportunity to have my Brothers and Sisters to give me the chance to be one of the representatives for our conference. I have a lot of experience from years of service. I have good listen skills. My conviction is strong, yet, I have a heart for collaborative exchange to seek core values of unity in the midst of diversity.

# *Rev. Edgar Raymund De Jesus (1175)*

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**Current Appointment:** Richlands United Methodist Church

**Current District:** Sound

## **Local Church and District Activities**

Lead Pastor of Richlands United Methodist Church from 2013 to present, a 600-member growing, diverse and missional-focused congregation in the Sound District with missions locally and globally.

Lead Pastor, Cornerstone United Methodist Church (2010-2013)

Senior Pastor, Mt. Zion United Methodist Church (2006-2010)

Pastor of Missions, Edenton Street United Methodist Church (2003-2006)

Pastor of New Church Start, Raleigh District (2003-2005)

Lead Pastor, Saxapahaw United Methodist Church (2000-2003)

Member, Raleigh District Committee on Superintendency (2003-2006)

Member, Raleigh District Board of Missions (2003)-2006)

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Delegate, Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference (2012)

Delegate, Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference (2008)

Page to the General Conference, 2012, 2008, 2000

Alternate Delegate of Philippines Central Conference to General Conference 1992 & 1996

Representative, World Council of Churches 10th Assembly (South Korea, 2013)

Representative, World Council of Churches 9th Assembly (Brazil, 2006)

Delegate, World Council of Churches 8th Assembly (Zimbabwe, 1998)

Youth Steward, World Council of Churches 7th Assembly (Australia, 1990)

Delegate, World Methodist Council & Conference (South Africa, 2011)

Delegate, World Methodist Evangelism Institute (USA, 1997)

Delegate, Global Gathering (Missouri, 1997)

Delegate, Global Gathering (Indiana, 1993)

Delegate, Christian Conference of Asia Assembly (South Korea, 1994)

Delegate, Christian Conference of Asia Assembly (Philippines, 1990)

Delegate, National Federation of Asian-American United Methodist Convocation (USA, 2010)

Member, North Carolina Conference Commission on Evangelism (2012-2016)

Chairperson, North Carolina Conference Commission on Christian Unity & Interreligious Concerns (2008-2012)

Member, North Carolina Conference Connectional Table (2008-2012)

Delegate, North Carolina Council of Churches (2008-2012)

**Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

As Asian-American clergy, I have a strong hope for the United Methodist Church now and in the future. I am passionate and yearning for the unfolding of God's new vision for the United Methodist witness globally, missionally and connectionally. I am strongly Wesleyan in belief and theology adhering to the power of God's grace that sustains, liberates and empowers us to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The North Carolina Conference is made of diverse and multicultural Christian communities and our delegation should reflect this current reality. As a delegate, I will contribute to the freshness, richness and diversity of the theological conversation and decision-making processes at the General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

# *Laura Early (1199)*

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**Current Appointment:** All God's Children UMC

**Current District:** Beacon

## **Local Church and District Activities**

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Connectional Table

Disciple Making Way Coach

Chair, Outreach Team, Connectional Table

Passion in Partnership Coach

Racial Reconciliation Task Force

RIOM Mentor

Candidacy Mentor

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

As a pastor of a multi-racial congregation for 19 years, I have deep passion for offering a voice for inclusivity. A deep calling to speak for the least among us, the most vulnerable...our children...and the impoverished, under resourced brothers and sisters. I want to continue to shine a light on our Methodist roots to step out of our comfort zones and out of our sanctuaries to build beloved communities who will break barriers of racism and classism. I am deeply concerned about our gap between discipleship and mission. I hope to bring a fresh and entrepreneurial vision to the call of Jesus to "cross the road." I have tried to live and lead by example. My only agenda in serving will be to offer witness and testimony to the love God has for all God's children and our openness to grow churches which reflect our words with our actions.

It will be my prayer that we will continue to strengthen The United Methodist Church by reclaiming our roots as stated in our Social Principles, "Scriptural holiness entails more than personal piety; love of God is always linked with love of neighbor, a passion for justice, and renewal in the life of the world." I bring passion and conviction to this calling, believing it will bring an authentic voice to General Conference.

# *Leonard E. Fairley (1220)*

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**Current Appointment:** Saint Francis: Cary

**Current District:** Fairway

## **Local Church and District Activities**

District Committee on Ordained Ministry

District Committee on Superintendency-Chair

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Current Activities:

Conference Board of Ordained Ministry

Conference Episcopacy Committee

Passion in Partnership Coach

Past Activities:

Conference Vitalization Consultant

Chair: Conference Congregational Development

Vice Chair-Conference Finance & Administration

Vice Chair-Conference Board of Church & Society

North Carolina Transition Team

Jurisdictional Conference Delegate- 2004

General Conference Delegate-2008 & 2012

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

The United Methodist Church has important issues ahead of it that will determine its future. It is often in the midst of chaos that God does a new and wonderful thing, forever reminding us that the risen Christ is the Lord of The Church. We have before us the opportunity to see the possibilities and live the promise. It would be my highest honor to serve the church as a delegate in these historic and prayerful times.

# *David Haley (1288)*

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Address: 415 Hancock Street Oxford, NC 27565

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**Current Appointment:** Oxford UMC

**Current District:** Corridor

## **Local Church and District Activities**

2011-Present Pastor, OXFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Oxford, North Carolina

2007-2011 Pastor, WINSTEAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Wilson, North Carolina

2002-2007 Pastor, LITTLETON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Littleton, North Carolina

In the Rocky Mount District of the NC Conference: Chair of the District Connectional table (2009-2011), District Missions Secretary (2006-2008), District Committee on Ordained Ministry, District Committee on Superintendency, and District Board of Trustees.

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

NC Conference Committee on Mission Personnel Chair (2013-Present)

NC Conference Project Agape Chairperson for Armenia mission project (2008-2013)

Member of the NC Conference Missions Team, Conference Board of Missions, and Executive Committee.

Represented the NC Annual Conference at the World Methodist Evangelism Conference in Sao Paulo, Brazil in 2010.

Key Taylor Award (2005) while pastor at the Littleton United Methodist Church.

UMVIM Team Leader in the NC Conference. Have led 35+ short-term mission teams to El Salvador, Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Nigeria, as well as, domestic teams in NC and Florida for hurricane relief..

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

It would be a great privilege for me to serve our annual conference and our denomination as a delegate to General Conference and/or the Jurisdictional Conference. I deeply believe in our doctrinal and missional heritage. My desire is for our denomination to focus on ways that we can positively impact our local communities and our world for Jesus Christ.

# *David Harvin (1309)*

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**Current Appointment:** Retired

**Current District:** Corridor

## **Local Church and District Activities**

Missions coordinator, Christ UMC, Chapel Hill, NC

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Conference coordinator, imagine No Malaria Campaign

Mission Interpreter, Encounter With Christ Permanent Fund of the General Board of Global Ministries, Development Consultant for Non profit organizations, Board Member of Christians For Far Witness In The Middle East

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

I bring the perspective of a mission entrepreneur to the General Conference and our delegation. I have international experience, and general church experience. I would be happy to share this experience with the delegation.

# *James Haywood Henderson (1314)*

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**Current Appointment:** The Sanford District

**Current District:** Fairway

## **Local Church and District Activities**

Fairway District Buildings and Location Committee

Harnett County Alliance of Churches

Chaplain Associate, Moore Regional Hospital

Principal Investigator, Comprehensive Health Ministry The Sanford Circuit

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Chairman, Strengthening the Black Churches Committee

Higher Education and Campus Ministry Committee

Communications Committee

Rural Church Fellow, Thriving Rural Church Initiative

Board of Directors Member, North Carolina Conservation Network

Clean Air Ambassador, EarthJustice (National Organization)

Environmental Advocate, National Council of Churches of Christ

Student Intern Supervisor, Duke Divinity School and Hood Theological Seminary

2015-2016 Fellow, The Academy for Leadership Excellence

Conflict Resolution Team

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

I would like to serve as a Delegate to General/Jurisdictional Conference help assist the United Methodist Church in being able to poise itself to be in a key biblical and theological position to make an impact upon the current 21st Century trend of the increasing number of "dechurched" and "unchurched." I bring a wealth of experience, knowledge, expertise, and wisdom that will prove invaluable to the United Methodist Church in charting a path forward in the 21st Century in making disciples of Christ.



# *Regina Henderson (1315)*

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**Current Appointment:** Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, Associate General Secretary for Justice & Relationships

**Current District:** Capital

## **Local Church and District Activities**

Regular Worshipper, Springfield Gardens United Methodist Church, New York, New York

Mission Advocate to 15+ local congregations across the connection

Fayetteville (Gateway) District Board of Ordained Ministry, 2009-2011

Wilson Temple UMC, Raleigh, NC, July 2011-June 2013, Pastor

Harry Hosier UMC, Fayetteville, NC, July 2006-June 2011, Pastor

Sanford Circuit Charge, Harnett & Lee Counties, NC, July 2005-June 2006, Pastor

Duke University Chapel, Durham, NC, July 2002-May 2005, Founding Director, Duke Chapel Pathways Program

University UMC, Chapel Hill, NC, July 2000-June 2002, Associate Pastor

St. Mark's UMC, Raleigh, NC, July 2007-June 2000, Associate Pastor

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Jurisdictional Delegate – Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church (2012-2016)

Connexional Conference UMC Clergy Delegate – Methodist Church of the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA), Guyana, South America (2015-2018)

Board of Directors - Faith Partnerships, Incorporated, Raleigh, North Carolina (2015-2018)

Global Ministries Leadership Experience (2013-2015):

-UMC Representative for Europe Commission on Mission (ECOM), Dusseldorf, Germany (October 2013)

-Annual Meetings: Ho Chi Ming City, Vietnam; Phnom Penh, Cambodia; Vientiane, Laos; Bangkok, Thailand (2013 & 2014)

- "Christ at the Checkpoint" Conference, Bethlehem, Palestine (March 2014)

-Roundtable Conference Kindu, Democratic Republic of Congo (August 2014)

-UMC Clergy Delegation, 100th Celebration of Methodism, Wembo-Nyama, Democratic Republic of Congo (August 2014)

-South Caribbean Roundtable, St. George's, Grenada (May 2015)

Design Team Member – 2014 School for Congregational Development, Charlotte, North Carolina  
Design Team Member – 2015 School for Congregational Development, Indianapolis, Indiana  
Design Team Member - 2014 & 2015 Carolina Clergy Leadership Retreat, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina  
Design Team Member - Convocation for Pastors of Black Churches, 2007-present  
Director - General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Nashville, Tennessee, 2008-2012  
Member - NC Conference, The United Methodist Church, Board of Ordained Ministry, 2004-2008  
Design Team Member - Harambee Jurisdictional Youth Conference, 2003-2005  
Mission Team - Mutare, Zimbabwe and Africa University, May, 2004  
Mission Team Leader - Four mission work teams to Lima, Peru, 1996-2002  
Member - Conference Personnel Committee, 2005-2008  
Member - New Conference Structure (from Conf. Council of Min. to Connectional Structure), 1998-2000  
Co-Chairperson - State Commission on Campus Ministry, The United Methodist Church, 2000-2003  
Guest Preacher - Duke University Chapel 11:00 Worship Service (2002), MRI Youth Revival, Cleveland, Ohio (2014), Jerusalem UMC, Democratic Republic of Congo, Africa (2014)  
Memberships: Black Methodist for Church Renewal; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated

**Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

I believe God is calling me to utilize my gifts in administration and teaching to continue to represent the North Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. My experience as a 2012-2016 delegate can help strengthen the work of the delegation as it addresses the legislative matters of the church. In response to my baptismal covenant and ordination vows, I am committed and attentive to the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world while tending to the cares, promises and possibilities of the local church and her community.

# *Steven Hickle (1319)*

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Email: shickle@stophungernow.org

**Current Appointment:** Stop Hunger Now, Faith Outreach Director

**Current District:** Capital

## **Local Church and District Activities**

\* Active in life of Trinity (Bloodworth St) in Raleigh; serving as liaison for Love Wins, now sharing space at Trinity; serve as usher; play trumpet with choir;

\* Trumpet player (17 years) for The Fairmont Gospel Revue

\* Served on board of Urban Ministries of Wake County (6 years), served on and chaired board of Stop Hunger Now (6 years), chaired and served on board of Mission House for Women (6 years), friend of The Healing Place of Wake County (14 years), volunteer with and advocate for NAMI

\* In the community, I work with Congregations for Social Justice and am a friend of the Triangle Interfaith Alliance

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

\* Mission Team, member (representing Stop Hunger Now)

\* Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Relations (member)

\* Formerly chaired Commission on Archives & History, also chaired Board of Church and Society

\* Served on Conference Council on Ministries, Commission on Status and Role of Women, Commission on Religion and Race, and Conference Summer School Committee

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

We are a people of both Matthew 25, sharing with "the least of these," and Matthew 28, going "into all the world" to make disciples. Those passages embrace the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus!

As the United Methodist Church becomes a more global movement, my role as Faith Outreach Director for Stop Hunger Now, as well as 40 years in the NC Conference, helps to position me to embrace the global nature of the church and work toward the changes such growth invites.

As the ecumenical church regroups, my 15 years on the NC Council of Churches governing board (now president) positions me to work for greater Christian unity.

Working with the executive committee (in support, not by office) of the World Methodist Council has further grounded me in the breadth and width of our world wide Wesleyan movement.

The NC Conference can offer the United Methodist Church a wonderful blend of solid Wesleyan tradition and the Wesleyan thinking that can explore the next chapters of church life in a rapidly changing world.

Please give me the opportunity to be part of the United Methodist Church's discovery of God's preferred future for the people of John Wesley. It is time we reclaimed the whole world as our parish!

# *Elizabeth (Beth) Hood (1340)*

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**Current Appointment:** Wesley Memorial UMC

**Current District:** Harbor

## **Local Church and District Activities**

I have served as a pastor in a variety of settings from a small rural congregation to a mid-sized town church, a staff member of a large membership congregation, a District Superintendent, and lead pastor of a large membership congregation.

I presently serve on the district Board of Ministry and district Mission Strategy Team.

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Presently, I serve as:

Chair of the NC Conference Christian Formation Team (2012- present)

Member of the Connectional Table (2012-present)

Vice-chair of the Conference Episcopacy Committee (2012- present)

Conference Coordinator of the Residency in Ordained Ministry Process (2012- present)

Previously, I have served on the:

NC Conference Board of Ordained Ministry as Secretary, Vice-chair, Chair, and Cabinet Representative

NC Conference Equitable Compensation Committee

Board of Trustees for the United Methodist Retirement Homes Inc.

NC Conference Secretarial Staff

Task Force for Healthy Congregations & Effective Leaders

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

I was a delegate to Jurisdictional Conference in 2004, 2008, & 2012 and a delegate to General Conference in 2008 & 2012. I am presently a member of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee. I have learned a lot about the issues raised, the institutional processes, and the implication of decisions. I am willing to offer my experience to the delegation as well as my time, attention, and prayers.

# *Terry Hunt (1354)*

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**Current Appointment:** Conference Staff-Leadership Team Coordinator

**Current District:** Gateway

## **Local Church and District Activities**

For the past three years, I have been serving faithfully as the Leadership Team Coordinator for the North Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. In this leadership role I have been able to help various churches throughout this Annual Conference understand the meaning of, and become, the Church of Jesus Christ.

I have also been able to continue my ministry connection with a local congregation through the gracious invitation of this wonderful and loving congregation, and the nurturing support of Its Spiritual Leaders and Pastor, Rev. Trey Harris. Since my becoming part of this congregation I have had numerous opportunities to teach and preach, (here and at other churches), as well as, become part of the outreach ministry where my gifts are being utilized to help the Kingdom of God

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

I was recently reminded of the wonderful quote "God does not call the equipped, he equips the called." This was certainly true for Jeremiah, who was called into God's service as a prophet at the ripe old age of eight years! God came to Jeremiah when he was yet a child and said, "Before you were in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." (Jeremiah 1:4-5)

It is rare indeed that we feel equipped to do God's work, and many of us may still feel we are still but children on the faith journey, yet we are called nonetheless into God's service! Called to teach, preach, and baptize. Called to share with the world the good news that Christ lives and because Christ lives we have the promise of new life as well. I have been blessed to be in ministry with the people of God in the North Carolina Annual Conference, witness all manner of good things unfolding and our collective response to God's call to each of us and to our community of faith as a whole.

As the Leadership Coordinator of the North Carolina Conference, I will offer in the following few lines, a brief synopsis, although not exhaustive, of my ministry involvement in the 2014 calendar year.

Each new year I begin contacting each of the chair persons of the committees that fall under my ministry area of Leadership. Building a relationship of confidence and trust is integral to any ministry. Our conversations were guided by three questions:

1. Where do you feel your current ministry is at in fulfilling our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world?
2. What is your vision for your current ministry, in the coming quadrennial year, for as you seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world?
3. How can I, or the office I represent from the North Carolina Annual Conference, help you and your committee fulfill your vision of ministry that will help you fulfill the conference mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world?

From those meetings until now I have been in constant dialogue with each committee through face to face meetings, phone calls, and e-mail, in efforts to strengthen each ministry area while aligning their vision and goals to the vision and goals of the Annual Conference.

In the area of Speaking Engagements, I have had the opportunity to fill the pulpits of several of our local churches: New Philadelphus, Prospect, Ashpole Center, Coharie (preached week long Leadership Revival), Coats, Reconciliation, Elevation, Sandy Plains, First Church Pembroke, Galilee, Trinty, Grace, and Asbury.

I spoke at a Thanksgiving Breakfast at grace UMC having been invited by the United Methodist Men on the topic of Conference Mission: Your Dollars at work.

In the area of Leadership Training, I have been in the New Bern District at a Pastor's meeting leading a session on what the conference has to offer local congregations in the areas of ministry; the Sanford District ;Coaching and Visioning with Disciple Making way with the following churches: Elevation, Littleton, Mt Pleasant, Angier; the Rockingham District working with Ashpole Center, New Hope, and New Zion in partnering with South Robeson High School and Its staff, with ministry presence and support, in an effort to make a positive impact on both the school and community.

I have also been working with Peg Aldridge and Passion in Partners, and the Rockingham District Native American Cooperative Ministries, in developing a Coaching Summit that seeks to build up and strengthen the Body of Christ as represented by the Rockingham District Native American Cooperative Ministries and give them the ability to "envision and become involved in ministry they would not do individually" calls for a shift in identity from the "entity" to the "endeavor". Currently the independent churches maintain autonomy in many ways gathering for cooperative activities on an as needed basis. Their current identity is closely related to the "entity" of the local parish. This initiative will strive to create the structure and process by which the members of the cooperative serve together in mission and ministry across church identity and leverage gifts and strengths of the individual across the delineation of the local church. The desired outcome would be for the individual, as a member of the cooperative would have greater ownership and identity based on the mission and ministry in which they serve or the "endeavor". This has been a two year process.

I have done considerable committee training in the local churches.

I have worked with the Conference Connectional team in re-designing a Disciple making Way Model that is being used by the local churches in our conference to develop a systematic way of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

In the area of Worship Leadership, I'm currently working with Sandy Plains in developing a more Passionate worship through the development of a Praise Team and using media in worship and creating a more visual worship style.

I am also being sought out by other churches that hope to pursue this type of worship experience in 2015.

In the area of Missions Leadership, I have been involved with the Robeson Church and Community Center in the efforts to raise monies to provide ministry in the Robeson County area. I also served at the annual Day of Caring and Sharing on Thanksgiving Day by Sacred Pathways Ministry. Both of these ministries receive financial and spiritual support from our Annual Conference and are ecumenical.

I have also begun working with the North Carolina Academic Center for Excellence in Youth Violence Prevention as they seek solutions to youth related violence in our schools and communities.

### **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

I have been a clergy member of this Annual Conference since 1994 and have never been in a ministry setting which would allow me to serve in this capacity. It would be a true honor for me to represent my

Annual Conference in the both rewarding and challenging time of General Conference. Ultimately, I want to give something back to the ministry and work of the North Carolina Annual Conference which has nurtured, supported, and encouraged me since my becoming a member in 1990.

# *Jerry Addison Jackson (1363)*

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**Current Appointment:** Rocky Mount: St. Paul

**Current District:** Heritage

## **Local Church and District Activities**

I began serving the church as a License to Preach in 1970 as a student at Methodist College - Served Marietta: Olivet UMC in 1971-1972

Served as the first Full Time Director of Camp Rockfish - 1972- 1975 - Left to attend United Theological Seminary to Specialize in Outdoor Ministry and Retreat ministry.

Since being ordained a Deacon in 1976 and an Elder in 1979, I have truly had a passion to serve in the pastoral ministry with an emphasis on Bible Study and Evangelism with the message of Offering All Christ. Served rural and county churches in Wanchese, Elizabeth City, Roxboro, Currituck, Hubert, Jacksonville, Goldsboro, Burlington, Wilmington and Rocky Mount. Churches have all emphasised a relationship with a loving Jesus to every person. Confession of Faith is always the ministry of the Church.

41 Mission Work Teams Leader (Youth & Adults) to Helton, Kentucky, Robeson County, North Carolina; Pasaguila, Mississippi, Gulfport, Mississippi, New Orleans, Louisiana; Lewisburg, West Virginia; Panana City, Panana; St. Anne Bay, Jamaica;

President of PUMP (Person United Methodist Parish) Ministry

Coordinator for New Bern District Habit for Humanity House in Hubert, NC,

Goldsboro District Board of Ministry.

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Camp Don-Lee Local Committee - 1988 - 1996

Disaster Response Committee - 1989 -1999 - Chair of Committee - 1996-1999 (During Hurricane Bertha & Fran)

Commission on Evangelism - 2008 - 2016 - Chair of Commission 2012-2016 - Harry Denman Evangelism Award -2010 Recipient.

Methodist University Alumni Association - 2005 - 2015 - President 2014-2015 - Baccleurate Preacher - 2015

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

I have served many of the struggling churches in rural North Carolina and I bring the issues, understanding, and struggles of many of our rural and urban churches. My heart and soul is in the pastoral ministry where the lives of each individual becomes important and every child has the right to approach the throne of God and to receive his love, blessings, miracles and forgiveness. I bring a strong Biblical message where the Word of God is to be lifted up above all else. I bring a strong passion to help



equip the saints to do ministry in their community so that Jesus is offered to all. I shared the compassion of all people of faith to be true Witnesses of the Spirit of God in their lives.

As a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conference, I will give my best to lift up the message of God and to hold the North Carolina Conference high as a voice that is calling out in the wilderness the Name of of Lord and Savior through the Power of the Holy Spirit.

# *Jonathan Jeffries (1367)*

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**Current Appointment:** First United Methodist Church, Laurinburg

**Current District:** Gateway

## **Local Church and District Activities**

1. Served as a youth director for three years (96-98)
2. Have served as a pastor for 17 years (98-Present)
3. Have led and organized traditional and contemporary worship
4. Have been trained in and used the 3DM model of Discipleship
5. Served on the Durham District and Heritage District Board of Ordained Ministry
6. Currently serve on Gateway District Mission and Strategy team
7. Have led and participated on local and national work teams including disaster relief efforts in eastern NC, SC, CA, and FL.
8. Have led and served on several international work teams through UMVIM and other organizations in Jamiaca, Haiti, Chile, and Costa Rica which focused on serving and sharing the gospel with the people
9. Served as President of the Raleigh Board of Missions - helped with formation of Race of Grace and transitioning Board into district missions coordinator
10. Have led January workshops on the Alpha Course
11. Have led, helped planned, and implemented building and financial campaigns for new construction, renovation and programs to build God's kingdom

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

1. Currently serve on Conference Evangelism Team - Have helped lead workshops at Lay/Clergy Witness events and helped with formation of CLARITY events
2. Have led over 2500 people through The Alpha Course at three different Methodist Churches
3. Hosted and led leadership team for Raleigh Alpha Conference held at Edenton Street UMC
4. Have trained hundreds of pastors and laity in our conference, Bishop Leland's conference, Bishop Willimon's conference and the Conference on Evangelism in Nashville, on how to run the Alpha Course
5. Served on Conference task force for Bishop's Initiative for children hunger and poverty
6. Member of the Order of the Flame for the UMC - one who has been equipped and commissioned to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ
7. In 2008, completed my Doctor of Ministry in worship and spirituality

8. Have been active in the Heart of Carolina and the Sandhills Emmaus and Chrysalis communities.

**Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

God's calling on my life has always been to help Him bring revival to His Church, especially the United Methodist Church. This calling has led me to encourage and equip the church to engage, grow and develop a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ, acknowledging the work of the Holy Spirit in and through one's life. I believe it is through this relationship that we respond to God's love to be the hands, feet, and voice of Christ throughout our communities and world.

As we look around our connection, we see great benefits of our connection, including UMCOR, connection benevolences, sending forth missionaries, and educational endeavors, but we also see a growing church throughout the world and a dying UMC church in Western culture, especially in the United States.

I believe we need continued revival right here throughout the American jurisdictions. I believe we need to help God continue to breathe his Spirit on the church in the Southeastern Jurisdiction and the North Carolina Annual Conference. I believe we need to strengthen our Wesleyan roots of claiming Scripture as our foundation and growing in personal and social holiness. I believe our future life and unity can only be achieved by reclaiming and uniting around Jesus' mission for the church to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them, and teaching them to obey all of my commandments. I believe we have to claim and live into a ministry that focuses solely on the lost and least - this is the key for a widespread revival. I believe this must be our vision regardless of times of persecution, changes in societal norms, and/or strains of disunity and disagreement in the church.

I desire to serve as a delegate to General and/or Jurisdiction Conference to help God bring revival to His Church and to strengthen the United Methodist Church.

# *Andrew Keck (1389)*

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**Current Appointment:** Luther Seminary/Faith UMC Saint Anthony Village

**Current District:** Twin Cities

## **Local Church and District Activities**

In my local church, I'm involved in adult education and music ministries while also regularly serving in a monthly community meal. I also occasionally preach in my home church as for other local congregations.

At Luther Seminary (my primary appointment), I initiated a Methodist House of Studies and continue to help facilitate relationships among United Methodists.

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

in 2008-2012, I served on the Board of Ordained Ministry of the North Carolina Annual Conference. More recently in Minnesota, I've been consulting with Project Eli, a college internship program designed to encourage young clergy.

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

While General Conference may seem like a place where primarily big ideas are debated and big speeches are made, much of the actual work of General Conference comes outside the plenary sessions within individual pieces of legislation, individual committees, and well, individuals. The task of the delegate is managing the flow of information, the flow of processes, and the flow of people while holding on to the highest values and vision of the UMC. As the director of a seminary library, this sounds like very familiar work! The North Carolina delegation, trying to seek a balance and mix of skills, would benefit from my skills in these areas.

Despite my current geographic distance, I believe that I can still represent the congregations and leadership of the North Carolina Annual Conference.

# *Laura Ledford (1414)*

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**Current Appointment:** Associate Director of Ministerial Relations

**Current District:** Corridor

## **Local Church and District Activities**

Our family worships at All Saints' United Methodist Church in Raleigh, where I serve as a liturgist, lector, preside at communion and preach throughout the year. I also serve as the leader for the Transition Team in the merger between All Saints' UMC and Bethesda UMC.

As a part of my current appointment, I serve as a liaison between the Office of Ministerial Relations, Board of Ordained Ministry and District Committees on Ordained Ministry. This work includes resourcing District Committees in their ministries with candidates and local pastors, as well as nurturing candidates who are discerning a call to ministry and embarking on the process of licensing or ordination.

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Through my current appointment, I coordinate the candidacy program of the NCC, the Taste & See College Internship Program, oversee Licensing School for new pastors, interface with seminary students and serve as a resource for the Board of Ordained Ministry and candidates seeking ordination.

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

One of the things for which I am most grateful as a United Methodist and is the wide umbrella that is cast for people of varying backgrounds, experiences and beliefs. My deep hope and prayer for the 2016 General Conference is that we are able to celebrate and confirm that wide umbrella and find a way to remain in communion even in the midst of divides and differences. My commitment as a delegate will be to seek a way forward with a focus on Christ who calls us to be reconciled as a family, even when we disagree. I will seek to live out Wesley's question: "though we do cannot think alike, may we not love alike?"

# *Jerry Dean Lewis (1421)*

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**Current Appointment:** Extension Ministry--Air Force Chaplaincy

**Current District:** Sound District

## **Local Church and District Activities**

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

### **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

I will be returning to the NC Conference this summer after serving for thirty years as a military chaplain appointed to the Air Force. Over the last six years I have served as a senior U.S. AF Chaplain in Africa, Afganistan, Iraq, while also leaving in Qatar and traveling to other Middle East locations as Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Bahran. I also lived in Germany and traveled quite a lot in Southern Europe. These real life experiences provide deep appreciation for our African and European brothers and sisters, with whom I was privileged to worship, attend many conferences and meetings.

These life experiences provide a unique frame of reference, knowledge and wisdom which I humbly believe could be beneficial as a member of our conference to the General and/or Jurisdictional Conference. It has been a honor to represent you in the military chaplaincy and I am excited about returning as a pastor once again to NC this summer. I am grateful for your benevolent consideration and support.

# *Trip Lowery (1437)*

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**Current Appointment:** The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (Director of Young Adult Ministry Discernment and Enlistment)

**Current District:** Capital District, NC / Cumberland District, TN

## **Local Church and District Activities**

- + Youth Pastor, Genesis UMC
- + Associate Pastor, Genesis UMC
- + Senior Pastor, Mighty Wind UMC
- + Senior Pastor, Wendell UMC
- + District Committee on Ordained Ministry
- + Candidacy Mentor (during previous model)

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

- + Academy of Christian Witness
- + Group Candidacy Mentor
- + Board of Ordained Ministry (during transition to current model)
- + The Academy for Leadership Excellence

## **GENERAL CHURCH / AGENCY ACTIVITIES**

- + Group Candidacy Mentoring, Trainer
- + NetVUE, Member/Participant – vocational discernment in theological education
- + Denominational Leadership Training, Participant – ecumenical training through Duke's Leadership Education for young leaders in their respective denominations
- + ExploreCalling.org, Executive Developer – rebrand and development of GBHEM's vocational discernment website
- + UMConnector.org, Team Member – development of Discipleship Ministries' (previously GBOD) youth/collegiate ministry website
- + RevItUp!, Presenter – GBOPHB conference on financial wholeness in young clergy
- + GBOPHB/GBHEM Lilly Grant for Clergy Indebtedness, Writer/Team Member – grant to research and address clergy financial health across the denomination

- + Exploration (Denver, Orlando, Portland), Executive Director – denomination-wide vocational ministry discernment event
- + The Young Clergy Initiative, Executive Director – initiative created by GC 2012 to increase the number of young clergy with intermediate results to be shared at GC 2016 in hopes of being continued for 2 more quadrennium.
- + Journey Toward Ordained Ministry, Executive Director - ethnic/racial minority ordained leadership development
- + Seminary Indebtedness Task Force, Team Member – charged with researching and addressing seminary-induced debt across the denomination
- + Spark, Executive Director – entrepreneurial young clergy leadership development
- + Global Youth Convocation 2014 (Philippines), Presenter – Discipleship Ministries' (previously GBOD) global legislative conference for youth and young adults
- + Youth 2015 (Orlando), Presenter/Team Member – Discipleship Ministries' (previously GBOD) global conference for youth
- + Global/General Book of Discipline, Team Member – document proposal to be offered at GC 2016
- + General Conference 2016 GBHEM Legislation, Team Member – GC legislation involving GBHEM, UM education, ordination/candidacy/endorsement/licensing, and/or leadership development
- + Called: One Word Many Ways, Executive Director/Editor – new vocational discernment experience resource for local churches across the denomination
- + Mid-Quadrennial BOM Trainings, Presenter/Team Member

### **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

The UMC is experiencing the growing pains of becoming something new. Our Wesleyan heritage prepares us to adapt so we can love God and neighbor even when we struggle together to see where God is moving and to live together with neighbors we don't always agree with. General Conference is the holy conferencing we engage in to discern how and where God is calling us to go – together.

As long as we are working together, in the fullness of our diversity, to love God and each other, there will be conflict. I have a heart for Christ's peace in the midst of that holy struggle as well as the skillset and experience to productively navigate the work of Jurisdictional and General Conference.

My work has blessed me with an experience of ministry on the ground as well as the work of The UMC at 30,000 feet – a unique perspective of our work, both local and global. This perspective is an asset in conversations about the present realities and future possibilities for the UMC.

In short, I have 1) a passion for the continued growth of the NC Annual Conference, 2) a heart for the holy conferencing required to help our denomination discern its future, and 3) strengths that help our work together be meaningful when people are passionate and opinions are varied.



# *Herbert Lowry (1438)*

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Address: 4557 Rosehill Road Fayetteville, NC 28311

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**Current Appointment:** Gardner's

**Current District:** Gateway

## **Local Church and District Activities**

After my conversion on April 9, 1984, I became involved in a local congregation. I served as Lay Leader and Evangelism Chairperson, taught Sunday School and lead Bible Studies.

I was called by God into Pastoral Ministry and in 1990, I began my first appointment as a Student Pastor. I have served as a Student Pastor, Part-Time Pastor and I am now an Elder in Full Connection.

On the District level, I have served on the District Board of Ordained Ministry, District Board of Trustees, District Committee on Superintendency, and District Connectional Table.

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

I have been in Pastoral Ministry for 25 years. My appointments have carried me to two different conferences, five districts and six local congregations. I currently serve on the Conference Finance and Administration Committee. I have served on the Board of Ordained Ministry, Ethnic Local Church Concerns, Committee on Episcopacy, Task Force for District Realignment, and I am a member of Pastors serving cross-cultural appointments. I will be commissioned at Annual Conference as part of a team and a member of the first class of Conflict Transformational Leaders.

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

When I was converted, the only person I knew who went to church regularly was my late uncle. Uncle James was a member of a local United Methodist Church. Thus, I invited myself to accompany him to church. I had a desire to grow in the Faith and serve the Lord. My desires have not changed over the years nor has the memory of my conversion dwindled. I have never had a desire to leave or divorce this Lady (UMC) who has fed and nurtured me. God has used The United Methodist Church to serve as a spiritual womb and an incubator for me. In many ways, I am who I am and where I am because of the "People called Methodists."

It is out of a deep sense of gratitude and love that I offer myself up as a candidate to General Conference. I believe I can add Spiritual depth to our delegation. I believe in the primacy of scripture, personal faith, holiness of heart and life, speaking the truth in LOVE, and the need for Theological reinvigoration.

Please pray for All who attend General Conference.

# *James Malloy (1452)*

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**Current Appointment:** New Hope

**Current District:** Gateway

## **Local Church and District Activities**

New Hope UMC in Rowland, NC

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Member of Commission on New Faith Community

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

Delegate to General Conference

# *Mary Frances McClure (1467)*

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Email: [mfmclure@nccumc.org](mailto:mfmclure@nccumc.org)

**Current Appointment:** WOW: Wesley of Wilmington and Associate Pastor at Wesley Memorial UMC in Wilmington

**Current District:** Harbor

## **Local Church and District Activities**

Currently serve as Director of WOW: Wesley of Wilmington campus ministry and Associate Pastor for Youth and Campus Ministry at Wesley Memorial UMC in Wilmington

Designer for Youth Ministry Boot Camp training event for the Harbor District youth leaders

Organized Reaching Out in the Rock evangelism training event for clergy and laity in the Rockingham District

District Youth Coordinator for the Fayetteville District, the Gateway District and the Harbor District

Presenter and Coordinator for District Lay Training workshops in multiple Districts

Spiritual Leader for a Volunteers in Mission Team to Mexico

Oversee one of the largest pumpkin patch fundraisers in the USA

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Some of my Annual Conference and General Conference activities include:

Campus Minister for WOW: Wesley Of Wilmington

Member of Order of the Flame through the World Methodist Council

Member of the Commission on Evangelism

Ex Officio member of the Board of Higher Education and Ministry

Dean of the Academy for Christian Witness for the Commission on Evangelism

Presenter and worship leader for the Academy for Christian Witness

Member of the design team and small group leader for IGNITE, Youth Academy

Presenter at LIMITLESS, the United Methodist Women's mentoring conference for the General Church and the Annual Conference

Presenter at FOCUS, the General Church conference on children's ministries

Participant in Living the Word Ministry in Red Springs through the NC Conference Outreach Team

Technical support team and blogger for the Annual Conference

Member of Conference Council on Youth Ministry and member of Pilgrimage Planning Team

Dean of Women and small group leader for Summer Breakaway youth event

Reynold's Foundation Campus Ministers Academy Member

First Parish Project member through the Hinton Rural Life Center

Rural Youth Ministry Colloquium: Youth at the Center attendee through Duke Divinity School

**Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

I would like to serve as a delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference in order to help shape the trajectory of the General Church for the future. God is not done with the United Methodist Church yet! In fact, God has created a future with hope and grace for us to lean into.

I have a keen understanding of issues and challenges for Millennial and Generation Z members of the Church and how we as the Church can include and challenge them. My strengths include being an activator, communicator, ideator, and encourager. I enjoy working towards consensus and helping everyone feel heard. I also am a fan of social media and will be able to help keep people informed and involved in cyberspace.

# *Rev. James McConnell (1468)*

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**Current Appointment:** Ayden UMC

**Current District:** Sound

## **Local Church and District Activities**

I am an Ordained Elder serving in the Local Church for the past 5 yrs.

Served 3 years as Youth and College Director at University UMC

Helped to plan and lead several district gatherings.

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Board of Directors for NCCUMC Camp and Retreat Ministries (5 yrs)

Board of Directors for Wesley Greenville (ECU)

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

I listen twice as much as I speak. I have a moderate voice and a heart for the church. I believe that we are stronger together than apart, and that this unity is a gift of the Holy Spirit not to be ignored.

I hope to serve the church as a delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional conference because I believe in the importance of the work Christ has called us to as his church, and I hope to lend my services to the task of being the body of Christ; broken, blessed and given for the life of the world.

# *Jonathan Mills (1490)*

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**Current Appointment:** Bladen Charge UMC

**Current District:** Harbor

## **Local Church and District Activities**

Lead Pastor of the Bladen UM Charge -- among the largest Charges in average attendance in the USA, Director and Organizer of Fan the Flame ministry offering small and rural church revitalization through the Bladen Charge, Harbor District Mission Strategy Team, Robbins Area Christian Ministry Leader, Bladen County Clergy Council Representative, Chairperson and Keynote speaker for Relay for Life, Preacher for Charge Conference Session.

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Thriving Rural Communities Fellow, Pastor of a Thriving Rural 2.0 Church, At-Large Member on the Connectional Table, Advisory Board Member of the Rural Faith Development Community Development Corporation, Presenter at Project Bountiful, 2015 Angel Tree Award Winner from the United Methodist Home for Children, Preacher at Annual Conference Session for Youth, Member of the NCC Contingent attending the 2012 UMC International Quadrennial Planning Meeting, member of the Conference Stewardship team, Elder Representative at the Conference-Wide Candidacy Retreat, Candidacy Mentor, Thriving Rural Communities Mentor

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

Through my involvement on the Connectional Table I have been able to participate and view the importance of our connectional system and the need for diverse voices. I would like to serve as a Delegate because I believe I can provide a unique and needed voice in this space. I believe I could be an asset at General and Jurisdictional Conference due to my representation of the rural church and at age 30, young clergy. I have been blessed to serve and lead thriving rural congregations. Despite the general decline in rural church attendance and giving over the past few decades, rural churches continue to make up the vast majority of our congregations both in the NCCUMC and the connection at large. I have had many opportunities for leadership and listening across our conference and I believe my ages gives me a different perspective, specific to the underrepresented generation in churches today. I trust the Holy Spirit will guide us, as a Conference, to send the delegates that will represent and help grow God's Kingdom. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

# *Taylor Mills (1491)*

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**Current Appointment:** Trinity Durham

**Current District:** Corridor

## **Local Church and District Activities**

Pastor 2010-present

Trinity United Methodist Church, Durham, NC

Board Member 2011-2014

Durham Congregations in Action, Durham, NC

Adjunct Staff Chaplain 2011-present

Pastoral Services, Duke Regional Hospital, Durham, NC

Pastor 2006-2010

Avent Ferry United Methodist Church, Raleigh, NC

Pastor 2001-2006

First United Methodist Church, Williamston, NC

Board Member 2006-2010

AventWest Community Development Corporation, Raleigh, NC

President c. 2004-2006

Martin Co. Ministerial Association, Williamston, NC

Coordinator 2003-2006

Chaplaincy Services, Martin General Hospital, Williamston, NC

Member 2002-2004

Williamston Rotary Club, Williamston, NC

Coordinator 2001-2003

Greenville District UM Youth Ministry, Greenville, NC

Intern (C.P.E.) 2000

Pastoral Services, Duke Hospital, Durham, NC

Youth Minister 1998-2001

Hayes Barton United Methodist Church, Raleigh, NC

**Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Parliamentarian 2014, 2015

NC Annual Conference, United Methodist Church

Fellow 2013/2014

Leadership Fellows Program, Academy for Leadership Excellence, Raleigh, NC

President 2013-present

NC Conference Partners in Caring, United Methodist Church

Chairperson 2012-present

Financial Discipleship Committee, NC Annual Conference

Secretary (member since 2011) 2012-present

NC Annual Conference Board of Institutions, Inc.

Chairperson 2008-2012

Communication Committee, NC Annual Conference

Member 2008-present

Conference Connectional Table, NC Annual Conference

Assistant Spiritual Director 2009

Walk to Emmaus, Pamlico Emmaus Community

Member 2008-2010

Board of Directors, Raleigh Wesley Foundation

GBCS Young Clergy Leadership Forum/Ecumenical Advocacy Days, 2007

SEJ Quadrennial Training, 2009;

United Methodist Association of Communicators annual meeting, 2008

**Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

I am interested in serving God through the local church and the larger United Methodist connection. My ministry in settings like the local church, Conference communications, campus ministry, youth, camping, and hospital chaplaincy have given me a broad base of experiences from which to serve.

This is a critical time for The United Methodist Church but I believe that God has blessed us with enormous resources, very talented people, and most of all the Holy Spirit. It would be an honor to support the church that has supported me by offering God my best at General and Jurisdictional Conference.



# *Christopher Moore (1498)*

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Email: gmoore@allsaintsumc.org

**Current Appointment:** All Saints' UMC

**Current District:** Corridor

## **Local Church and District Activities**

Lead and Founding Pastor, All Saints' UMC

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Conference Worship Team

Teach at LLPS

Teach at Course of Study, Duke Divinity School

Academy for Leadership Excellence Advisory Board Member

NC Preaching Festival Advisory Team Member

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

I would like to represent the NC Conference as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference by expressing the best of our Wesleyan heritage while helping us move into a living and vital future together.

# *Roderic Mullen (1510)*

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**Current Appointment:** Norlina UMC

**Current District:** Heritage

## **Local Church and District Activities**

In the past Norlina UMC has had an Angel Food ministry as well as an After School Program. At the district level I have been a regular participant in small cluster groups and have benefitted from the wisdom and encouragement of my fellow pastors.

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Have served on various Conference Boards and study groups, including Board of Health and Welfare, Social and Ecumenical Concerns, as well as the Board of Missions. Past chairperson of Project Agape board.

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

As a lifelong Methodist, I believe that we must continue to listen to one another in love to work through the issues that concern us. With an advanced degree in Biblical Studies, I believe I have a broad understanding of the Scriptural foundations of our Christian faith. Ours is a worldwide faith and we are called to listen carefully to what our sisters and brothers in other lands are saying.

# *Won Namkoong (1515)*

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**Current Appointment:** West End United Methodist Church

**Current District:** Fairway

## **Local Church and District Activities**

District Level:

In the past

Served the Lord as a member of District Committee on Superintendency,

Served the Lord as Chair of District Council in Ministry,

Served the Lord as a member of District Committee on Ordained Ministry

Served the Lord as a member of Church Building and Location

Currently

serves the Lord as a member of District Mission

serves the Lord as a member of Board of Ordained Ministry

Currently serve the Lord as a member of District Committee on Mission Team

a

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Served the Lord in the past

as a district superintendent

as a member of Conference Staff Committee

as a member of Board of Ordained Ministry

as member of Religion and Race

as a member of Special Task Force Team for Conference Renewal

as a member of Connectional Table

as a delegate to General Conference Reserve in 2004, 2008

as a delegate to Jurisdictional Conference in 2004, 2008, 2012

Currently serve the Lord

as a secretary of Episcopal Committee

as a member of CF&A

as a member of Multi-Cultural Team (Bishop Initiative)

as a member of Advisory Board of Conflict Transformation Team

**Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

The United Methodist Church must major in major things in the life of the church. The greatest mission of the church is to proclaim the Gospel to save the unsaved. We have neglected our call by majoring in minors.

I want to help the UMC to major in major things for the transformation of the world without neglecting church's mission to the world. Speaking the Truth in love I want to change the spirit of the UMC through prayer and passion for the Lord, Jesus Christ.

# *E. Powell Osteen, Jr. (1538)*

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**Current Appointment:** First UMC Morehead City

**Current District:** Sound

## **Local Church and District Activities**

I have served as an associate pastor, founding church planter, senior pastor, lead pastor of a multi-site congregation, extension ministry and as a District Superintendent.

I have chaired District Councils on Ministry and District Committees on Ordained Ministry. I have served as presidents of Habitat for Humanity Chapters, Food banks and homeless shelters, and pregnancy care centers.

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Associate Pastor of Highland UMC, Raleigh, Founding Pastor of Resurrection UMC, Durham, Senior Pastor of Garber UMC, New Bern, District Superintendent, Wilmington District, Lead Pastor, Apex UMC Family of Faith Communities, Executive Director of Marriage Matters, New Bern. Currently - Senior Pastor of First United Methodist Church, Morehead City.

Past: Chair of Theology & Doctrine for Board of Ordained Ministry, Chair of Study Team for Board of Institutions, Board member of United Methodist Foundation; Alternate Delegate to SEJ Jurisdictional Conference, 2008

Current: President of Church Development Fund, Inc; member of New Faith Communities Lead Team; member of Board for Academy for Leadership Excellence

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

I would be honored to serve as a Delegate to General/Jurisdictional Conference. I hold strongly to our Wesleyan convictions and value the role of the local church in the mission of Christ. I would bring a breadth of experience and a depth of prayer. I earnestly want to see the United Methodist Church hold fast "the faith once delivered" and reach the world with the redeeming and transforming grace of Jesus Christ.

# *Tim Reaves (1597)*

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**Current Appointment:** Pine Valley United Methodist Church in Wilmington, NC

**Current District:** Harbor

## **Local Church and District Activities**

Lead Pastor, Pine Valley UMC

Lay Servant Ministry Instructor

Wesley of Wilmington Campus Ministry Board of Directors

District Committee on Ordained Ministry

2014 NC Azalea Festival Chaplain

Leader in 2014 Wilmington City-Wide Inter-denominational National Day of Prayer and Global Day of Prayer Services.

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

General Conference Delegate 2012

Jurisdictional Conference Delegate 2008 and 2012

Currently on Conference Board of Ordained Ministry Since 2012

Past Chair of Conference Commission on Evangelism

Past member of Conference Connectional Table

Recipient of 2003 NC Conference Denman Evangelism Award

Key Taylor Award given to Windsor United Methodist and Bethlehem United Methodist Churches while I was pastor there.

Bladen Charge became one of the Duke Endowment's Thriving Rural Congregations during my pastorate there.

Founder and Creator of Fan the Flame, A Small Membership Church Revitalization Event that has been going since 2007.

Past Dean of the Conference Academy of Christian Witness

Past Instructor and Current Preaching Coach for Local Pastors School.

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

I have experienced ministry in both a rural and urban setting as pastor of the Bladen Charge for 15 years and now as pastor of Pine Valley UMC in Wilmington. I feel that my experience in my own churches, my

training in Church Revitalization, and my service as a 2012 General Conference delegate will allow me be a helpful and positive voice in leading the United Methodist Church to a hopeful future.

# *Liz Roberts (1607)*

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**Current Appointment:** Windborne UMC

**Current District:** Capital

## **Local Church and District Activities**

Pastor of Windborne UMC, Raleigh (2008 – present), Associate Pastor, Seaside UMC, Sunset Beach (2002-2008); Director of Christian Education and Nurture, First UMC, Morehead City (1997-1999)

In the past I have served on the District Committee on Ministry (in the former Wilmington and Raleigh districts) and as the Wilmington District Youth Coordinator.

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Member of the Conference Connectional Table (2012-present), Vice chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry (2012-present), Member of the Board of Ordained Ministry (2008-present), volunteer leader with Conference Youth Ministries (1999 – present), Board of Managers Chairperson of the Duke Convocation and Pastors' School (2011-2014), Member of the Raleigh Wesley Foundation Board of Directors (2009-2013), Volunteer Chaplain for local police department (2006-2008), VIM experiences in Bosnia, Jamaica, Macedonia, Mexico, and the southeast US.

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

I believe in and have witnessed the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through the United Methodist Church to transform lives. While I treasure our strong heritage, I am excited about where God is continuing to lead the church out into the world. Being part of the team that represents our Annual Conference to the place where discussions are heard, the Gospel is proclaimed, and decisions are made would be an honor and task I do not take lightly.



# *Carolyn Roy (1614)*

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**Current Appointment:** Plank Chapel

**Current District:** Heritage

## **Local Church and District Activities**

I became a licensed local pastor in 2003, serving Belgrade and Tabernacle for 5 years. In 2008 I served Dover and Shady Grove. In 2010 I moved to Plank Chapel where I am continuing to serve. In 2011 I was ordained an Elder in full connection. I am humbled and privileged to serve the rural church. In my current appointment I have organized local Stop Hunger Now Food packaging opportunities as well as coordinate a team of leaders for a youth group that includes three churches. I team lead a seniors program at Plank Chapel that serves rural aging adults who are isolated and alone.

While serving in the New Bern District I held the positions of District Missions Secretary and District Youth Coordinator. In that capacity I collaborated with other youth leaders to organize Stop Hunger Now Food Packaging Events.

I currently serve as District Missions Secretary for the Heritage District, as well as a member of the District Committee for Ordained Ministry.

I am privileged to serve as coordinator with local Vance County Pastors as we engage in ministry and mission together as well as being a part of an ecumenical group of pastors; the Ministers Community Partnership in Henderson. I am a Trained Transitional Intentional Interim Ministry Specialist and receiving training as part as a Conflict Transformation Team.

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Currently serve on the conference Missions Team

Have served on staff at conference youth events: Global Vision, ACS, Breakaway, and Kaleidoscope. As the New Bern District Youth Coordinator, I served on the Conference Council on Youth Ministry.

Previously I served on the Committee for Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns. In that capacity, I attended the National Conference on Christian Unity for two years.

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

God's church is in the midst of transformation and I believe my gifts of seeing possibilities and honoring history are vital in this transformational work. Transformation is never easy or simple. As God continues to transform His church and this vital part of it called United Methodist, I believe I can give voice to the hopes and the fears of those who serve as part of a diverse body. I am not afraid to engage in the difficult work of serving and leading. I love the United Methodist Church. I have been privileged to be part of this global church in Huntsville, Alabama, in San Clemente, California, in Spokane, Washington and now here in North Carolina. I believe I have the gifts to articulate the vision of our future as it becomes revealed through the process of holy conferencing.

# *Ismael Ruiz-Millan (1615)*

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**Current Appointment:** Duke Divinity School Hispanic House of Studies

**Current District:** Fairway

## **Local Church and District Activities**

My charge conference is Apex UMC:Fiesta Cristiana Campus. I occasionally preach there, celebrate Holy Communion, and lead Bible Studies. I also serve in the Generosity Team.

I had been a mentor for candidates of the Fairway District.

Also, I have been a resource for the district in matters related to H/L Ministry and Intercultural and Multicultural Ministries.

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

I have served the H/L Committee since 2004.

I served the Multicultural Committee from 2005-2012.

I am also a member at large of the Connectional Table and serve the Christian Formation Team.

I also serve the Missions Committee as the General Board of Global Ministries Director.

I am a member of the Consultation between GCORR and our Conference on Intercultural Competency for Healthy Congregations and Effective Leaders.

I am a member of the Ministerial Education Funds Scholarship Committee, and I have also been a part of the team that develop the Seminary Debt Repayment Program.

I served the North Carolina Council of Church Governing Board from 2012-2014.

I have serve the NC Hispanics in Philanthropy Funders Collaborative since 2014.

At the General Church Level:

I am a director of the General Board of Global Ministries.

I am a member of the Executive Committee of the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry .

I am an ex-officio member of the University senate.

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

I believe in holy conferencing and holy conversations. And, I believe that the more voices we have on the table the better the outcome we will get. A reality we face as a denomination is that often not all voices are well represented in our conversations. By having the chance to serve as a delegate, I will be intentional about voicing the concerns of the voices that often are not on the table.

# *Timothy Russell (1616)*

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**Current Appointment:** Assistant to the Bishop/Director of Ministerial Relations

**Current District:** Capital

## **Local Church and District Activities**

My current charge conference is Horne Memorial in Clayton. I serve on the Worship Committee, teach Sunday school and preach and lead worship as needed.

My appointment history includes a 2-point charge in Warren County, a small town church, as an associate at a large membership church, the pastor of a church that grew into a large membership church, and as a district superintendent in two different districts and as an interim superintendent in a district.

I have chaired the District Committee on Ordained Ministry and served on the District Trustees, the District Committee on Superintendency, the District Committee on Nominations and the District Committee on Church Location and Building.

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

I have served as the secretary on the Board of Ordained Ministry as well as chaired the committee on Residency in Ordained Ministry.

In my current appointment I serve on several committees and boards for the annual conference. Much of my work is spent resourcing the Board of Ordained Ministry.

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

My first experience in serving as a delegate to both the General Conference and the Jurisdictional Conference was in 2012. That experience, with its highs and its lows, will help me better prepare for 2016, if elected. I know how the process works, how the subcommittees work and how the conferences operate.

My work on the appointive cabinet, with the bishop's office and with ministerial relations has helped me meet people from across the denomination and particularly from across the Southeastern Jurisdiction. I am more aware of the issues facing our denomination and thus better prepared to deal with the issues we will be grappling with in 2016.

# *Branson Sheets (1634)*

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**Current Appointment:** Covenant

**Current District:** Sound

## **Local Church and District Activities**

I am currently serving in my 10th year at Covenant in Greenville and previously served a two point charge in Bailey. During these years I have served as the chair of the DCOM, the district representative for evangelism, and on the District Committee on Ordained Ministry.

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

I served two terms on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, served as the teaching director of the Local Pastor's Licensing School, and led the Wellspring Academy for Christian Leadership. I have also taught for a number of years at the Academy for Christian Witness.

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

While I have never submitted my name before, I believe that this General Conference will be a watershed event for our denomination. I therefore humbly submit my name and am willing to serve if elected. I will do my best to represent our conference and our Lord Jesus well.

# *Anne Sims (1647)*

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**Current Appointment:** Warren's Grove

**Current District:** Corridor

## **Local Church and District Activities**

I have been a pastor in the NC Conference since 1999 and an elder since 2004. Between field education placements and appointments I have served in most parts of the annual conference. In that time I have served churches from small (the Salem-Harris Chapel charge) to large (Associate Pastor, Ann Street UMC) and in between. I have served on worship teams for two districts, connectional tables/district councils on ministry in two districts, and have helped to bring quality continuing education events for pastors to the districts I have served.

I am a founding member of the Person County Warming Centers, designed to provide shelter to vulnerable community members during extreme cold weather, a member of the Person UM Parish, a local mission/benevolence group, and a leadership team member for local church and community Griefshare groups, in addition to my role as pastor of Warren's Grove UMC.

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

I have been a member of the Communication Team since the last quadrennium and serve as Vice Chair at present.

I also lead 3 week online seminars with the Oates Institute, dedicated to creating an online global learning community for spiritual caregivers. Courses have included Salve to the Soul on story-sharing as a means to wholeness and healing, The Power of Story on narrative research in ministry, The Power to Bless on recognizing and using our gifts to help others heal, a book intensive on Joseph Myers' "The Search to Belong", Leaving Church on the rise of the SBNRs and how to engage with those who profess to be spiritual but not religious, and others.

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

As a younger clergy person, a pastor who is also female, and a member of a clergy couple, I believe I have a broad view of the issues facing the church. As a lifelong Methodist, I have a deep love of our Church and desire to see it continue to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. As a part of my pastoral calling, I have a passion for helping people connect to God and to one another in transformative ways that lead to wholeness, healing, and salvation. I believe that as a delegate to General and/of Jurisdictional Conference, I can be a part of helping strengthen communication and connection between Methodists, and between the UMC and the world as we lean into a future that calls for the grace and hope we have to offer.

# *Kelli Sorg (1674)*

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**Current Appointment:** Harlowe-Oak Grove Charge

**Current District:** Sound

## **Local Church and District Activities**

I serve on the dCom, as well as the new Sabbath Chaplain as that program begins in our district. I am committed to spiritual formation and discipleship as the primary activities of the local church that lead to expressions of mission and ministry inside and outside the walls of the churches I serve.

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

On an Annual Conferences level I serve on the Spiritual Life Committee, and have received 3DM training as well as Passion in Partnership Coaching training. In 2014, I published a book on spiritual formation and discipleship called *Living Into the Mystery* that outlines a Wesleyan way of living with and hearing from God in our sacred and secular lives.

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

In these days of questions and fears, I feel called to put my name forward for this responsibility. "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind", we are told in 2 Timothy. All my life, God has been teaching me about walking with Him in resisting fear, living with it and through it. Perhaps those are lessons that can be valuable in these days.

I don't covet the responsibility of being a delegate for personal or professional reasons but because I love the church as the body of Christ in the world. I want to serve using the intellect, my love of God and the grace I have been given to do whatever I can.

# *Gray Southern (1675)*

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**Current Appointment:** Apex

**Current District:** Fairway

## **Local Church and District Activities**

Apex UMC Lead Pastor

RIOM Coach

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Chair, Board of Institutions

Member, DISCIPLE Bible Outreach Ministries Board

Member, Joint Committee on Clergy Medical Leave

Member (ex officio), Board of Pensions

Connectional Table

Member, Board of Trustees

Instructor, Duke Divinity Course of Study

Member, General Board of Pension and Health Benefits

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

It was through the ministries of The United Methodist Church that I met the love of Jesus and came to know his power. It is through our church's ministry that I have seen people renewed and remade. I want to continue that ministry by helping to reshape our future as Wesleyan Christians, eager to embrace our future, utilizing the best of our past and claiming the future God has for us. Our Conference has honored me and allowed me to be a part of that work throughout my life; I want to continue to see that work more fully completed, including the crucial work of General Conference 2016 and Jurisdictional Conference 2016.

# *Paul T. Stallsworth (1682)*

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**Current Appointment:** Whiteville United Methodist Church

**Current District:** Harbor

## **Local Church and District Activities**

\*Whiteville United Methodist Church (Pastor)

\*Circles of Hope/Columbus County (Local Advisory Board)

\*Living Hope Pregnancy Support Services (Board of Directors)

\*Covenant Group (Whiteville-area Pastors)

\*District Committee on Ordained Ministry

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

\*Communications Committee

\*The Unity Dialogue (on the Church and Homosexuality, Co-chair)

\*Conflict Transformation Minister

\*Christian Unity Committee of the North Carolina Council of Churches

\*Editor/President of Lifewatch (1987-Present)

\*Editor: The Church and Abortion (Abingdon, 1993), The Right Choice (Abingdon, 1997), and Thinking Theologically about Abortion (Bristol 2000)

\*Editor: "The Durham Declaration" (1991), "An Ecumenical Confession for Life" (2010), and "Pro Ecclesia (For the Church): An Ecumenical Confession" (2011)

\*Editor: The Encounter Series (Eerdmans, 1986-1993): Sixteen conference books, of which Rev. Richard John Neuhaus was the General Editor, on religion and public life.

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

To serve Christ and His Church -- that is, "to contend for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3), and to strive to increase the unity, holiness, catholicity, and apostolicity (marks of the Church from The Nicene Creed) of The United Methodist Church.



# *Bruce Stanley (1684)*

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**Current Appointment:** President/CEO Methodist Home for Children

**Current District:** Capital

## **Local Church and District Activities**

District Committee on Building and Location (Raleigh and Wilmington)

Chair of District Committee on Ministry (Wilmington)

Evangelism Chair, Wilmington District Council on Ministries

Mission Chair, Wilmington District Council on Ministries

Member, District Committee on New Church Plant (Raleigh)

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Served 6 different congregations as Youth Pastor, Associate Pastor or Sr. Pastor

Director of Field Education, Duke Divinity School - Placed and evaluated 200 students per academic year in congregations and non traditional ministries across the Jurisdiction and beyond

Conference Board of Ordained Ministry (10 years)

Associate Director, NCC Council on Ministries for Missions and Evangelism

Executive Director, Board of Missions, Inc. (5 years)

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

I was ordained in the United Presbyterian Church, USA and made a conscious choice to transfer my credentials to the United Methodist Church in 1985. Like many "converts" my enthusiasm for our connection remains great. I want to make certain we remain united. We may not all sit on the same side of the Communion table but we are all called to sit AT the same table.

I am convinced we serve an abundant God and our challenge is not lack of resources but a great need to align our dollars, talent and energy strategically. The Methodist Home for Children where I serve has a nearly 15 million dollar budget, over 200 employees, and presence across the state is bigger than many Annual Conferences in size and geography. I would like to take what I have learned about strategic thinking and help apply it to the general church. I have two "Twenty Somethings" and I want them to inherit from Mr. Wesley the best church we can bequeath.

# *Connie Stutts (1700)*

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**Current Appointment:** Beech Grove - Rhems Charge

**Current District:** Sound

## **Local Church and District Activities**

I have served as pastor at CaVel UMC in Roxboro, Union Chapel in Kittrel, Rowland UMC in Rowland, and am currently my tenth year at the Beech Grove - Rhems Charge in New Bern.

I am currently serving as the District Missions Secretary and I am a member of district strategic missions team. Over the years I have led numerous ecumenical groups that cross racial and ethnic boundaries. One of my greatest privileges has been to serve as a supervisor for Duke Field Education students. My work in the local congregation has allowed me to connect to nations. As such, I have been invited to share with other local churches and UMWs about mission work locally and globally.

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

- Refugee and Immigration Committee
- Board of Missions, INC, secretary
- Conference Missions Team, secretary
- mentor for candidates in the candidacy program
- RIOM group leader
- Partner Pastor with Thriving Rural Communities, a program with Duke -Divinity School and The Duke Endowment
- Alumni of Academy for Leadership Excellence
- participant in the initial dreaming for Project Bountiful

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

I have had the privilege of serving in the small rural church setting for over 18 years. During that time, I have benefited from numerous programs, other pastors, and hundreds of parishioners. My heart and my calling is with the small membership church that believes in a big God. I hope to represent this population with voice at General and/or Jurisdictional Conference. I pray that I will serve as one willing to listen and to speak with wisdom and discernment.

# *Alan Swartz (1705)*

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**Current Appointment:** Kitty Hawk UMC

**Current District:** Beacon

## **Local Church and District Activities**

Churches Served: Salemburg Charge, St. Paul Associate (Goldsboro), LaGrange, New Hope (Goldsboro), Oxford, Mebane, Horne Memorial (Clayton), Kitty Hawk

Previously served as District Youth Coordinator (Goldsboro District), Chair of District Council on Ministries (Goldsboro District).

Currently serving as member of District Committee of Ordained Ministry (Current, Beacon District)

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Have previously served as member of the Planning Committee, Parliamentarian, and Chair of the IT Committee.

Currently serving as Chair of the Committee on Resolutions, Chair of the Insurance Committee, Member of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

I believe that I represent the broad middle of our theological tradition and earnestly work to build consensus in making decisions in the church. I also believe that we must be people who are willing to make decisions contrary to our personal interests and preferences if we are to faithfully lead the church in serving its mission.

# *Linda Taylor (1715)*

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**Current Appointment:** Sound District Superintendent

**Current District:** Sound

## **Local Church and District Activities**

As the Sound District Superintendent I serve on the District Mission Strategy Team, District Committee on Ordained Ministry, Lay Servant Ministry Team, District Building and Locations.

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

I have served on the Conference Trustees, Spiritual Formation Team. Currently I serve on the Conference Hispanic/Latino Committee, Wesley Foundation of East Carolina Board, Methodist Retirement Homes Board.

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

I would like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference because I believe I will bring energy, confidence and commitment to the work of the delegation. I have a deep love for The United Methodist Church and believe I offer the gifts and graces needed to be a faithful, prayerful delegate.

# *Hope Vickers (1735)*

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**Current Appointment:** Epworth -Durham

**Current District:** Corridor

## **Local Church and District Activities**

Senior Pastor at Epworth- active missional church of 900+ members., District committees over the years have included Missions, DCOM, Superintendency, Children's Ministries, Racism, Justice Ministries, UMW missions speaker. Led Epworth through process to be a Reconciling Congregation.

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Currently CFA, previously: Missions, Disability Concerns, Children's Ministries, Evangelism, Episcopacy Committee

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

I served as a volunteer marshal in 2012 General Conference and would now like to return representing our NC Annual Conference. I understand the work involved and can give the necessary time and effort to the work as a newly retired clergy. I want to carry the voice of inclusion for all people to General Conference on behalf of those who have ever felt rejected by our beloved UMC. I strongly believe that the Spirit of God is guiding us to new understandings of what it means to be part of the Body of Christ and I hope to share that sense with a grace filled people.

# *Ben Williams (1781)*

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**Current Appointment:** St. Mark's UMC

**Current District:** Capital

## **Local Church and District Activities**

Millbrook UMC: Associate Pastor (2002-2005)

St. Mark's UMC: Lead Pastor (2005-present)

Local Church and Community:

Recovery Ministry Advisory Team

Backpack Buddies Leadership Team

North Raleigh Ministries

North Hills Clergy Gathering

District:

District Committee on Ordained Ministry (2006-2012)

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Annual Conference:

Board of Ordained Ministry (2012-present): Team Leader

Executive Committee of Board of Ordained Ministry (2013-present)

Duke Convocation and Pastors' School: Board of Managers

Insurance Committee: member

Clergy Medical Leave Committee: Chair

Bishop's Culture of Call Task Force

Young Clergy Task Force

NC Preaching Festival: Advisory Team Member (2014-present)

NC Camping Board: member (2006-2014)

General Conference 2012: 1st alternate delegate

Jurisdictional Conference 2012: delegate

Upper Room Academy for Spiritual Formation:

Graduate (2005)

Retreat Leader (2007, 2014)

**Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

Every time we baptize an individual we, the church, promise the person that with God's help we will proclaim the good news, live according to the example of Christ, and surround him or her with a community of love and forgiveness so that he or she may grow in their trust of God and be found faithful in their service. I look at this opportunity to serve as a delegate as my way of continuing to live out this promise in very concrete ways. While it may not be glamorous, it takes leaders at all levels of the church paying close attention to spiritual as well as temporal affairs to create these communities of love and forgiveness both locally and globally. I am willing to pay great attention. I am open to giving myself over to this kind of challenging work so that my children, your children, and all children, both within our conference and around the globe, might be welcomed into such grace filled, Christ centered communities.

Having served as a delegate in 2012, I have a clear sense of what is involved and what is possible. I am committed not just to voting what I may think, but rather to serving you and representing our conference. If given the chance to serve, I will spend the year leading up to General and Jurisdictional Conference engaged in prayer and listening to that which matters to you.

Many say our days as United Methodists are numbered. Others say we are doomed to split. I wholeheartedly disagree! I am absolutely convinced that our best days are still ahead. Unified, together, and with our eyes on Christ, I trust that all things are possible and that in and through our work together, the kingdom of God can and will come on earth as it is in heaven!

# *Gil Wise (1800)*

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**Current Appointment:** District Superintendent

**Current District:** Beacon

## **Local Church and District Activities**

I grew up in Black's Chapel UMC, in rural Cumberland County, part of a two point Charge. I am a graduate of Methodist College (1983) and Duke Divinity School (1988). Ministry settings in which I have served include Camp Rockfish as Camp Counselor and Assistant Director. I served in student field setting placements at Maysville, Hopewell, High Falls, Fair Promise, Cool Springs and Carbondon United Methodist Churches. I served Buie, Parkton, Zion and The Rock United Methodist Churches before planting Solid Rock United Methodist Church in 2001. During the Solid Rock appointment, I provided leadership for a multi-million dollar budget with over 40 full time employees. During the time of my service with the local church I have supervised and mentored 17 Duke Field Education Interns.

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

I served on the Conference Camping Commission as a member and Chairperson. I have served on the Annual Conference Staff. I have been trained as a coach with Passion in Partnership. I have also served as a member of the District Council on Ministries. In 2008, I became a part of the Thriving Rural Church Initiative with Duke Divinity School and the Duke Endowment. I have served on the Emmaus Community Board of Directors and served on several walks. In 2013, I was asked by Bishop Hope Morgan Ward to serve as the Beacon District Superintendent. This District is located in the Northeast corner of the state encompassing 15 Counties, 85 Churches, 65 pastors and over 4,000 members of the United Methodist Church.

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

A lifelong member of the United Methodist Church, I have a heart for the rural church. It is my belief that reclaiming the movement of Methodism will reconnect all our churches, regardless of size or location, to a calling that is still deep in our roots. I believe I can bring a witness to General and Jurisdictional Conference that will speak the heart and minds of United Methodists across Eastern North Carolina.



# *Sam Wynn (1817)*

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**Current Appointment:** Gateway DS

**Current District:** Gateway

## **Local Church and District Activities**

Presently serving as the cabinet Rep to Equitable Compensation

I have served on a number of Conf comt s. and Bds. as well as several General Church agencies

Most importantly, I have as deep love and commitment for the local church and its future in the 21st century.

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Attended General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference.

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

As United Methodist, we are facing extraordinary challenges - unless we come to a firm decision about our polity, I don't believe we will survive as a connectional church. I believe the 2016 General Conference is a watershed GC - I hope and pray we will not get so distracted with social issues that we overlook what is central to the church. The complexities of our society must not over shadow what is central to our faith. I believe the UMC is an intercontinental web of relationships not only in a global society but with our neighbor next door. The decisions we make will have a impact for in NC as well as in our global church.

I am orthodoxy in my theology and convictions, I believe we must strengthen the local church by equipping the laity, developing discipleship classes that are relevant, practical and inspiring which hold true to Wesleyan doctrine and theology.

# *Lisa Yebuah (1818)*

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**Current Appointment:** Edenton Street United Methodist Church

**Current District:** Capital

## **Local Church and District Activities**

Pastor of Inviting Ministries at Edenton Street United Methodist Church

Former Associate Pastor at Millbrook United Methodist Church

## **Annual Conference and Other Activities**

Faculty--AFLE Leadership Fellows Program

Advisory Team member--North Carolina Preaching Festival

Facilitator--Licensing School for Local Pastors

Discernment Team member--Board of Ordained Ministry

Executive Committee member--Board of Ordained Ministry

Design Team member--SEJ Clergywomen Gathering

Preacher and participant--The Aldersgate Covenant Gathering

Board member--General Board of Church and Society

Board member--Alliance Medical Ministry

Former member--Duke Divinity School Board of Visitors

Former member--Annual Conference Worship Committee

Former participant--Young Pastor's Network

Former Board member--Methodist Home for Children

Speaker at various Conference and non-Conference events

Crossfitter

## **Why would you like to serve as a Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference?**

It's been a joy sharing in life together, dreaming for our local congregations, and co-laboring alongside one another. However, what excites me most right now is getting the opportunity to glimpse Christ's resurrection power displayed in the lives of individuals who bump into Jesus by way of the United Methodist Church. I am confident--even as we navigate significant cultural shifts--that our best days as a denomination are ahead!

And it's out of this Christ-centered hope where I'm sensing a call to serve as a possible delegate to General/Jurisdictional Conference. I want to serve as a voice who's persistently declaring God's ability to make beautiful things out of ashes, and also out of our disagreements, and our denomination when we're not at our best. I want to serve as a "holy wrestler" for unity when breaking-up seems tempting. I want to share the gifts God has grown in me--specifically the ability to graciously and theologically approach difficult conversations--as an offering in service to our connection and as a means of serving Christ.