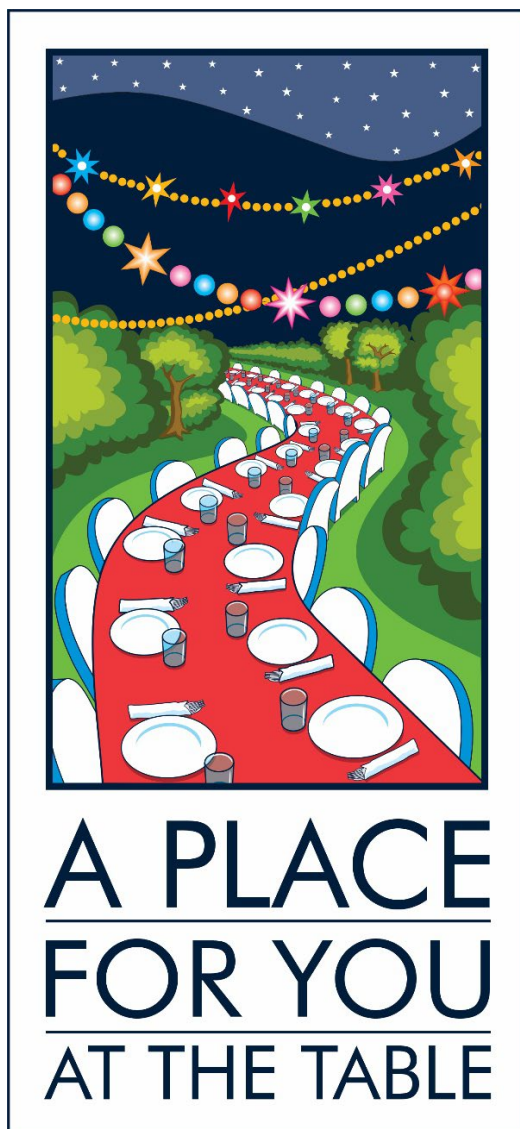


2022 Annual Conference Session

North Georgia Conference
The United Methodist Church



June 2-4, 2022

The Classic Center, Athens, Georgia
Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, presiding

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2022 Annual Conference Session Handbook

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Dear North Georgia United Methodists,

Welcome to the 2022 North Georgia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. I have been looking forward to this time together with great joy. I give thanks for the opportunity for so many of us to gather in person and for the technology that allows all to follow along online.

I am anticipating a meaningful time together at this 156th session of the Annual Conference. We will worship, fellowship, and learn from one another. Our conference theme this year is “A Place for You at the Table.” In the spirit of Pentecost, I hope each of us take these words as our own, knowing there is a place for you at God’s table and proclaiming to all that the table is set before them.

The table is central to our faith and to our mission. Jesus was in ministry at the table. We anchor ourselves by celebrating Holy Communion at the Lord’s table. We gather around tables as a family, as friends, and as communities. We work to get food on the table of those who are food insecure. We have crucial conversations at the table. We learn and grow and serve at the table.

Our time together at Annual Conference 2022 will span three days. On Thursday, June 2, clergy will gather in the morning for the Clergy Executive Session. Laity will come together for the Laity Lunch at noon. Then, Thursday afternoon we will open the conference with worship and a plenary session. On Friday, June 4, we will meet again for plenary and worship. On Saturday, June 5, we will gather for our final plenary session and celebrate our ordinands, provisional members, and local pastors in the Service of Licensing, Commissioning, and Ordination. We plan to depart from our time together Saturday at noon.

Please join me in preparing for the 2022 North Georgia Annual Conference by praying for one another and by practicing giving and receiving patience and grace. It is a blessing to work beside you as we do our part to be sure everyone hears that the table is set, the feast is plentiful, and “there is a place for you at the table.”



Grace and peace to you,

Ane Haupt-Johnson

Host Committee Welcome Letter

Dear Members of the 2022 Annual Conference,

On behalf of the Central East District and host committee, welcome back to Athens (the home of the 2021 National Champions)! It has been two loooong years since we have been in person, and it feels sooooo good to be back in each other's presence! The Conference theme this year is "A Place for You at the Table." We are excited for United Methodist clergy and laity across North Georgia to gather together and be reminded that we are a spirit-filled, resilient, connected, missional, faithful, diverse, deeply rooted, committed, disciple-making, Jesus-seeking, world-changing people called by God to make disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world.

Our time together begins with the Clergy Executive Session at 10 a.m. and Laity Lunch at 12:00 p.m., **Thursday, June 2**, and ends **Saturday, June 4**. Information about the conference is in this handbook. Please take time to read it. The information and a registration link are available on the conference website, www.ngumc.org. For those attending annual conference for the first time, orientation to Athens and the Classic Center will be held at 11:00 a.m., Thursday, June 1 in Parthenon. Please check posted schedules for updated locations of meals and events.

Remember, each member of the 2022 Annual Conference is responsible for his or her own lodging arrangements. A list of area hotels is on the conference website, www.ngumc.org. Lower rates come by mentioning that you are a part of the North Georgia UM Annual Conference. If you need housing assistance, contact the Athens Convention and Visitors Bureau at 706-357-4434. PLEASE cancel any reservations you do not plan on using.

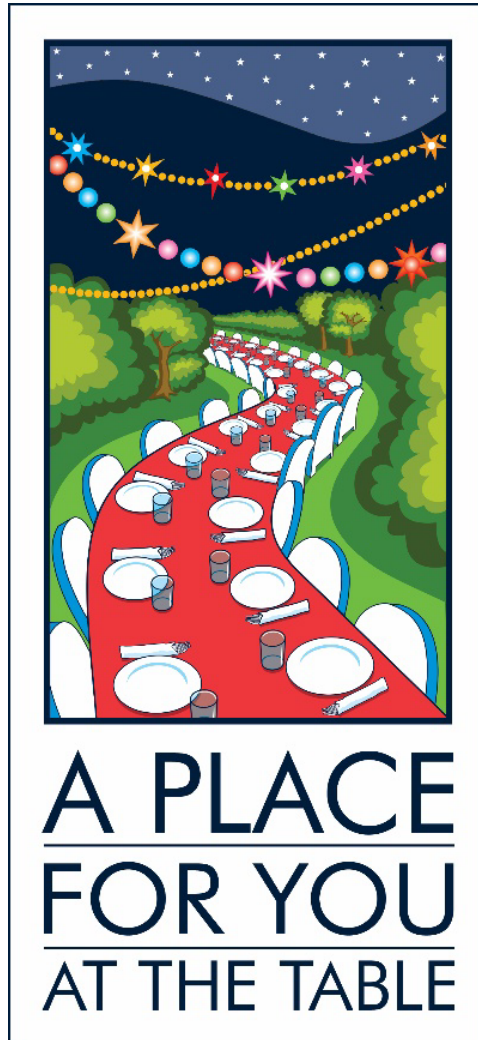
Use your Parking Permit in the handbook for complimentary parking at three sites: The Classic Center, the county parking deck across from the Classic Center, and the UGA North Campus deck (with shuttle services provided). Additional handicapped parking is available at covered meters. Regular street parking meter fees extend 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. and are strictly enforced with stiff fines.

Athens is filled with a variety of restaurants within walking distance of the Classic Center. As in past years, breakfast and lunch vendors will be available at the Classic Center. Certain meal events require online reservations that must be made by June 1. Those tickets will be distributed in the Lower Level of Foundry Building adjacent to Registration. There is no Red Cross Blood Drive this year.

Again, bienvenidos(a) y bendiciones!

Rev. Dr. Rodrigo Cruz, District Superintendent
Leon Jourolmon and Dianne Morrison, Lay Co-Chairs
Etta Reid, District Lay Leader
Johnny Fowler, Host Committee Chair Emeritus

2022 Annual Conference Theme
A Place for You at the Table



The theme for the 2022 North Georgia Annual Conference, “A Place for You at the Table,” is an invitation. It is meant to be heard and spoken. It is a message for you to receive and to share with others.

The table is important to us scripturally; it is important to our worship, to our church life, to our family life, to the community, and it is essential to our mission.

Jesus calls us to bring others to God’s table, where they will be exposed to the love and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit equips us and compels us to invite, without exception, every single person to the table.

Our graphic this year represents a table that starts before us and extends far beyond what we can see. The tablecloth is Pentecost red. The colorful string lights represent joy and diversity. The plate and cup are set before us, as symbols of the communion table.

Our connection has become stronger during the pandemic, as has our appreciation for community. Come join us at the table, and in the joyous, holy work of inviting others to the table. There is a place for you at the table!

Annual Conference 2022 Special Offering: UMCOR

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson has named the **United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)** as the 2022 North Georgia Annual Conference Special Offering.

Churches are invited to collect the offering any time before Annual Conference. One person from each local church will have an opportunity to present a check from their church during the Service of Remembrance on Friday, June 3, or checks may be submitted to the Conference Office.

As the humanitarian relief and disaster response arm of The United Methodist Church, UMCOR assists United Methodists and churches to become involved globally and locally in direct ministry to persons in need.

When the tornado struck Newnan in the early morning of March 26, 2021, by 1 pm that day UMCOR had approved a solidarity grant to the North Georgia Conference for emergency response in the Newnan area. UMCOR-trained Early Response Teams from our Conference have been a crucial part of Newnan's recovery.

When tornados devastated Kentucky and Tennessee, when hurricanes struck Louisiana and Mississippi, and when wildfires swept the west, UMCOR was there. Working alongside established partners, UMCOR has provided aid to Afghan refugees and has already distributed more than \$2 million in humanitarian aid to support Ukrainian people.

Our giving to UMCOR makes God's love tangible to survivors of all kinds—be it from war or conflict, hurricane, famine, earthquake or flood. And, thanks to your giving on UMCOR Sunday in March which covers the cost of doing business, 100 percent of gifts go to the response for which they are designated.

Please indicate gifts as Fund #1140 Annual Conference Special Offering. Checks will be received during the Service of Remembrance or may be mailed to:

Conference Treasurer's Office

PO Box 102417

Atlanta, GA 30368-2417

In addition to our generous giving to UMCOR, an offering for The North Georgia Conference **Ministerial Education Fund** will be received at the Service of Licensing, Commissioning, and Ordination.

MEF is funded by United Methodists to provide scholarships to seminary and undergraduate students, course-of-study for local pastors, and license-to-preach school. MEF is a general church apportioned fund of which 25 percent is retained by our conference. But 100 percent of the giving to the Annual Conference Ordination Offering will go to United Methodist seminary and course of study students in the North Georgia Conference.

Please give generously to the Annual Conference Special Offering and to the offering during the Service of Licensing, Commissioning, and Ordination.

Visuals in Worship: Room at the Table

The Annual Conference visuals team endeavors to transform our places of business and worship into sacred spaces in which we have a sense of meeting God.

Building the Tables

This year the Common Table has gathered and identified five areas of focus for the NGUMC: racial justice and healing, new faith opportunities, community engagement, scriptural literacy and imagination, and health and wholeness. The visuals team has created five tables reflecting the areas of emphasis.

The tabletops on the stage will be moved to the floor as each focus is explored. Tables are placed leading the church from the font, the beginning of our journeys as disciples, out and into the world. The table shapes remind us of the shape of flowing water. This year, we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the ordination of deacons. The table placements remind us of the role of deacons, connecting the church to the world and the world to the church.

Service of Remembrance

In the Service of Remembrance, a butterfly is on the table in memory of each departed saint. With these butterflies, we celebrate the lives of those through whom we have glimpsed and experienced God's transforming grace. At the end of the service, families are invited to retrieve, as a gift of remembrance, the butterfly which best exemplifies their loved one.

Service of Licensing, Commissioning, and Ordination

The reds, oranges, and yellows of the felt and macrame antependium remind us of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. We celebrate the presence of that same Holy Spirit today, poured out on those who are being licensed, commissioned, and ordained.

The wet felted pulpit frontal was made by agitating wool fibers until they are transformed and individual fibers intermingle and form a cohesive non-woven fabric. The cross, made with the intersection of vine-like wool cords, reminds us that in Christ we are restored and connected into the image of Triune God.

The home-like scenery reflects the role of deacons who often answer God's call to serve in the world. Ordinary places such as the kitchen, hospital, and courtroom become holy settings for meeting and serving God. Other elements represent the particular calls of those being ordained: the Bible, a reminder of the call to proclaim God's word; the towel and pitcher, the call to serve and encourage ministries of compassion and justice; the chalice and paten, the call to administer the sacraments and order the life of the congregation.

Passing of the Mantle and Honoring of Retirees

At the passing of the mantle, we pause to recognize the passing of authority from the retiring clergy to those who are newly ordained. We pray that God will bless their ministries and that for both groups this next stage of life is one of flourishing and growth.

Stairwell Windows

The large window image as you descend the escalators and approach the Grand Hall reminds us that we are entering a sacred time and place.

Our Thanks

Thank you Teresa Lilja for coordinating the Morning Holy Communion worship services and to Betsy Butler and Athens First UMC for providing Holy Communion elements and acolyte support. We appreciate the generous donations and lending of equipment from the Southeast Fiber Arts Alliance (SEFA). Thank you to Tracy Sessions, trustee chair at Barnesville First UMC, for power tool instructions and supervision. We are thankful to Julie Moor, who created the Deacon and Elder stoles used in worship services. We pray that as we engage the senses in worship we will be drawn closer to God's saving grace.

Respectfully submitted,

Your 2022 Annual Conference Visuals Team: Deanne Lynch and Cyndi McDonald (co-chairs), Sheila Crowe, Johnnetta (PJ) Johnson, Ellynda Lipsey, Pam McCurdy, Kathryn Schroeder, Katrina Stone, DuWanna Thomas, and Amy Valdez Barker.

Communion Room, Prayer Room, and NGBMCR Sankofa Hush Arbor

The NGBMCR Sankofa Hush Arbor, located in the combined Communion Room and Prayer Room in the Classic Center Grand Hall 2 and Grand Hall 3, will encourage renewal and reflection, remembrance, and reimagining of how we can #BeUMC.

Communion Table

The Communion Table will reflect "high church" traditional vestments "unhoused." The inspiration for the design comes from the parables of Jesus found in Matthew 22:1-14 (The Wedding Feast) and Luke 14:15-24 (The Banquet), as well as the Gregory Porter song "Take Me to the Alley" based on the influence of his mother, Ruth. Ruth actively searched the streets for people in need (food, housing, addiction, etc.) And she helped them. A burlap cloth will represent social status, kindness, and sacrifice during hardship. The communion table will include a grass table runner to remind us that renewal often occurs beyond the church walls.

Prayer Stations

Prayer stations will be located throughout the space and reflect five focal areas as determined by the NGUMC Common Table:

- Racial Justice and Racial Healing: Prayer Station Location - Meditation 1 (Ahmaud Arbery Memorial)
- Community Engagement: Prayer Station Location - Meditation 2 (Linnentown Display)
- Scriptural Literacy and Imagination: Prayer Station Location - Meditation 3 (Communion Table)
- New Faith Opportunities and Communities: Prayer Station Location - Meditation 4 (#BeUMC)
- Health and Wholeness (Food Security, Child Welfare, Mental Health) - Prayer Station Location: Meditation 5 (Supplication and Intercession)

NGBMCR Sankofa Hush Arbor

The ancestral altar is a place of remembrance and will honor Henry "Peg" Gilbert, lynched in Troop County, Georgia, Isaiah Nixon, lynched in Montgomery County, Georgia, and Ahmaud Arbery, lynched in Glynn County, Georgia.

Ahmaud Arbery Memorial

The son of Wanda Cooper Jones and Marcus Arbery, Sr. “Ahmaud had dark skin that glistened in the sunlight like gold.” Black people continue to experience death disproportionately. Enslaved persons were unable to cease labor to bury the dead. Funerals, burial rites, acts of respect, grief, and celebration for “going home” took place at night and often in hush arbors. In Black churches, “Homegoing Services” celebrate the deceased’s life and attainment of “going home to my Lord and be free.” These services are significant and essential to family and community. The mistreatment of Black bodies, even in death, has been triggering. The inability to properly send our loved ones “home” has exacerbated the isolation of social distancing for the Black Community and impacted mental health and well-being. NGBMCR created the Ahmaud Arbery Memorial to reflect the freedom in “Homegoing” and the sheer magnitude of grief in those left behind in what remains a cruel world.

White

White robes, Funerals, PEACE LILY: Communal grief, compassion, and prayers for racial justice and healing. ART BY THOMAS BLACKSHEAR II: “Night in Day” pays respect to Ahmaud Arbery in his moment of transition. “The Watcher” acknowledges the pain of Marcus Arbery, Sr., the extended family, and their village. “Preparing To Sound The Alarm” honors Wanda Cooper Jones for her grace in grief, triumph in tribulation, and giving the world a master class in faith in God and the power within one vessel made of clay (Corinthians 4:7-9).

Linnentown

The City of Athens and the University of Georgia System targeted and ultimately destroyed a Black community containing many homeowners through eminent domain for urban redevelopment. The descendants of Linnentown, through the Linnentown Project, have issued the first “official” call for reparations in Georgia. Hattie Whitehead, a former resident of Linnentown, author of “Giving Voice to Linnentown,” and mother of clergywoman Cynthia Jackson, has been a tremendous resource in helping us highlight the Linnentown Project.

Mason Jars

Mason jars will represent traditionally and historically black churches, colleges, and universities.

The Bottle Tree

The bottle tree originated from a spiritual practice in the Kingdom of Kongo (1390-1914), West Central Africa. They represent a protection blessing wherever they appear in the hush arbor.

Burlap

Burlap represents kindness and sacrifice amid hardship. Negro cloth was intentionally uncomfortable and used in garments to reinforce bondage and low status in society. Older children would hand down garments softened by their bodies for the younger children.

Respectfully submitted,
DuWanna Thomas

Agenda
156th Session of the North Georgia Conference
The United Methodist Church
June 2 - 4, 2022
The Classic Center - Athens, Georgia

Theme “A Place for You at the Table”

Location of reports within the agenda are subject to change
*designates order of the day

Wednesday, June 1, 2022

8:00 am Prayer Room set up – Grand Hall 2-3
8:00 am Display Set up begins – Grand Hall 6
1:30 Volunteer Meeting -TBD
TBA Youth Delegate Orientation – Holiday Inn Express, Conference Room
3:00 pm Associate Conference Secretary Meeting – Olympia 2
4– 6 pm On-Site Registration/Payment stations begin – Grand Hall 4-5

Thursday, June 2, 2022

7:00-10:30 am Quest Diagnostics – Parthenon 2
7:00 am Bishop’s Breakfast for Tuesday’s presenters – Parthenon 1
7 am – 6 pm Prayer Room– Grand Hall 2-3
7 am – 10 am & 11 am – 2 pm Concessions open – Atrium
7:30 am Service of Holy Communion – Grand Hall 2-3
7:30 am – 6 pm Displays – Grand Hall 6
7 am – 6 pm First Aid/EMT –Grand Hall Pre-Function
8:00 am On-Site Registration/Payment – Grand Hall 4-5
8:00 am Tellers meeting – Grand Hall
8:00 am Extension Ministers’ Breakfast – Oconee River Room (Foundry)
9:00 am Board of Ordained Ministry meeting – Parthenon 1
***10:00 am Clergy Executive Session – Grand Hall**

12:00 pm Laity Luncheon – Athena Ballroom

1:45 pm Pre-Service Music – Grand Hall
***2:00 pm Session One – Grand Hall**
Opening Worship – Service of Word and Table
Preacher – Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, Resident Bishop

3:30 pm Opening of Conference – Grand Hall

3:30 pm Call to Order – 156th Session
Welcome & AC Theme
Prayer
Opening Hymn “And Are We Yet Alive?”
Welcome by Host Committee

Thursday, June 2, 2022 *continued*

- Organization of Conference
- Standing Rules Committee – to present
- Consent Agenda – to present
- Conference Committee on Nominations – to present
- *4:01 pm** **Overview of the Five Areas of Focus**
- Area of Focus- #1 Community Engagement**
- Break
- Voting Device Demonstration
- Disaffiliations (paragraph 2553) – to vote
- Prayer Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson
- Announcements
- 5:15 pm** **Adjournment**

No Evening Session

Friday, June 3, 2022

- 6 - 9:30 am Quest Diagnostics – Parthenon 2
- 7:00 am Bishop's Breakfast for Friday's presenters – Parthenon 1
- 7 am – 6 pm Prayer Room – Grand Hall 2-3
- 7 am – 6 pm First Aid/EMT – Grand Hall Pre-Function
- 7:30 am Service of Holy Communion – Grand Hall 2-3
- 7 am – 10 am & 11 am – 2 pm Concessions open – Atrium
- 7:30 – 6 pm Displays – Grand Hall 6
- 8:00 am On-Site Registration continues – Grand Hall 5
- 8:15 am Gathering Music – Grand Hall
- *8:30 am** **Session Two – Grand Hall**
- Call to Order** – Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson
- Prayer
- *Area of Focus #2 Scriptural Literacy and Imagination**
- Pension and Health Benefits
- Commission on Equitable
- Trustees of the North Georgia Annual Conference
- Board of Ordained Ministry Report: Presentation of those to be
Licensed, Commissioned and Ordained
- Historic Examination for Admission into Full Connection
- Update from General Conference/Jurisdictional Conference
- Delegation
- Consent Agenda – remove any requested
- Break
- Council on Finance and Administration
- Barnes Evaluation and Administrative Team

Friday, June 3, 2022 *continued*

- *10:50 am** **Area of Focus #3 New Faith Opportunities and Communities**
Service of Commissioning for the Office of Deaconess & Home Missioner
 Jeffery Fuller, Abundant Health Coordinator, North GA Conference
 Choong-Hee Lee, Immanuel Korean UMC, Dir of Family Ministry
Committee on Resolutions
Announcements
Prayer
Adjournment
- *2:00 pm** **Session Three – Grand Hall**
2:00 pm **Service of Remembrance**
Preacher: Jane Brooks
Music: St. John UMC, Augusta
Offering: UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)
- 3:15 pm** **Call to Order – Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson**
Prayer
Reflection from Conference Lay Leader - Nate Abrams
Connectional Ministries
- *3:38 pm** **Area of Focus #4 Racial Justice and Healing**
Property Closure Resolutions
Committee on Standing Rules to vote on amendments
- *4:20 pm** **Proskuneeo – Josh Davis**
Passing of the Mantle and Recognition of Retirees
Announcements
Prayer
Adjournment

No Evening Session

Saturday, June 4, 2022

- 6 - 9:30 am Quest Diagnostics – Parthenon 2
7 am – noon Prayer Room Grand Hall 2-3
7 am – 1 pm First Aid/EMT –Grand Hall Pre-Function
7:00 am Ordination Rehearsal – Grand Hall
7:00 am Bishop’s Breakfast for Saturday presenters
7:30 am Service of Holy Communion – Grand Hall 2-3
7:45 am Ordination photos
7:00 am – 10 am Concessions open – Atrium
8:00 am – 10 am Registration Grand Hall 5
8:30 am **Session Four – Grand Hall**
***8:30 am** **Call to Order – Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson**
Prayer

Saturday, June 4, 2022 *continued*

***8:33 am** **Area of Focus #5 Health and Wellbeing**

Churches of Excellence in Outreach

United Women in Faith

United Methodist Men/Scouting Report

Future Dates & Sites of Annual Conference

For information and planning purposes only.

Future Dates of the North Georgia Annual Conference Session at
The Classic Center, Athens, Georgia.

2023: May 31-June 3, 2023 (Wednesday-Saturday)

2024: June 13-15, 2024 (Thursday – Saturday)

2025: June 12-14, 2025 (Thursday – Saturday)

Committee on Nominations to vote

Bishop's Order of the Day

Fixing of the Appointments

Announcements

Prayer

Adjournment

10:15 am Gathering Music – Grand Hall

***10:30 am** **Session Five– Grand Hall**

Service of Licensing, Commissioning, and Ordination

Offering: Ministerial Education Fund

12:00 pm **Adjournment of 156th Session of the North Georgia Conference**

Reception in Atrium

2022 Consent Agenda

North Georgia Standing Rule C.7. provides for a Consent Agenda to expedite business during the annual conference session by **adopting reports to be included in the Conference Journal without verbal action by the annual conference**. The following reports indicated by number, name of agency and page will be offered as the 2022 Consent Agenda on Friday, June 3, during session 2. Please read reports carefully prior to that session. Unless reports are removed from the Consent Agenda at that time, all reports will be accepted and approved by consent of the annual conference. Reports **removed** from the Consent Agenda will be scheduled as time permits.

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Registration and Assistance Committee

The Registration and Assistance Committee provides name badges to all persons attending annual conference. It also distributes and collects reimbursement forms from persons eligible for financial assistance.

Registration is required both online and onsite. Online registration is open May 13 - 31, 2022 at: <https://data.ngumc.org/registration/acstart.aspx>.

Clergy must use their ngumc.net email account to register online.

Lay members and reserves must register online using their email of record.

- An email of record is defined as a unique email address entered in the conference's data application (Data Services).
- Lay members and reserves may not share an email address. They must all have a unique email of record to register.
- Churches and districts are responsible for entering their Lay members and reserves information, including their email of record into Data Services.

Onsite registration is in Grand Hall 5 of the Classic Center:

- Wednesday, June 1, 4-6 pm
- Thursday, June 2, 8 am - 5 pm
- Friday, June 3, 8 am - 5 pm
- Saturday, June 4, 8 am - 10 am

Name badge categories with voting designations:

There are seven styles of name badges. Appropriate styles of North Georgia Conference name badges are necessary for participation within the Bar of the Conference. Badges list name and indicate voice and vote status for Annual Conference (AC) and Clergy Executive Sessions (CES).

1. Red bar – voice and vote on all matters at AC*.

- a. Local church lay members to annual conference ¶251.1; ¶32
- b. District at-large lay members (for equalization) ¶33
- c. Diaconal ministers, active or retired ¶33
- d. Active deaconesses under episcopal appointment within bounds of the annual conference ¶33
- e. Home missionaries under episcopal appointment within bounds of the annual conference ¶33
- f. Members of annual conference by virtue of current conference or district position ¶33

* Lay Members of BOM also have voice and vote at Clergy Executive Session.

2. Dark Blue bar – voice and vote on all matters at AC and CES.

- a. Deacons in full connection, active or retired ¶33, ¶329.2
- b. Elders in full connection, active or retired ¶33, ¶334.1, 602
- c. Leave categories eligible to vote: Voluntary Leaves of Absence (personal, family, transitional) ¶353.7, Sabbatical Leave ¶351; Maternity or Paternity Leave ¶355.2; Medical Leave ¶356.1

3. Light Purple bar – voice and vote on all matters at AC and CES except general and jurisdictional conference delegate ballots.

- a. Full connection clergy on Involuntary Leave of Absence ¶354.8

4. Green bar – voice and vote on all matters at AC and CES (including election of clergy delegates to General and jurisdictional conferences) except constitutional amendments and all matters of ordination, character/conference relations of clergy; not eligible to be elected as delegate to General and jurisdictional conferences.

- a. Provisional members who have completed all their educational requirements and have been elected to provisional membership; deacons and elders who have been elected to provisional membership, but not yet commissioned, are eligible to vote ¶35, 327.2
- b. Local Pastors who have completed Course of Study or a Master of Divinity degree and have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment before the election may vote to elect clergy delegates to General and jurisdictional conferences ¶35, 316.6.
- c. Associate members, active or retired ¶35, ¶321.1
- d. Associate members, active or retired, member of BOM also vote at CES ¶35, ¶321.1

5. Orange bar – voice and vote on all matters at AC and CES except general and jurisdictional conference delegate ballots, constitutional amendments, character/conference relations of clergy.

- a. Provisional members who have not completed all their educational requirements ¶327.2
- b. Local Pastors who do not meet the criteria listed above in Number 4.b ¶316.6

6. Yellow bar – voice only at AC and CES. No voting rights.

- a. Retired Local Pastor – ¶320.5 voice without vote

7. Gray bar – no voice or vote.

- a. Affiliate members – ¶344.4 voice without vote
- b. Clergy from other conferences serving in North Georgia – ¶346.1 clergy in such appointments may be granted voice but not vote
- c. Clergy from other denominations serving in North Georgia – ¶346.2 clergy in such appointments may be granted voice but not vote

- d. Clergy on honorable location – ¶358.2 honorably located clergy shall not continue to hold membership in the annual conference
- e. Clergy on administrative location – ¶359.3 administratively located clergy shall not continue to hold membership in the annual conference.
- f. Candidates for ordained ministry not under appointment in North Georgia during the 2018-2019 conference year
- g. Local Pastors not under appointment.
- h. Lay Supply Pastor
- i. Lay members: local church reserve and district at-large reserve members
- j. Visitors, guests, clergy spouses (including surviving spouses)
- k. Agency, staff, and other guests

Name Badge Use and Care

Name badges are provided at registration and are required for all sessions and meetings. Use only the name badge and holder that you receive at onsite registration. Do not place stickers or notes on badges or holders. We recycle the plastic name badge holders. Please turn in your badge before you leave; collection containers will be provided.

Financial Assistance

Persons eligible for financial assistance must complete and submit a reimbursement form with receipts by 2 pm, Saturday, June 4. Checks are issued approximately 30 days after annual conference. Reimbursement forms received after June 4 cannot be processed. Reimbursement forms are available at Registration.

A. Eligibility. Financial assistance is offered for the following:

1. Retired ministers not serving churches, retired clergy serving churches whose compensation does not exceed \$6,000 per year.
2. Widows or widowers of clergy persons who are not married to persons designated in #1 above.

B. Assistance Procedures.

1. Eligible persons must complete reimbursement form and attach receipts.
2. **Leave the forms/receipts for Meg Morrison at the Information Center at the top of the escalators. Deadline is 10 am, Saturday, June 4.**
3. Mailed forms cannot be accepted.
4. Checks are issued approximately 30 days after annual conference.
5. Eligible persons may be reimbursed for up to \$75.00 per day for a maximum of three (3) nights lodging and meals. Receipts must be attached for reimbursement.

Responsibility of the Clergy Members of the Annual Conference

Each clergy member has the responsibility to:

- 1) Attend pre-conference briefing on May 15th at 2 pm.
- 2) Attend all sessions of the annual conference and leave only under emergency conditions and with the knowledge of his/her district superintendent. Attendance is not optional. “Any such person unable to attend shall report by letter to the conference secretary, setting forth the reason for the absence.” (*2016 Book of Discipline*, ¶ 602.8.)
- 3) Become familiar with the organizational structure and existing programs of the annual conference, parliamentary procedure and the conference standing rules as printed in the 2022 Conference Handbook, and discuss with his/her lay member(s).
- 4) Read pre-conference reports and become familiar with specific programs and items that might be presented during the sessions. Prior to annual conference, consult with his/her lay member(s) so that he/she might understand the various reports and their implication for the life of the Church. Keep in mind that the lay member(s) as well is/are obligated to express views and vote as each feels is best.
- 5) Participate fully at the annual conference and help in policy-making decisions.
- 6) Form his/her own opinions on issues and vote his/her convictions.
- 7) Serve as interpreter of the annual conference actions along with the lay member. (*2016 Book of Discipline* ¶ 251.2).

Responsibility of the Lay Members of the Annual Conference

It is an honor to be elected as a lay member to the North Georgia Conference. This is an assignment of great responsibility. By virtue of this office, he/she is also a member of her/his church’s council (¶ 252.5.g), finance committee (¶ 258.4), and the pastor-parish relations committee (¶ 258.2.a) (*2016 Book of Discipline*).

Each member has the responsibility to:

- 1) Attend pre-conference briefing on May 15th at 2 pm.
- 2) Attend all sessions of the annual conference. When he/she must be absent from the conference, every effort should be made to see that the alternate lay member is able to be present.
- 3) Become familiar with the organizational structure and existing programs of the annual conference, parliamentary procedure, and the conference standing rules as printed in the 2022 Conference Handbook.
- 4) Read pre-conference reports in the conference handbook provided at the district pre-conference session and become familiar with specific programs and items that might be presented during the sessions. Consult with the pastor and church lay leader. While the lay member is obligated only to use his/her own best thinking in the conference, the dialogue with others ahead of time should prove helpful in clarifying issues.
- 5) Participate fully in the work of the annual conference policy-making decisions.
- 6) Form his/her own opinions on issues and vote his/her convictions.
- 7) Prepare a report for his/her local church. This report may be presented at a Sunday morning worship service and/or a more detailed report at a meeting of the administrative

board/council. In either case it should be done as soon after annual conference as feasible, and “not later than three months after the close of the conference” (§ 251.2, *2016 Book of Discipline*). Consult with his/her pastor before conference about scheduling and time limit. The conference handbook, the North Georgia Conference web page, www.ngumc.org, handouts received at annual conference, and personal notes on the sessions can be used as a basis for the report. Mention major issues raised, any action, and how they might affect the local church. Refer to conference preachers and share highlights from worship services. Discuss the positive aspects of the conference and try not to dwell on trivia.

Parliamentary Guidelines for Participation at Annual Conference

1. **The presiding bishop is the “chair” of the conference.**
2. **To address the conference:** move to a microphone and raise your hand until recognized by the chair; state your name, the name of your local church and whether you are a lay member of your church, a district at-large member, or clergy member.
3. **To request a conference committee review the business currently under consideration:** after recognition by the chair, state: “I move that the item currently before the conference be referred to ...” (state the name of the committee to which you think the matter should be referred or request referral to a committee to be recommended by the chair).
4. **To request clarification of business being conducted:** after recognition by the chair, state: “I request a point of information/clarification regarding ...” (state the specific clarification you seek).
5. **To change the wording of a resolution or business item that is before the conference:**
 - a. Write down the specific wording of the proposed amendment/change, including handbook page and line number, along with your name and church or district.
 - b. Raise your hand for recognition. When recognized by the chair, state the reasons for your proposed amendment/change.
 - c. After recognition by the chair, say, “I move to amend line_____, on page ___ by (deleting or inserting) the following words: ...” Read only the exact wording proposed. **Have a written copy of the amendment ready for the conference secretary immediately after the motion is read.**
 - d. The chair will ask for a second, state the motion, and ask for discussion.
 - e. Other persons may be recognized to discuss/debate the motion. The motion’s presenter is allowed a final chance to speak for the motion.
 - f. After “the question is called” and discussion is closed, the motion is voted on by the conference.

2022 Information for Conference Members and Visitors

Annual Conference Registration

The online process helps conference members register for annual conference, pay the \$30 Annual Conference registration fee and make reservations for meals and pre-pay for meals requiring payment. Pick up pre-paid meal tickets during onsite registration. Online registration: click on “Registration” at this location on the conference website: www.ngumc.org/ac2022.

Onsite registration is open: Wednesday, June 1, 4-6 pm; Thursday, June 2, 7:45 am-5pm; Friday, June 3, 8am-5 pm; and Saturday, June 4, 8-10am. All registration is located in Grand Hall 5 of the Classic Center. Pick up name badges at the registration site listed above.

Payment station for annual conference registration fee only accepts cash, check or credit card. It is located in the registration area.

Annual Conference Text Updates

New this year, receive Annual Conference 2022 updates delivered straight to your phone! Text "AC2022" to 833-963-4294 to subscribe. (Normal text messaging rates apply. Text "STOP" to opt out. Text "HELP" for help.)

Annual Conference Session App

The North Georgia Annual Conference has partnered with The Classic Center on a 2022 Annual Conference Event app. Use it for schedule, information, maps and more. To download, search "Classic Center Events" in the app store. Download The Classic Center App. Once it is installed, open the App. Select the "Conferences" button on the home screen. Select the "2022 North Georgia Annual Conference." And begin exploring!

Annual Conference Offering for 2022 – UMCOR

Read more about this important special offering opportunity in this handbook. A representative from each congregation will be given an opportunity to present a check during the Service of Remembrance on Friday, June 3, at 2 p.m., in the Grand Hall.

Annual Conference Website

Information on the 2022 annual conference session is available on the North Georgia website: www.ngumc.org/ac2022. Live streaming of all sessions will be available.

Attending Annual Conference in Athens for the First time?

Newcomers/first time-attendees can learn about the Classic Center buildings and the city of Athens at an orientation on Thursday, June 2, 11:00-11:30 am in Parthenon 1.

Cokesbury

The United Methodist Publishing House/Cokesbury will not be present with an on-site display, but Cokesbury will extend the following offers to the clergy, lay members, and visitors at our annual conference sessions: Free Adult Bible Studies Starter Bundle, worth over \$100, with leader guide, commentary and six participant books. Available to those new to ABS or those who haven't purchased ABS since June 2021. In addition to everyday pricing, take \$10 off a \$100 purchase during annual conference. Simply visit www.cokesbury.com/annual-conference-2022 and use code AC2022

Conference Journal– Print on demand

Print copies of the 2022 North Georgia Conference Journal will be available to order online through a print-on-demand service this fall. There will be no pre-orders of the journal. This method will streamline the ordering process and promote better stewardship of Conference resources. A free pdf digital copy will be available following publication on the conference website. Find more information at ngumc.org/journal.

Displays

Display tables are an extension of reports presented at the annual conference session. The displays interpret and celebrate the program ministries of the annual conference. Various conference boards, committees, commissions, councils, teams and related agency displays are located in Grand Hall 6.

Distribution of materials

Conference Standing Rules do not provide for distribution of materials. No material may be placed on chairs during breaks or between sessions or distributed at doors in or around the Grand Hall or inside the Classic Center. Distribution of materials is limited to authorized display tables.

Associate Secretaries and Tellers are instructed to remove any unauthorized items. Worship bulletins are distributed by those designated by the conference.

Electronic Voting

Members of annual conference will use an electronic voting system for all sessions in the Grand Hall. There is only one type of voting device for lay and clergy members. Pick up the device at tables located inside either entrance to the Grand Hall. If you leave the Grand Hall leave the voting device on your seat; for stadium seating leave the voting device in a bin at the bottom of the stairs. Voting devices should never leave the Grand Hall. There are fees charged to the annual conference for voting devices that are not returned.

Voting cards are distributed at registration. You must have your card to participate in the voting process. It is each member's responsibility to secure the voting card received at registration. There are fees for voter cards that are not returned. It is recommended that members keep the voting card in their name badge holder along with their name badge, which is also need for voting.

Clergy and Lay members are not seated in separate sections within the Bar of the Conference this year. Orientation to the voting devices is scheduled for Thursday, June 2, during session one. You will need a voting device and your card at this time.

If you leave prior to the end of conference, turn in the voter card at the Voting Assistance Table located to the left of the stage ramp in the Grand Hall. If you stay until final adjournment, leave the voter card in the voting device on your seat. If you are in the stadium seating, leave the voter card in the voting device in a bin at the bottom of the stairs.

Family Restrooms

The Classic Center family restrooms are located on the upper and lower floors of the Foundry Building. Baby changing stations are located in the men's and women's restrooms located near the Athena Ballroom and the Grand Hall. Baby changing stations are also located near the Olympia Room. Location of space for nursing mothers is available at the Information Center.

Housing

Members make and confirm housing arrangements directly with hotels in the Athens area. Information is on the North Georgia Conference website <http://www.ngumc.org/ac2022>. Additional information is available from the Athens Convention/Visitors Bureau, 706-357-4410 or 800-653-0603, or on the website visitathensga.com.

Information Center

Information center for annual conference and Athens is located in The Classic Center at the top of the escalators. Emergency messages are displayed electronically in the Classic Center Grand Hall.

Meal Tickets

Members must pick up meal tickets that are purchased online during onsite registration.

Name Badge Lanyards

The North Georgia Annual Conference thanks Wesley Woods for providing the name badge holders/lanyards. The conference also thanks the registration volunteers for distributing the name badges. Please recycle the name badges.

Red Cross Blood Drive

There is not a Red Cross blood drive scheduled this year. Please continue to save lives by donating blood. Call to make your appointment at 1-800-REDCROSS.

Registration Fee

North Georgia Conference Standing Rule E.7 states that a \$30 registration fee shall be assessed for each lay and active clergy delegate to the North Georgia Annual Conference. Retired clergy and youth members are exempt from the assessment. Members may pay the registration fee as part of their online registration process or onsite at lay and clergy registration.

Safety

When out and about, please use caution at all times, especially after dark. Do not walk alone or leave valuables visible in parked and locked cars.

Special Needs, First Aid and Medical Care

Direct special needs requests to the Information Center located in the Classic Center at the top of the escalators.

Annual Conference Meals and Gatherings

Wednesday, June 1, 2022

12:00 – 1:30 pm AC Production Team Lunch – Grand Hall 2
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Deacons' Dinner – Downtown Athens – Off-Site

Thursday, June 2, 2022

7:00 am AC Coordinating Team Breakfast – Parthenon 1
7:00 am – 9:00 am Concessions - Atrium
8:00 am – 9:00 am Extension Ministers Breakfast – Oconee River Room (Foundry)
11:00 am – 2:00 pm Concessions – Atrium
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Laity Luncheon – Athena Ballroom A-F
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Cabinet Lunch – Olympia 1
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm AC Production Team Lunch – Grand Hall 2
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Local Pastor Fellowship Luncheon – Empire Room (Foundry)
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Latino Ministry Luncheon – Willow Room (Foundry)
5:30 pm Candler School of Theology Dinner – Oconee River Room
(Foundry)

Friday, June 3, 2022

7:00 am AC Coordinating Team Breakfast – Parthenon 1
7:00 am – 9:00 am Concessions - Atrium
7:00 am North Georgia Clergywomen's Breakfast – Empire Room
(Foundry)
7:00 am United Women in Faith – Oconee River Room (Foundry)
11:00 am Guest Choir Luncheon – Willow Room (Foundry)
11:00 am – 2:00 pm Concessions – Atrium
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Cabinet Lunch – Olympia 1
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm AC Production Team Lunch – Grand Hall 2
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm North Georgia Clergy Spouses' Lunch – Cypress 1 (Foundry)
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Youth Delegates' Luncheon – Parthenon 1

Saturday, June 4, 2022

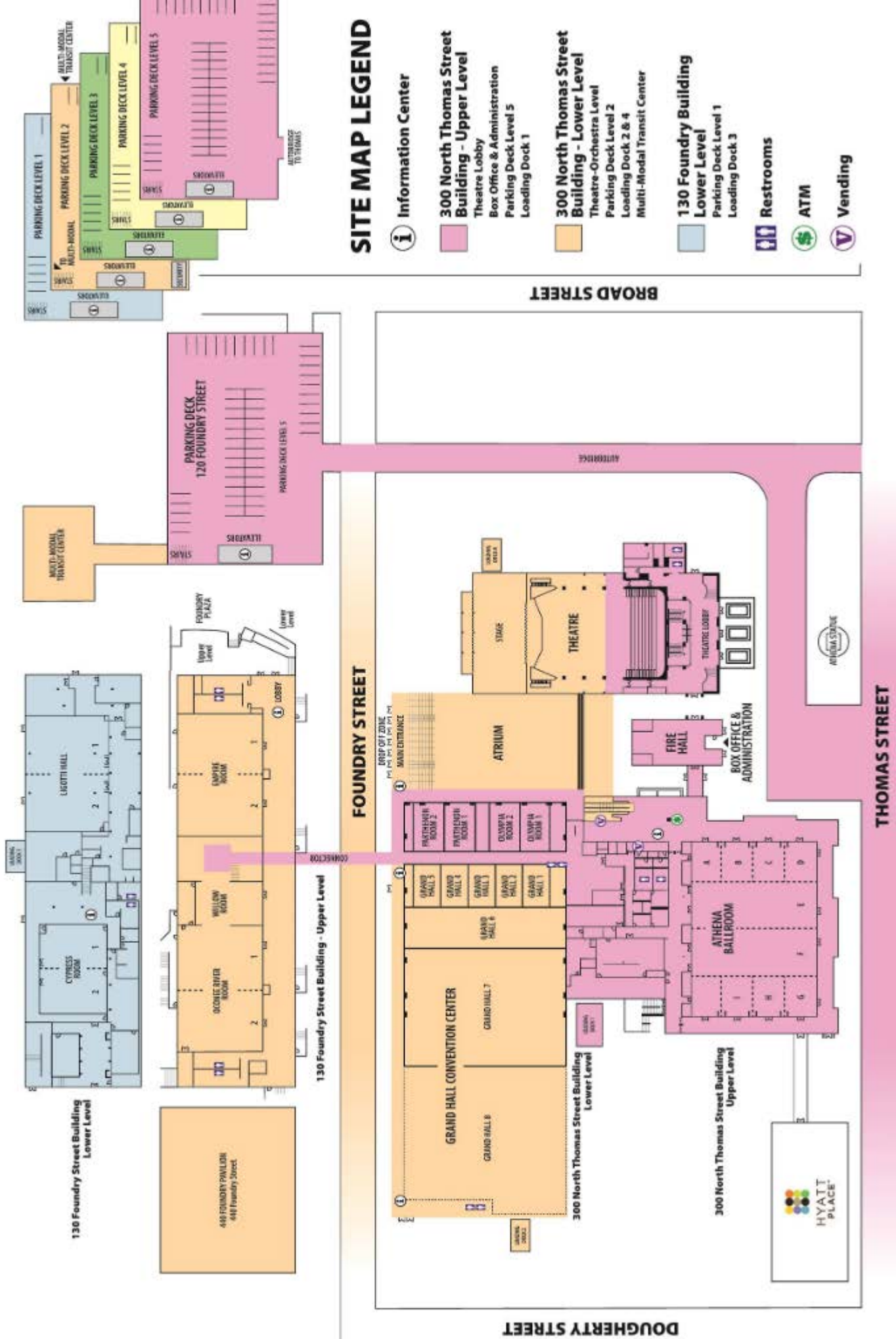
7:00 am AC Coordinating Team Breakfast – Parthenon 1
7:00 am – 9:00 am Concessions – Atrium
12:00 pm Reception Honoring those Ordained and Commissioned sponsored
by the Georgia United Methodist Foundation – Atrium

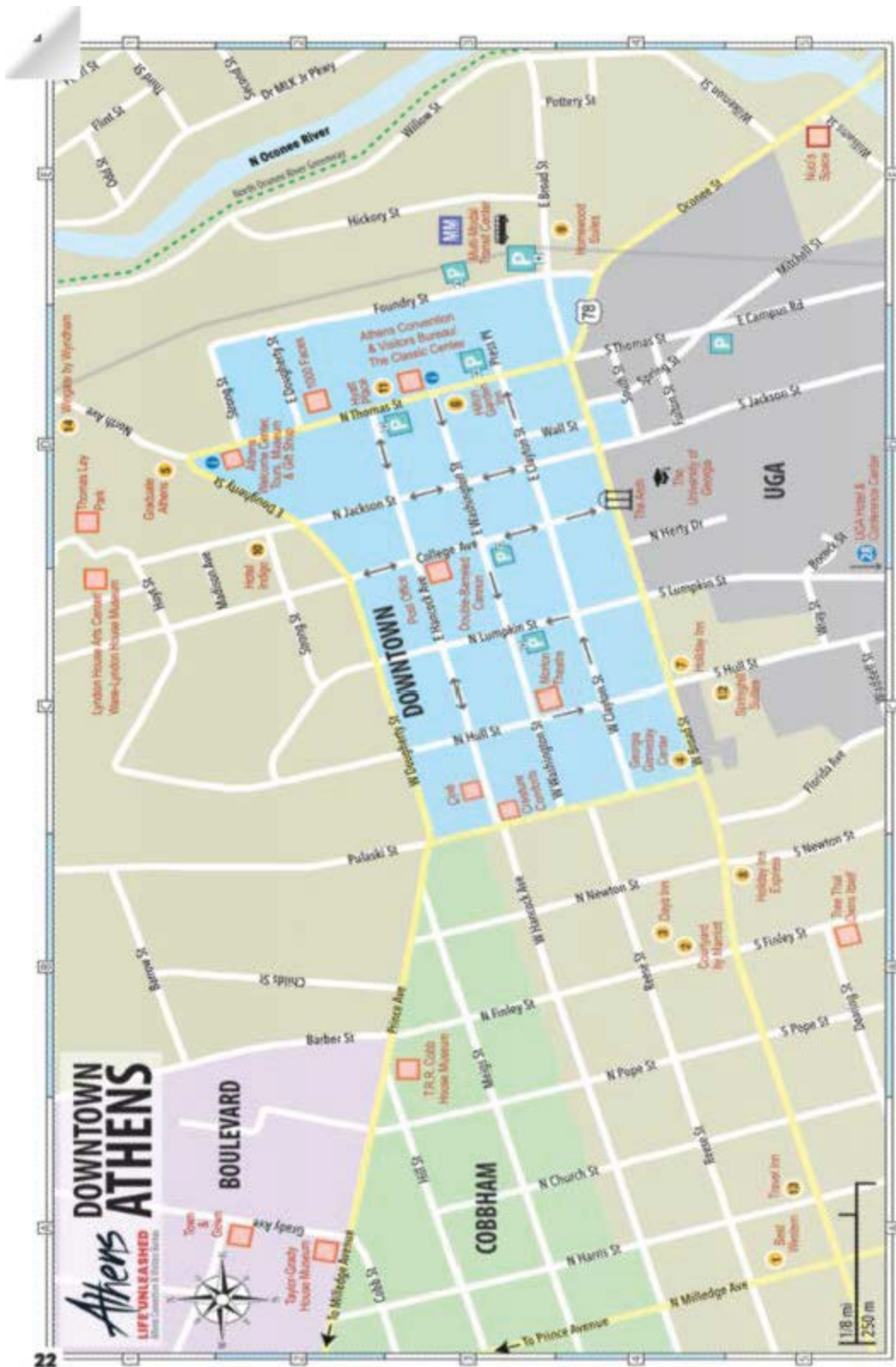
Displays

Display tables are an extension of reports presented at the annual conference session. The displays interpret and celebrate the program ministries of the annual conference. Various conference boards, committees, commissions, councils, teams and related agency displays are located in Grand Hall 6. Plan to take time to visit the display tables in Grand Hall 6. The following vendors will be represented:

- Aldersgate Homes/Collinswood
- Armchair Theology
- Center For Congregational Excellence
- Chapel Music Company
- Discipleship Ministries/Upper Room
- Emory University's Candler School of Theology
- Epworth By The Sea
- General Board of Global Ministries
- Georgia United Methodist Foundation
- Hinton Rural Life Center
- Hood Theological Seminary
- Impact United Methodist Church
- LaGrange College
- Mission Insite
- NGA Committee on Native American Ministries
- NGA Disaster Response
- North GA Housing and Homeless Council
- North Georgia Camp and Retreat Ministries, Inc.
- North Georgia Reconciling United Methodists
- SIFAT (Servants in Faith and Technology)
- UMCOS (United Methodist Committee on Scouting)
- United Methodist Communications
- United Methodist Connectional FCU
- United Women in Faith
- Wellroot Family Services
- Wesley Woods

Facility Map in Athens





Parking and Transportation

Parking at the Classic Center or the Clarke County Courthouse

Conference members may park at the Classic Center or at the Clarke County Courthouse parking deck (located at the corner of E. Hancock Street and N. Thomas Street across from the Classic Center). At the Court House, you must show either your conference name badge or the “Annual Conference Parking Permit.”

Parking at UGA North Campus Deck

You may also park at the University of Georgia North Campus Parking Deck (0.6 of a mile south of the Classic Center on S. Thomas Street).

To avoid getting a parking ticket at the UGA deck, **you must put the code and your vehicle’s tag number into the kiosk in the parking deck.** Each day has a separate code:

Thursday, June 2 code is: MAC7742

Friday, June 3 code is: MAC3067

Saturday, June 4 code is: MAC5814

There are shuttles to and from the North Campus Parking Deck to the Classic Center. The shuttles pick up and drop off at the Thomas Street side of the parking deck. Shuttles will run from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 PM Thursday and Friday and 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 PM on Saturday

North Georgia UMC
Annual Conference
PARKING PERMIT
JUNE 2 – 4, 2022

1 **100. Africa University**

2 *You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can't be hidden. – Matthew 5:14 (CEB)*

3
4 This year, The United Methodist Church marks 30 years of vibrant, transformative
5 ministry through Africa University. Thank you, North Georgia Conference, for your faithfulness
6 and generosity in bringing the dream of Africa University (AU) to life.

7 In celebrating its 30th anniversary, Africa University is honoring the past and looking to
8 the future while remaining true to its mission as the cornerstone ministry for United Methodist-
9 related leadership development in Africa. From the first conversations in 1984 to formal
10 approval at the General Conference in 1988, the planting of Africa University required vision,
11 faith, and bold action in the face of predictions that it could never succeed. Africa University
12 found friends and advocates in North Georgia, across the global Methodist connection, and
13 beyond. The “Dream is Alive” was the rallying cry in March 1992 as 40 students from six
14 African countries attended the first lectures. Africa University’s journey from day one to the
15 present is a shared story of being salt and light.

16 Africa University is also part of the North Georgia Conference’s story – of restoring
17 hope, equipping, and sending forth young leaders to shape an abundant life for themselves and
18 for the communities they serve. Like the year that preceded it, 2021 affirmed that God’s grace is
19 sufficient in all circumstances. Thank you to the members of the North Georgia Conference for
20 ensuring access to a lifechanging educational experience for students who are unable to fund a
21 college education on their own!

22 In January 2021, the students, faculty, and staff grappled with the sudden death of Africa
23 University Vice Chancellor Munashe Furusa. As the year unfolded, national lockdowns
24 continued to restrict travel and damage livelihoods. Unable to be on campus together, the
25 students, faculty, and staff grieved, pivoted, supported, and encouraged each other, and
26 persevered. Against the backdrop of a global pandemic, Africa University harnessed new
27 opportunities for missional engagement in 2021. The year’s highlights include:

28 • Effective online-only teaching, learning and student assessment: About 99 percent of
29 students participated in online learning. Enrollment held steady at 3,060 students and more than
30 500 graduates from 24 African countries were awarded degrees in July 2021.

31 • The installation of AU’s fifth Chancellor: Bishop Gaspar João Domingos of the
32 Western Angola Episcopal Area was elected Chancellor following the death of Bishop John K.
33 Yambasu of Sierra Leone.

34 • Research and community service: AU researchers received US\$2 million in funding for
35 regional initiatives to eradicate malaria, tuberculosis and other communicable diseases. AU’s
36 students and graduates showed their love of neighbor, with initiatives to feed hungry families,
37 care for the environment, and improve the quality of life of legally blind parents and their
38 children. AU was awarded the 2021 Jairos Jiri Humanitarian Award by the Government of
39 Zimbabwe for its pandemic impact mitigation efforts.

40 Thank you for letting your light shine for young women and men who would otherwise
41 be left on the sidelines. “A city on top of a hill can’t be hidden” ...similarly, AU’s current
42 students and its more than 10,000 graduates to date are that metaphor made real. Continue to
43 walk alongside them as they hone their abilities, live fully into their God-given purpose, and join
44 in the work of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

45
46 James H. Salley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement

101. Candler School of Theology

Since 1914, Candler School of Theology at Emory University has lived into our mission, educating faithful and creative leaders for the church’s ministries throughout the world. This year, as we leaned into this critical work and continued to adapt to a world changed by the coronavirus pandemic, we imagined new possibilities for students who are called by God to pursue serious theological study and preparation for ministry. For some, opening avenues to graduate theological education bridges financial obstacles, and for others, geography or family responsibilities may be the barriers. Candler is committed to assisting students in removing these barriers and opening new pathways to ministry.

An official seminary of The United Methodist Church, Candler holds true to the Methodist value of ecumenical openness, enthusiastically welcoming students from 43 denominations, with 45% of MDiv students coming from the Wesleyan tradition. Our student body reflects the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 466 from 16 countries and 38 states, 45% persons of color (U.S.), and a median age of 28 among MDivs. This diversity is a blessing, enriching our students and our larger community and providing a “learning laboratory” for ministry in the 21st century—ministry that reaches across difference, works to resolve injustice, and embodies Christ’s love in and among us.

Candler offers six single degrees (MDiv, MTS, MRL MRPL, ThM, DMin) and ten dual degrees. Our DMin is 90% online, so students can remain in their places of ministry while earning their degrees. Its high 87% completion rate illustrates both the quality of our students and Candler’s commitment to their success. This year, we increased online offerings in other degrees as well. Now students can complete the Master of Religion and Public Life completely online; the Master of Religious Leadership with concentrations in Youth Ministry, Justice, Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation, or Wesleyan Leadership and Heritage in a hybrid format; and MDiv students can complete core classes online. Plus, our new Remote Teaching Parish (RTP) program allows MDiv students who have jobs in ecclesial settings far from our Atlanta campus to take core classes online and complete their contextual education requirements at their place of ministry, participating in mentor-led online groups with other RTP students.

Alleviating student debt through generous financial aid is a top priority. In 2020-2021, we awarded more than \$6.8 million in financial aid, with 100% of MDiv and 98.5% of all students receiving support. All MDiv students who are certified candidates for ordained ministry in the UMC receive full-tuition scholarships, and all MDiv, MTS, MRL, and ThM students who are enrolled part-time or more receive a scholarship covering at least 50% of tuition for the length of their program.

Hundreds of laity and theology students alike have joined in classes and events offered through The Candler Foundry, our innovative program to make theological education accessible to all. Through short and semester-length courses taught by Candler faculty, videos and discussion guides to spark conversation in groups or one-on-one, and online panel discussions, those who want to delve more deeply into theology and the Bible have the chance to do just that. View the latest offerings at candlerfoundry.emory.edu.

Associate Dean of Methodist Studies, Anne Burkholder, will retire from Candler at the end of the 2021-22 academic year. We are grateful to God for her energetic and skillful leadership in this vital area as she strengthened the connection between our students and conferences throughout the UMC, mentoring them as they discerned their call and navigated the ordination process.

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

5
6 Jan Love
7 Mary Lee Hardin Willard Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics
8 Candler School of Theology, Emory University
9

10 **102. Gammon Theological Seminary**

11
12
13 Gammon Theological Seminary, located in Atlanta, is the Interdenominational
14 Theological Center's United Methodist constituent member. The Interdenominational
15 Theological Center (ITC) is a Christian Africentric ecumenical consortium of seminaries and
16 fellowships that educate students to commit to practicing justice and peace through a liberating
17 and transforming spirituality to become leaders in the church and local/global communities.

18 Gammon was founded in 1883 by The Methodist Episcopal Church, with assistance from
19 the Freedman's Aid Society. Today, Gammon Theological Seminary is the only predominantly
20 Black Seminary of the thirteen approved United Methodist-related Theological Institutions. The
21 faculty and administration of Gammon at the ITC create an environment in which critical
22 thinking, investigative reflection, decision making, and responsible action happen. The ITC's
23 accreditation is with the Association of Theological Schools and the Southern Association of
24 Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Gammon/ITC offers the following degree
25 programs: the Master of Divinity, the Master of Arts in Religion and Education, and the Doctor
26 of Ministry. Admission is open to qualified men and women. The support given to The United
27 Methodist Ministerial Education Fund by United Methodist Conferences continues to enable
28 Gammon students to be grounded in the Wesleyan tradition of theological education. The
29 Gammon Board of Trustees elected its 17th President/Dean, Candace M Lewis, and she is the
30 first woman to lead the Seminary in our 138-year history. Dean Lewis began her tenure on April
31 1, 2021.

32 Our new initiatives and celebrations this year at Gammon include:

- 33 ● The Rev. Geraldine Williams-McClellan \$100,000.00 Endowment Fund launched with
34 Bishop Kenneth Carter and Florida Annual Conference.
- 35 ● Commissioned our First Gammon Seminary National Research Project focused on
36 COVID-19's impact on Black United Methodist Clergy, Laity and Congregations –
37 partnership w SBC21, Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Black Clergy Women,
38 Discipleship Ministries & Convocation Pastors Black UMC. Please visit our website
39 at www.gammon-itc.org for the findings.
- 40 ● Hosted a Virtual Church Leadership Training Event, "Navigating Next," in January 2022
41 to equip leaders for effective ministry with over 700 registered attendees.
- 42 ● Tavis Tinsley, a Gammon senior, participated in the 2021-2022 Ecumenical Institute at
43 Bossey. He was invited by the United Methodist Council of Bishops (COB) and
44 completed the "Complementary Certificate in Ecumenical Studies" through the
45 University of Geneva in Switzerland.
- 46 ● Celebrated our 138th Anniversary and Founder's Day.

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

6 We are grateful to Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson and the clergy and laity of the North
7 Georgia Annual Conference for your support of theological education and your commitment to
8 ensuring pastoral leadership is theologically trained to lead us forward in the Wesleyan
9 tradition.

10
11 Respectfully submitted,
12 Rev. Dr. Candace M. Lewis, President-Dean
13
14

15 **103. General Board of Higher Education and Ministry**

16
17 GBHEM seeks to promote innovative and experiential opportunities for transformative
18 learning, higher education, and ministry formation worldwide. The agency works with key
19 partners, churches, and institutions in Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, and Eurasia, Latin American
20 and the Caribbean, and North America to offer connectional, contextual, and collaborative
21 programs to support the church, the academy, and the world. Among its various activities,
22 GBHEM is responsible for two initiatives approved by General Conference: The Methodist
23 Global Education Fund for Leadership Development (MGEFLD) – which includes the Grants
24 and Scholarships Program (GRASP) – and the Central Conference Theological Education Fund
25 (CCTEF). The agency also maintains Regional Hubs for Leadership, Education and
26 Development (LEAD Hubs) in various locations around the world, has helped create and support
27 the International Association of Methodist Schools, Colleges, and Universities (IAMSCU), and
28 works with regional education associations on five continents. GBHEM is currently partnering
29 with general agencies and other organizations to support important projects on COVID-19
30 vaccine equity, mindfulness and wellbeing, net-zero emissions, human rights, and the promotion
31 of a culture of generosity throughout the United Methodist worldwide connection.

32 In 1972, The United Methodist Church reaffirmed its support of the 11 historically black
33 colleges and universities related to the denomination by creating the Black College Fund and this
34 year we celebrate its 50th Anniversary. The Black College Fund supports the education of world-
35 changing leaders by investing in the hopes and dreams of students from around the world.
36 Continued support for the Black College Fund renews the vision for the next generation of
37 transformational leaders.

38 We celebrate GBHEM awarding more than 2,250 students a total of \$4,084,979 in
39 scholarships in 2021. These future leaders range from first year freshmen to doctorate level
40 students across the denomination. We are grateful for the support received in recognizing United
41 Methodist Student Day, World Communion Sunday, and Native American Sunday which helps
42 fund a portion of our scholarships. The remaining funds for these awards come from gifts,
43 annuities, and endowments GBHEM has invested and administered for decades.

44 Worldwide Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (WIDEA) is a strategic focus area
45 for GBHEM to align its work with the mission and ministry of congregations and constituents
46 around the world. This renewed commitment includes advanced staff development in

1 intercultural competency, active listening, and a deeper understanding of and appreciation for
2 difference so relevant programs and services may be developed, offered, and implemented more
3 equitably and effectively.

4 GBHEM remains committed to building and sustaining collaborative cross-conference
5 networks that foster collegiality and guide credentialing for ordained and licensed ministry. We
6 have partnered with conference leaders to clarify the role of those in ministry while assisting in
7 the interpretation and application of relevant paragraphs within The Book of Discipline. We have
8 supported the work of recruiting, guiding, and credentialing candidates and clergy through the
9 development of Passage - a comprehensive registry resource - as well as a virtual onboarding
10 module for new district and conference board members.

11 Hundreds of years before amazon.com, John Wesley stuffed the saddlebags of circuit
12 riders with books of theology and biblical interpretation—selling them to fund the movement
13 while spreading it literally. GBHEM continues this innovative spirit by leveraging social
14 enterprise opportunities and creative partnerships as a way of reducing its reliance on
15 apportionments while continuing to focus on delivering the very best services, products, and
16 programs to United Methodist constituents around the world.

17 The same spirit of service and leadership that first inspired John Wesley lives on in each
18 of us. Today, GBHEM looks confidently to the future taking bold and creative action, remaining
19 good stewards, and continuing to support The United Methodist Church in innovative and
20 meaningful ways.

21
22 Greg Bergquist, General Secretary
23
24

25 **104. Georgia Pastors' School**

26
27 2021 was another challenging year for us, but we made it through with the grace of God.
28 We were blessed to conduct Pastors' School online. Online Pastors' School was presented from
29 10 to 3 on Thursday, July 15. The focus was on post-pandemic issues. The presenters were:
30 Tyler Reagin (Leading Things You Didn't Start), Jenni Catron (Creating Healthy Cultures of
31 Feedback), and Wayne Francis (Leading Through Trying Cultural Times). Information from the
32 workshops and attendance were good.

33 The Board has met several times since last Pastors' School and has been diligently
34 working on this year's event which will be virtual and in-person at Epworth By The Sea. We
35 look forward to experiencing the updates and renovations at Epworth. Many of us are anxious to
36 get back to one of our favorite retreat centers. I encourage you to be a part of this inspiring
37 school.

38 The dates are July 18-21. To register, please go to our webpage
39 (www.georgiapastorsschool.org). You can also register for housing through this site or register
40 directly via Epworth for housing (www.epworthbythesea.org).

41 Cost is \$110 virtual or in-person. Spouses can register at no cost. Continuing education
42 units are available.

43 Our theme for this year will be "Shifts in Church Leadership." Karl Vaters of
44 Cornerstone Christian Church in Orange County, California, will be our main plenary speaker.
45 His specialty is "helping small churches thrive." As author of "100 Days to a Healthier Church"
46 and "The Grasshopper Myth," Vaters' presentations will help all of us regardless how large or

1 small our ministries may be. Plenaries will include speakers from the North and South Georgia
2 conferences who will share their expertise.

3 It is with joy that I announce that Bishop Sharma Lewis will be our worship speaker. As
4 many of you may already know, she is a life-long United Methodist who grew up in the South
5 Georgia Conference, was ordained and served in the North Georgia Conference, and is now the
6 Episcopal leader of the Virginia Conference. Let's welcome her home.

7 I want to thank Tony Crosby (South Georgia) for his leadership as President before
8 passing the torch to me. I'm grateful to be serving as current president. Donald Mathis (South
9 Georgia) serves as Vice-President, and Precious Hawkins (South Georgia) is the Dean.

10 Also, thanks to Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, Bishop David Graves, and all of our
11 dedicated board members for your support.

12
13 Hope to see you in July,
14 Rev. Matt A. Murphy (North Georgia), President
15
16

17 **105. Georgia UMC Commission Higher Education and Collegiate Ministry**

18
19 I am not sure there are words that can fully describe all that we have been through over the past
20 two years. The whole world has suffered unimaginable loss and seemingly never-ending
21 uncertainty, and our campuses are no less fraught with anxiety, depression, sadness, and
22 isolation. And yet, there is emerging from this experience a new way of being *together* that has
23 captured my imagination.

24 I lived in Nashville after a historic flood and I served as a Red Cross volunteer after 9/11.
25 In these tragic moments, people rise out of tragedy, unite, and make the world a better place by
26 realizing that we are better and stronger together. For those of you who have been part of such
27 massive waves of support and hope, you know that they soon wane, and the grind of our
28 segmented society returns to us like an old sweatshirt.

29 Over the past year, the Commission has expanded our reach by engaging in ministry with
30 campuses across the country (seven annual conferences and growing). We have one guiding
31 phrase for this shared work of ministry: "Do all we can, for as many as we can, for as long as we
32 can." The bleakness of the covid winter stilled the busyness of life in a way that we became more
33 attuned to the reality that we are healthier, we are more fruitful, our mission is more robust, and
34 we are just better when we are *together*.

35 In working with the Wesley Fellowships and Foundations, and colleges across the
36 country, we discovered a most curious emergence within a number of these ministries. As you
37 can imagine, students returned this year with a deep hunger to be back together, physically. Like
38 all of us, they were longing for meaningful relationships, hugs, discipleship, encouragement, and
39 all the trappings of a college experience. At the same time, we noticed there seemed to be less
40 interest in our traditional, larger gatherings and a greater interest in smaller, more intimate forms
41 of togetherness. Students appear to be yearning for small group discipleship and community that
42 gives meaning to their lives. The demand has been so great that some ministries have moved to
43 monthly large-group worship services to provide more space for small groups to meet.

44 This new form of togetherness that has emerged from our long and perilous journey
45 through this pandemic has inspired me greatly. What if *being together* becomes a collection of
46 smaller movements of believers, of students, sharing life in a way that cares more about

1 transformation than the production of our gatherings? Could this response to a tragedy be more
2 lasting? Could it help us overcome the divisions that have so profoundly harmed us? May it be.

3 The UMCommission funds and supports the higher education ministries of the North and
4 South Georgia Annual Conferences. These Wesley Foundations and UM-related Colleges and
5 Universities serve over 10,000 college students. As you experience the content of this report,
6 may you see these stories as *our shared* stories of *togetherness*. See, we could not have been
7 present on these campuses without the generosity of the churches and individuals who support
8 Annual Conference apportionments and special gifts to our ministry. Thank you. Your gift is
9 making the world a better place and empowering the lives of college students.

10
11 Rev. Dr. Michael McCord, Executive Director

12
13 **105.a. UMCommission Board President**

14
15 Throughout the last year – a year of trial and tribulation and a year of triumph – God has
16 reminded all of us that being in ministry and fellowship with one another is a gift that we cannot
17 take for granted. Our ministries have persevered to meet the ever-expanding needs of college
18 students. Our ministries have developed innovative approaches to achieving their missions in
19 this world. Our ministries have made disciples of God’s children across this state.

20 Students in our colleges and universities experience many competing demands and
21 priorities. The pandemic has exacerbated emotional distress for many of them, and the pressure
22 to meet academic expectations amid financial uncertainty is greater than ever. Providing a
23 welcoming place - a *sanctuary* if you will - where students can encounter God in community
24 with others is vital to the spiritual formation work of our ministries. The campus ministers in our
25 Wesley ministries and the chaplains on our college and university campuses remain the “boots
26 on the ground” that cultivate the strong foundations upon which these college students find
27 connection with one another and a connection with God.

28 These same campus ministers and chaplains artfully developed an entrepreneurial and
29 innovative spirit over the last year as well. They recognized that business as usual would no
30 longer sustain their ministries and connection to students. Most put even greater emphasis on
31 John Wesley’s small group model for creating disciples, as the larger congregational worship
32 experiences were a challenge to host logistically during a pandemic. Regardless of the
33 challenge, the goal has always been to be together – to worship, to grow in faith, and to live into
34 the community in which God calls us to be.

35 I could not be more thankful for everyone involved in the work of leading and supporting
36 college students in their spiritual formation through our United Methodist ministries. We have
37 undoubtedly experienced great challenges, but as a full and robust body of Christ – who remain
38 committed to one another and committed to seeing God’s work done in this world – we continue
39 to experience great triumph. May God continue to bless our ministries, our colleges and
40 universities, and our students, and may all who we encounter experience God’s grace and love.

41
42 Beau Seagraves
43 President

44
45
46 Following are reports from your collegiate ministry teams:

1
2 **105.b. Andrew College**

3 To kick off the holiday season, a stained-glass tour was held on the campus of Andrew
4 College that included stops at local houses of worship. The Festival of Stained Glass idea was
5 developed by Dan Kolan, Professor Chris Johnson, and late Andrew College staff, alumna, and
6 friend, Mary Jane Salter. Sadly, Salter passed away from COVID-19 during the last school
7 year.

8 Andrew College President Linda R. Buchanan shared, "Mary Jane was the inspiration for
9 the event as she was the embodiment of being the light!" Professor Johnson shared that Salter's
10 idea was to share the beauty of the local stained glass and incorporate musical and historical
11 elements. The tour started at Jones Chapel on the college campus and included stops at local
12 Methodist, Baptist, and Presbyterian churches. Students, faculty, staff, and community members
13 all came out for the event. Walkways were illuminated by luminaries, and guests enjoyed
14 refreshments as part of the event. Historical, religious, and architectural details were noted to
15 attendees regarding the stained glass at the various locations. The Andrew College Jazz
16 Ensemble entertained guests, and everyone sang carols. Dan Kolan said that the plan is to make
17 this an annual event.
18

19 **105.c. Augusta Wesley**

20 What has it been like to find a sense of togetherness? What is it like to meet in person
21 now and be able to worship? Community is a vital part of Augusta Wesley to the point that we
22 named our Wednesday night Bible Study, Community. This is because community is one of the
23 major areas of focus at Augusta Wesley. Last year, Augusta Wesley was almost non-existent
24 because of COVID. This made it challenging for the students to get together and worship. As a
25 result of this, the number of people who came to Wesley dropped significantly.

26 This semester we have attempted to ramp up the sense of community and worship. We
27 have had three different students plan and lead worship or preach a sermon. Our students have
28 mentioned how the worship services have caused them to feel less stressed about school and life.
29 Worship has become a safe space where no matter what is going on in the lives of our students
30 they can lay them at the door if only for a few hours.

31 We have a student who attends Wesley who has suffered from seizures her entire life.
32 This obviously makes many aspects of her life tough. This impacts how she can get around,
33 where she is able to go, if she is able to do certain activities, and much more. One of the worst
34 aspects of her condition is that doctors are not entirely sure what causes it. This has led to her
35 having many surgeries, procedures, and tests done in hopes of diagnosing the cause of her
36 seizures.

37 Recently, she was preparing for another test. She and her family would have to travel
38 over 250 miles to another state to perform a test. This caused her to be filled with a lot of
39 anxiety, depression, hopelessness, and nervousness. After service one day she expressed these
40 feelings to me. She was on the verge of crying. So, we as a community came together and all laid
41 hands on her and prayed for her. About eight students said prayers for her that night and even
42 more stood with her to pray. Afterwards she immediately cheered up.

43 I would say thank you so much for seeing the importance of this ministry. Even if you do
44 not physically see the lives you changed, I want you to know you have truly touched and
45 changed many lives. Your donations and time have given many young students a place to come

1 and have a safe community to worship. As we move forward in the coming years we hope to
2 reach many more students and seek your continued support.

3
4 Josh Swanson
5 Director, Augusta Wesley

6
7 **105.d. Clark Atlanta University**
8 **Ministering through the Pandemic – Holding God’s People in My Heart**
9

10 While in seminary, my professor, Kenda Dean, shared with us a few excerpts from a
11 project that she had just completed because she wanted feedback. In what was eventually named,
12 *Almost Christian*, Kenda said that “young people need a *creed* to believe, a *community* to belong
13 to, a *call* to live out, and a *hope* to hold onto.” I agreed completely.

14 Since then, I have included those four (4) tenants in every ministry context in which I
15 have engaged. However, during the pandemic when our understanding of believing and
16 belonging shifted and volatility shook both our lives and our hope, I held these truths even more
17 closely.

18 As I prepared for our return to an in-person campus learning environment, I knew that I would
19 have to be intentional about offering touch points to meet various needs. In addition to Chapel
20 and bible study, I placed greater emphasis on community service and the creation of spaces
21 where individuals could simply “be.”

22 In September, I launched a week of events focused on our “*Culture for Service*” motto.
23 We hosted Paul Loeb, author of *Soul of a Citizen*. Offered students the opportunity to identify
24 their spiritual gifts, and held a campus wide service project where we packaged 20,000 meals to
25 be sent to Haiti. Each of these efforts reached different students. All of these efforts made a
26 difference. 100% of the students rated the events five out of a possible five points and 100% of
27 the participants expressed interest in participating in more community service events.
28 Since September, we have participated in a community service event once per month and during
29 our last event both our President, George T. French, Jr. and his wife, Bacon French participated
30 with us in the planting of fruit trees at a local community garden. Again, all participants
31 expressed interest in serving.

32 Another addition to our ministry offering this year has been *The Soul Space*, a place
33 where students, faculty, and staff of any faith tradition can gather for centering, prayer,
34 meditation, or counsel because *everyone has a soul*. From its inception, this space, which is
35 located on the first floor of this three story building, was intended to provide a prayerful
36 foundation to the Bishop Cornelius Henderson Student Center. The space was also
37 conceptualized to offer flexibility in arrangement so that it could accommodate a variety of uses.
38 To date, the space has been used for yoga, individual prayer time, meetings with student leaders,
39 a “green room” for Vice President Kamala Harris and also for one of the Atlanta Mayoral
40 candidates. The space was even used as shelter when a tornado warning was issued one
41 afternoon in the middle of the summer.

42 While all of this has been a joy to witness, the greatest joy has been the number of
43 students who take the time to post scripture verses or motivational messages after their time of
44 prayer. It offers a healthier posting than what they normally experience on social media. This is
45 special to me because I would occasionally come in while they were building the space in order

1 to pray and to write scripture on the walls. So, what undergirds their “message wall” and is
2 included above each threshold door is God’s word to bless their comings and goings.

3 As I look towards 2022, I can feel the momentum and I am excited about what is going to
4 happen. To close out the semester, we took a group of students to Camp Glisson for a study
5 retreat. In 2019, we took a group of 10; this year, we took 28 and all have expressed interest in
6 returning to study again in the spring. In addition to my hope for their rest and renewal, I prayed
7 that at least one of them would engage with Russell Davis in a conversation about applying for
8 summer staff. God exceeded my expectations—three have committed to following up.
9 While ministry has not been easy, it has been encouraging to witness God’s faithfulness in so
10 many ways. I look towards 2022 and pray that I will be blessed with the opportunity to continue
11 to build upon God’s plans for Clark Atlanta University and her community.

12 To God be the Glory!

13
14 Faithfully Submitted,
15 Tonya L. Miles
16 University Chaplain
17

18 **105.e. College of Coastal Georgia**

19
20 Stress. Anxiousness. Worry. Lack of discipline. Not sure what will come next. These
21 are common themes among college students dealing with the continued pandemic that swept
22 across the globe in 2020. Many hoped this academic year would be more *normal*. But as the
23 demands of classes continue on, the lasting effects of COVID on mental health and community
24 growth are steadily an uphill climb.

25 Nevertheless, God is doing some deep work for college students. Sure, many want the
26 same things college students have wanted for decades--acceptance, fun and great memories.
27 And tons of students will do whatever is necessary to achieve these desires. But for others, God
28 is stirring a passion and drive to know Him more and to live out the purposes He has for their
29 lives.

30 There are some students on the CCGA campus that are characterized by the latter. The
31 names that come to mind all come from different backgrounds (even countries). They don't have
32 the same story. They're at different points on their faith journey. But there's a deep hunger in
33 their eyes to know God more.

34 They show up to Wesley consistently. They often talk about what more they want to see
35 done. They go to church. They serve both college students and the churches they attend. And
36 they even get up for an 8:30 am Bible study every Friday.

37 Through all of these avenues, the desire is the same: know God more. There is a hunger
38 in them that is palpable. Sure, they struggle with things like other college students. They're not
39 perfect. They have their stressors. They have their worries. But they aren't dealing with it the
40 same way as common college students. They are seeking to take the things close to their heart to
41 Jesus and see life through the lens of His grace and truth.

42 And from that lens, they're seeing a new way of living. One that doesn't just serve them
43 or bring them acceptance or give them a good time. They're seeing a way of living that honors
44 God and serves others.

45 My hope is that the passion of these Wesley students becomes infectious to many others
46 on the CCGA campus, and that it leads to an awakening like the campus has never seen.

1 *Come, Lord. Bring your kingdom of peace, joy and righteousness to CCGA for your*
2 *glory. Amen.*

3
4 Kris Dockery,
5 Coastal Wesley Director

6
7 **105.f. Columbus State Wesley Foundation**
8 **WHAT WESLEY MEANS TO ME...**

9
10 **Felicity Acosta:**

11 -Wesley is a space where I can be myself and have fun.

12 **Lucas Sheppard:**

13 -Because of Wesley, I have been able to expand my leadership experience, make plenty of new
14 friends, and create new memories that will last a lifetime.

15 -Wesley has been a safe place where I can share my personal struggles and I can trust that I am
16 heard and cared for

17 -Wesley means community.

18 **Wrezin Cooley:**

19 Because of Wesley I have made new friends and bettered my relationship with God. Getting
20 closer to God was really important to me this year and being a part of Wesley has given me that
21 opportunity. The people at Wesley have made my college experience, and they are one of the
22 only reasons I would reconsider transferring next year. Wesley has taught me I'm not alone and I
23 always have someone to talk to and there's always someone that cares. I really enjoy the
24 fellowship and friends at Wesley.

25 **Hannah Dew:**

26 -Because of Wesley, I have found my people that I feel safe with. I am able to be myself and not
27 feel like I have to fake anything.

28 -Wesley has been a place where I go for comfort and fun. All worries are gone as soon as I'm
29 with our group.

30 -Wesley means so much to not only me but those who come from a not so easy life. It provides
31 relief and a safe place for everyone

32 **Nathan Calvert:**

33 -Because of Wesley I have made real friends for the first time in my life because of an opening
34 and welcoming community. It has also helped my faith grow much stronger than it was
35 previously. I feel closer to God than I have probably my entire life.

36 -Wesley has been a place where I feel safe to share my struggles in life because I know people
37 will support me and help me. I can comfortably learn about God because we always have great
38 messages with our leaders and I know I'll always have a good time. It's just a safe space for
39 everyone where we can escape our stress-filled lives for a little while and focus on the positives
40 in life.

41 -Wesley means a lot to me for all of those reasons above. Getting involved with the Wesley
42 group was one of the best (if not THE best) parts of my year. It has helped me begin to climb out
43 of a dark spot in my life and start a new chapter. It's the first time I've truly felt like I belong in
44 college.

45 **Cory Williams:**

46 -Wesley has been a place where I can meet and pray with friends each and every week!

1 **Joshua Huddleston:**

2 Because of CSU Wesley, I have a group of like-minded college students who remind me every
3 week that I'm not the only one going through struggles in life and that they will support me
4 through these trials and tribulations. CSU Wesley has been a place where I get to develop
5 spiritually and where I get to develop better interpersonal relationships and leadership abilities.
6

7 **105.g. Georgia Gwinnett Wesley Annual Report: Togetherness**
8

9 1. Ministry is something that thrives off of people coming together to lead people to
10 Jesus. Zoe says " Meeting in person again reminds me of how cool people interactions are and
11 how awesome my friends are!" We have seen it first hand through the students at the school
12 there is no better feeling than a sense of togetherness. Finding that was difficult at first but now
13 we have built back up and are doing better than ever! Alvin said "Worshiping in person helps
14 people connect and bond through sharing the same faith. It is also great hearing the different
15 stories that other people have."

16 2. We have received or heard many stories from students where being able to come
17 together has benefited them tremendously. This story from student Hannah Talbert stuck out the
18 most, she said. I was talking to a student who hadn't been to worship in a while. The pandemic
19 had affected her really badly, and she had been feeling really isolated. She showed up to worship
20 and I watched as she broke into tears in the middle of the first song. Her hands were
21 raised, and I could tell that this specific song was touching her. She came up to me afterwards
22 and told me that she had been struggling at home and the first song we played that day was the
23 song that had been on repeat in her playlist for weeks. She told me that this had been the one
24 song that had been helping her get through a really tough time in her life and it's almost like
25 this worship experience was trying to reach her just by playing this song.

26 3. Just as simple as that, Thank you! Being in ministry can be difficult at times and I
27 know this pandemic has affected us all in many ways. That being said we would not have been
28 able to continue throughout the pandemic and come back together now if it were not for you all.
29 The impact you have had on these students is incredible so thank you for your continued support
30 throughout it all!

31
32 Ryan Shostak
33 Director Georgia Gwinnett College
34

35 **105.h. Georgia Southern Wesley**
36

37 The past 18 months have been filled with challenges and lots of changes, but through it
38 all at Georgia Southern Wesley we have heard the call to become a more vital and vibrant
39 community for our students. This year Wesley came together for moments of community,
40 discipleship, and worship, and it has been a joy to see God impact the hearts and lives of students
41 on our campus. Our work this year has been to provide a caring and Christ-centered community
42 in the midst of all of the changes that are swirling around our students.

43 This fall our students organized a night for prayer for Afghanistan, Haiti, Louisiana, our
44 campus, and community. We gathered at Sweetheart Circle, at the center of our campus, and
45 saw students lift their hearts in praise and band together for prayer. Their prayers are moving us

1 to spend our spring break serving in Louisiana to put our prayers into action to bring relief to
2 people's hearts and lives in Jesus' name.

3 This year we partnered with a new fraternity on campus—Brothers Under Christ (BYX).
4 BYX is currently using Wesley as their primary weekly meeting location. This partnership has
5 allowed us to impact even more students and has helped us create bridges to serve our campus
6 and community together. It's our hope that this is the first of many partnerships that build unity
7 in the body of Christ and increases our impact on campus.

8 We also partnered with TMS Global to beta test an exciting new discipleship curriculum
9 that will help equip our students to be missionaries in their own culture and context. Throughout
10 this past semester students have learned about God's mission, their role as disciples in growing
11 God's kingdom, and how they can share their faith right where they are. We are excited to
12 continue this partnership with TMS Global into the future by sending students into missions at
13 home and around the world.

14 At Georgia Southern Wesley we are committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ
15 through community, discipleship, and worship. While we don't know what the future holds, we
16 know that our future is held in God's hands. We believe that we can face any challenge that
17 comes our way through prayer, partnership, and pressing into God's presence.

18
19 Rev. Dr. Jonathan Smith, Director
20 Georgia Southern Wesley

21 22 **105.i. Wesley Foundation at Georgia Tech**

23
24 The COVID-19 pandemic threw us a curveball with the Delta variant in September but
25 our focus on student safety in worship, small-groups, and service projects enabled Tech Wesley
26 to continue to thrive. Your generous support contributed to this student ministry remaining
27 dynamic and vital in the spiritual growth of the students during the pandemic.

28 We kicked off the new academic year with a joyous event. One of our students, Jack
29 McConnell, was baptized during the first outdoor Tuesday evening worship service of the
30 semester with over 60 students in attendance! Your continued financial support enabled our
31 student worship band and our setup team to purchase new speakers and a new lighting system to
32 enhance the student's worship experience. Our new mobile wireless audiovisual system can
33 livestream both our indoor and outdoor worship services and post them to our website and to
34 social media.

35 The Tech Wesley student ministry is an environment of inclusion and hospitality where
36 the students grow in relationship with God and with one another. This fall over 30 students went
37 on our Fall 2021 Student Retreat. We worshiped, had Bible studies, played games, and cooked
38 wonderful meals together at a rental facility here in Georgia. Tech Wesley could not have offered
39 this subsidized student experience without our donor's generous financial support. Here's a
40 testimonial from one of our student leaders, Katherine Gray, regarding her retreat experience:
41 *"Pastor Geoff! I wanted to let you know that the retreat was one of the highlights of my college*
42 *experience so far, both spiritually and socially. Thank you so much for making it happen and*
43 *coordinating everything."* It's wonderful to see God at work in the lives of our students.

44
45 Warmest Regards,
46 Rev. Geoff Beakley (Director)

1 **105.j. Kennesaw State Wesley**

2
3 As of 2019 Covid took our world by storm and showed us things can change within a
4 blink of an eye, and as we approach 2022 “togetherness” has pushed us to make things happen.
5 Without the support of campus ministries, staff, communities and overall the students we
6 wouldn’t be able to successfully come together and worship, through togetherness it has given
7 this community the opportunity to thrive.

8 **Think About This**

9 1. What has it been like to find a sense of togetherness? What is it like to meet in person
10 now and be able to worship?

11 Togetherness has been a priority for us this year at Kennesaw State. During the peak of the
12 pandemic our students felt the tremendous weight of separation in their lives, and as we have
13 treated this semester as a fresh start, I have truly seen joy in their hearts as they are able to live
14 life together again. Their excitement to learn, intentionally connect, earnestly worship, and have
15 new experiences warms my heart.

16 One of the biggest things that our students had been missing over the past year was a sense of
17 togetherness in worship. Through my conversations with them, it feels like we never really
18 stopped. I thought that it would be difficult to build back up the ministry to what it was before.
19 Though we have our own unique set of challenges, being able to worship together, on campus, in
20 a safe environment has truly allowed students to connect with what God is doing here in
21 Kennesaw.

22 2. What is a specific story from a student in which they’ve benefited from being together
23 worshipping?

24 “The people that I met have helped shape who I am today. Being back in worship has helped me
25 grow in my faith and challenge me to take ownership of the things around me. The people here
26 allow me to develop my strengths and understand who I really am. I don’t think I would be
27 where I am today without the support of Wesley.” -Drew

28 “I was starting to get discouraged by not being on campus. Not having weekly worship or
29 community groups meant that I was just sitting around most of the time. Being back together, I
30 remember the importance I place of worship and community.” - Joe

31 We have a freshman student this year that has been struggling with mental and physical health
32 issues over the past few years. Being involved in worship and community on campus has
33 helped him find the confidence and a safe place to share some of the things that he has been
34 afraid to confront. Through talking with him this semester we have been able to set him up with
35 counseling services, as well as working with a health coach at the wellness center. If we had not
36 been back together, we may have never met Cam.

37 3. If you could say “Thank you” to the churches, ministries, chaplains, donators, etc., what
38 would you say?

39 We honestly thank you for the support you have given us over the past year. We have been able
40 to overcome so many challenges, and can celebrate the fact that we are able to have an active
41 presence on campus today. That is directly thanks to your support. I pray that with these gifts we
42 continue to show students the life change that comes with the Gospel, and help shape the city of
43 Kennesaw into one that knows the love of Jesus Christ.

44
45 Sam Kellum

46 Director, Kennesaw State Wesley

1 **105.k. LaGrange College Building Bridges with Service**
2

3 Students in LaGrange College’s Wilkinson Family Servant Scholars Program have been
4 preparing meals, organizing events and mentoring youth as they continue to address needs in the
5 Troup County area.

6 The group of 12 juniors and seniors has taken on issues such as hunger, literacy and the
7 importance of unity in this year’s work.

8 Jeff Lukken, director of the program, said even COVID couldn’t stop the students.
9 “We had to change how we operated Our Daily Bread, our outreach that serves hot meals every
10 Friday to the needy,” he said. “Now we offer to-go meals at our location in a local church. Our
11 Daily Bread has been operating since 2013, and we’re proud to continue that project.”

12 Servant Scholars prepares campus leaders by linking them with community leaders and mentors
13 to study local needs—and decide how to best meet them.

14 Each year, 12 juniors are chosen to start their two-year journey in the program. While living as a
15 community at Broad Street Apartments located halfway between the campus and downtown
16 LaGrange, each student is engaged in active learning and service through individual internships
17 at local nonprofits.

18 At the end of the year, the students compare their experiences and choose a single need to
19 address as seniors.

20 “This year, the seniors’ Project Unity has been working with Dr. Robert Tucker and his
21 board to assist the struggling Calumet neighborhood,” said Lukken. “The effort includes helping
22 create a sense of community, ownership and a cohesive bond among the diverse group of
23 families living there.”

24 After talking with area leaders, church elders and residents, the Scholars reached out in
25 various ways – for example, the Calumet Fall Festival included a free cookout, games,
26 storytelling and a book fair.

27 Other activities included a Trunk of Treat cookout at Halloween with the assistance of
28 college Greek organizations; a health and wellness fair featuring meals, testing, checkups and
29 diagnostic evaluations from LC nursing students, LaGrange fire and emergency, and other health
30 providers from the region; and a toy drive with donations from students, faculty and staff for
31 Christmas gifts for the children of the Calumet community.

32 Plans for the spring include a career and jobs fair, tree plantings, adult computer literacy, Little
33 Free Libraries, social media neighborhood platforms, a community garden, a literacy and
34 mentoring program, learning trails and working with city leaders on new sidewalks, security
35 lights and a community outdoor grill.

36 One of the aims of the Servant Scholars Program is to stress the importance of working
37 together, Lukken said.

38 “The development of independence, empowerment and pride for the people and
39 communities we serve is essential,” Lukken said.

40 *Georgia’s oldest private institution of higher learning, LaGrange College is consistently*
41 *ranked among the South’s top colleges by U.S. News & World Report. A four-year liberal arts*
42 *and sciences college affiliated with the United Methodist Church, LaGrange offers more than 50*
43 *areas of study with an emphasis on global engagement and service.*
44
45
46

1 **105. I. Wesley of Macon**
2

3 Today, the Wesley House at 1280 College Street is a happy place. For too long, it was
4 quiet as students were learning from home. Now, the house is full of residents again and is
5 hosting everything from small groups to craft nights to Foosball throwdowns.

6 The Wesley House is an intentional community space in Macon for college-aged young
7 adults to come, relax, share a meal, and grow in their faith together. Now that operations are
8 back in full swing, if you come visit the Wesley House throughout the week, you may find us
9 praying together every weekday at 8:30am, or maybe even discover us worshipping together at a
10 Friday Night Worship, where students and young adults from all over are welcome to come and
11 worship God together. Then there are FAM nights (Fire and Meat), crafting events, free popsicle
12 day, game nights, and Freshley, a freshman only Bible Study and fellowship.

13 These programs are all a part extending the grace and hospitality that God has shown to
14 us to everyone who walks through the front door. The house is a gift and a place to rest. For so
15 many, the Wesley House becomes a spiritual home as they navigate the college-age questions of
16 who God is calling them to be. Regardless of who students are or what they are going through,
17 there is a couch for them. Natalie, a sophomore at Mercer, recently said “The Wes House is an
18 open couch. It’s a space where anyone is invited and there is no agenda. You simply are
19 welcomed and cared for.”

20 Creating this space of radical hospitality, worship, prayer, and fellowship is how we serve
21 Jesus and build for the Kingdom in connection with our partners in ministry all across the South
22 Georgia Annual Conference. Thank you for the prayers and support that allow this ministry to
23 exist in connection with you all and empower us to reach so many young people during this
24 pivotal time in their lives.

25 The Wesley of Macon Fall Retreat has always been a special time to connect with new
26 friends, hang out, and grow in faith together. But for the college students and young adults who
27 went on Wesley of Macon's retreat this October, it was even more meaningful because it was the
28 first time they had been able to travel together in almost two years.

29 The young adults were at Camp Kaleo in Forsyth for three days. They led worship,
30 played games, enjoyed good conversations on the rocking chair porch, and savored the time
31 together with friends from three different colleges in Macon. This sort of time away is crucial for
32 these college students. They often are balancing school, jobs, and extracurriculars that can lead
33 to an overwhelming schedule. Retreats like this one help them to rest, unplug, and reinvest in
34 their relationship with God and with one another.

35 Quote from Ashton Bearden, a retreat participant and senior at Mercer University: "I
36 really enjoyed being able to go out into nature and seeking God there. There were times where I
37 would feel at such peace, because of the woods and I just felt God's presence while I was out
38 there. I also really enjoyed coming together with other believers to worship and learn more about
39 God in that space. Worship was something that was really low key and low pressure. It felt like
40 we were all working together to create this beauty harmony of praise to God".

41 The theme for this year’s retreat was “Worth It.” The students explored together both
42 how and why a life devoted to seeking God and loving others is a worthy pursuit. All who came
43 received a custom devotional booklet, individual pastoral counseling, and opportunities to attend
44 breakout session.

45 Rev. Brandon Tolle

46 Director Wesley of Macon

105.m. Emory and Oxford: Inter-Faith Vaccine Ambassadors

More than a dozen Oxford students are partnering with local leaders of communities in need to increase COVID-19 vaccine accessibility and trust through an interfaith program that will run through the end of 2021.

Students from both the Oxford and Emory campuses are participating in The Interfaith Youth Core's (IFYC) Faith in the Vaccine Ambassadors project. Oxford students are using a range of creative activities to raise awareness about COVID-19 vaccines in underserved communities.

Akash Shanmugam, an Oxford continue and rising junior at Emory College, developed the Back-to-School Barbecue: Healthy by Choice community health event in Conyers, Ga. Shanmugam, who is majoring in neuroscience and behavioral biology, wanted to create a community gathering that would earn the support of local government and community organizations. Working with the Helping Hands Outreach Clinic staff, organizers at an August event distributed free barbecue and school supplies to the community, while offering COVID-19 vaccinations, cholesterol and blood pressure screenings, and physicals.

Shanmugam, a California Bay Area resident, had worked with the Helping Hands Clinic for the last two years through an Oxford internship.

"Through my work, I connected with different levels of the Rockdale County community – churches, health clinics, school boards, faith-based summer camps, local pharmaceutical organizations, and county politicians and congressmen," he says. "I learned the meaningful roles they each played in this community and devised ways they could each contribute to improving vaccination rates."

Oxford College Chaplain Lyn Pace 02T 17T, oversaw and served as a mentor to the Oxford ambassadors. After the students completed an IFYC-led training curriculum, Pace provided individual and peer-based support.

"This project came out of our already-established connection with the Interfaith Youth Core," Pace says. "It's a win-win all around because our students get the opportunity to put their classroom and campus learning into practice while also working for good in the community."

Oxford College's Laura Gafnea, director of community relations, and Ricardo Horne 21L, assistant director of Student Involvement and Leadership, came to one of the cohort's early meetings to offer students training on connecting with community partners. Some students also met with them later to help develop those connections.

Another team of Oxford ambassadors is developing a website with vaccine information for young people. They geared the site toward parents and educators of 12-to 18-year-olds who are eligible to get vaccinated.

Sarah Delfino, a rising second-year Oxford student from San Diego, is part of the website group. "We realized that creating the website would be further reaching than partnering with any individual community," Delfino says.

The trio – made up of Delfino together with rising juniors Payton Malone and Alan Sherman – developed their site with resources particularly helpful to Jewish schools in metro Atlanta.

"I truly believe in the vaccine, and I wanted to be able to share information and dispel misinformation to my own faith group," says Malone, who, along with Sherman, was active in Oxford's Jewish Student Union.

1 Malone, who is from Colorado and on Emory’s pre-health dental track, acknowledged the
2 difficulty with getting responses from organizations she reached out to this summer.

3 Yingrong Chen, a rising second-year student from Guangzhou, China, also found it hard
4 to make those first connections with local providers. As her mentor, Pace suggested Chen reach
5 out to Georgia CORE – a crisis response organization partnering with the Georgia Department of
6 Public Health to provide free COVID-19 vaccines through mobile units. Chen spent the summer
7 on the Oxford campus. She coordinated with Georgia CORE and Covington First United
8 Methodist Church to provide free weekly vaccine clinics.

9 “I decided to take part in the ambassador program because, at the beginning of the year,
10 my family took advantage of a similar vaccine promotion program,” says the chemistry major. “I
11 think, in turn, I should help with improving the trust and accessibility of vaccines.”

12 Claire Qu, a rising second-year student from Houston, worked with Willing Helpers
13 (Free) Medical Clinic in Covington. She collected educational information – such as vaccine
14 videos – and made posters for patients and the clinic waiting room.

15 A biology major, Qu is on Emory’s pre-health physician track. She and fellow
16 ambassador Rebecca Deal, a rising second-year student from North Carolina, called higher-risk
17 older adult clients.

18 The duo offered vaccine information and let patients know about the free vaccination
19 clinics that Willing Helpers provided with Piedmont Newton Hospital. Deal, who plans to major
20 in nursing, took part in the ambassador program to better understand vaccine hesitancy through
21 partnerships with local community organizations.

22 Like Qu and Deal, Abel Lindley also plans on a healthcare career and is on Emory’s pre-
23 health physician track.

24 Inter-Faith Vaccine Ambassadors Check In

25 “I took part in the ambassador program to have a more proactive approach to fight the
26 pandemic and create a safer and healthier environment,” says the rising second-year student from
27 Las Vegas.

28 Annabelle Zekeri, a rising junior at Emory College, applied to the ambassador program
29 due to urgent issues uncovered by the pandemic such as health disparities and racial injustice.

30 Zekeri is a biology major who is on Emory’s pre-health physician track.

31 “By working to ensure that more people are vaccinated,” Zekeri says, “I hope to show
32 that all those disproportionately affected by poverty, food insecurity, lack of educational
33 resources, and other factors that contribute to medical disparities can receive access to quality
34 medical attention.”

35 Zekeri originally planned to work in Oxford because she fell in love with the community
36 after serving with Volunteer Oxford (VO) for two years. VO is a year-long program that serves
37 as the liaison between service agencies in the local community and student volunteers.

38 She eventually decided the best option was to work in her hometown of Jefferson, Ga.
39 where she assisted with a pop-up vaccine clinic. She also traveled with Northeast Georgia
40 Department of Health staff in the surrounding area to find more people willing to get vaccinated.

41 In addition, she used her photography skills to enhance the social media presence for
42 Foundations for Living, a non-profit focusing on mental health, career development, domestic
43 violence and HIV prevention.

44

1 Zekeri and her IFYC partner Eunice Amador created a TikTok account on vaccine
2 hesitancy. Amador, a rising junior from Dallas, is also translating publicity into Spanish and
3 distributing it.

4 “Oxford students have shared their gifts with each other and their communities this
5 summer, and they have learned by listening,” Pace says. “As the program extends into the fall,
6 these ambassadors will continue to add to the quality of life in the places where they serve.”

7 Faith in the Vaccine Ambassadors

8 Eunice Amador, Yingrong Chen, Rebecca Deal, Sarah Delfino, Ellen Harnisch, Esther Holmes,
9 Riesa Hoque, Fahd Kapadia, Abel Lindley, Payton Malone, Jiwon Park, Claire Qu, Akash
10 Shanmugam, Alan Sherman, Annabelle Zeker

11 12 **105.n. Reinhardt University**

13 14 **What has it been like to find a sense of togetherness? What is it like to meet in person now 15 and be able to worship?**

16 (From various students) It’s been very uplifting. We feel like we can form stronger bonds now that
17 we can gather indoors with other believers. We feel bonds between us getting stronger. We are
18 feeding off of each other to grow our faith. Worship doesn’t feel the same when we do it alone.

19 20 **What is a specific story from a student in which they’ve benefited from being together 21 worshipping?**

22 Olivia is a freshman who sings on our worship team. During the sermon of our first Common
23 Ground Worship Service she received a text that her grandfather, who had been sick, had taken a
24 turn for the worse. He was on his deathbed. After receiving the text, she knew she had to go back
25 and sing for our closing set, but also felt all the emotions of sadness and grief come over her. In
26 that moment she decided to look to Jesus and let him and the fellowship of other believers bring
27 her comfort and joy. That decision came through in the passion of her worship during the closing
28 set. Her worship was so powerful that everyone in the room could feel her love for God and others.
29 In the days following, her grandfather passed away. Although it was so sad, she leaned on worship
30 and the friendships she made during worship to get her through this tough situation.

31 32 **If you could say “Thank you” to the churches, ministries, chaplains, donators, etc., what 33 would you say?**

34 Thank you. Your work is making an eternal impact. It is changing lives. It is building bridges,
35 making disciples, and helping people come into a real and meaningful relationship with Jesus
36 Christ.

37 Josh Garner,
38 Chaplain, Reinhardt University

39 40 **105.p. University of North Georgia Testimonies**

41
42 I’m Justin Black, I’m a sophomore at UNG and I started coming to Wesley about a year
43 ago. I started coming with my roommates my freshman year and I instantly fell in love with the
44 people and the environment. Unfortunately I had to move away from Dahlonega and attend the
45 Gainesville campus due to my major. It was one of the hardest decisions that I had to make but I
46 figured that it was bound to happen anyways so I might as well just take the opportunity and

1 make it positive. I knew when I moved that I still wanted to see the friends that I had made
2 during my time in Dahlonega and UNG Wesley gave me a way to do that. I live by myself and in
3 Gainesville and don't have many friends up there but Wesley has given me people to spend time
4 with and it's also given me such a big community of people who I know love me. I'm always in
5 a good mood when I know that I get to see my friends in Dahlonega on Wednesdays and I can't
6 thank Nathan and Josh and the whole Wesley program enough for the community that they've
7 created there.

8 I'm Kathleen Metzger. Worship and community have always been super important to
9 me. The intimacy of worship and the way it allows you to be vulnerable before God has always
10 been super special to me because I have never been very good at being vulnerable with people.
11 When I came to college and started attending Wesley was when I found a true community that
12 loved me exactly where I was at and always kept me grounded in the truth of the gospel. There
13 was this one really special moment that sticks out to me during one Wesley service my freshman
14 year of college, when I was having a difficult time handling the death of a loved one. We were
15 singing "simple gospel", which is a song that was sung at her funeral, and a few of my friends
16 just surrounded me and started praying these incredible prayers over me and the love that I felt
17 and the support that comes from a solid community meant the world to me. That moment is one I
18 will never forget because there was something so healing about being vulnerable with people and
19 letting them care for you and love you well. Being able to worship with and do life with people
20 also seeking out the kingdom of God is one of the biggest blessings.

21 Nathan Dickens

22 Director, University of North Georgia Wesley

24 **105.q. University of West Georgia**

26 Retreat

27 Wesleys at the University of West Georgia, Columbus State University, and Lagrange
28 College joined together this October for a fall retreat in Tallapoosa, Georgia. The focus for the
29 weekend was on grace: how we have all been touched by God's grace, how we can open
30 ourselves up to receive God's grace daily, and how we can be a vessel of God's grace for our
31 campuses. Students worshiped, prayed, ate, hiked, put together puzzles, and played games
32 together, forming relationships with one another and deepening their relationship with God.

33 "This was my first retreat and I had a great time! The other students were friendly and
34 relatable. Making those relationships made the experience worthwhile. If given the chance, I'd
35 love to do it again." Jamal Roberts

37 Prayer Tabling

38 The Wesley Foundation at UWG changed its approach to tabling on campus this
39 semester. In the past, the primary focus for tabling was disseminating information about the
40 ministry and upcoming events as well as passing out branded items. That information and those
41 gifts are still present whenever we go on campus, but the focus is different. This semester, we
42 wanted to communicate that we are united with our campus in the midst of the personal and
43 corporate struggles that we all experience and we wanted to serve our fellow students in prayer,
44 so we started prayer tabling. We tell every student that walks by that we'd love to pray for them
45 and give them an opportunity to write a prayer request for themselves, their loved ones, or the
46 campus as a whole. We then take those prayer requests and pray over them during our worship

1 time on Wednesday nights so that we can intercede for our fellow students. Not only has this
2 helped us connect with new students and meet a need on campus, but it has deepened our
3 corporate worship experiences by including a time of intercession during small group prayer on a
4 consistent basis.

5
6 Quotes

7 “Prayer tabling has been a different experience because we are able to connect with the
8 students in a different way than during traditional tabling. You get to ask the students to share
9 their thoughts and prayers and we can give them comfort that our ministry is there thinking and
10 praying over them. It allows us to be intentional and meaningful with our interactions to the
11 students on campus.” -Michelle Bagnic

12 Rev. Sam Dawkins,
13 Director, University of West Georgia

14
15 **105.r. Wesley Foundation at Valdosta State University**

16
17 Wow, what a school year! Like other ministry leaders across the country, our approach at
18 Wesley was to balance the physical health concerns with the spiritual and emotional needs of the
19 students. Once the university decided to bring students back for the fall semester, this led us to
20 embrace the mantra that "different is better than canceled."

21 Two key components of our discipleship culture, Freshley and our Wesley Wednesday
22 gatherings, continued but in modified form. We realized that this incoming freshmen class had so
23 much of their senior year canceled so we did everything we could to offer them a great freshmen
24 experience. Freshley was moved outside with masks, and freshmen still came to enjoy the food
25 trucks, worship, and small groups that Freshley entails. Our Wesley Wednesday worship
26 gatherings continued in the student union theater with prayer at 7pm and worship at 8pm. We
27 adjusted our on-campus services to comply with university standards. This meant that our
28 worship team sang with masks on, and I preached with a mask all year. This lead team
29 persevered like no other.

30 At one Wesley Wednesday, we hosted a panel discussion on mental health to address and
31 alleviate the upsurge of mental health issues caused by the pandemic. The panel addressed
32 destigmatizing mental health, anxiety, depression, emotional health, suicide awareness, and
33 being a good friend towards those who struggle with mental health issues. Please be in prayer as
34 this is a major issue on the college campus.

35 Our Jamaica mission trip that was postponed literally one day before we were to leave in
36 March 2020, was able to happen at the end of May 2021. We rejoice that we were able to partner
37 with IsleGo Missions to build a little blue house and experience the Kingdom of God in the
38 beautiful country of Jamaica. Friends, so much happened this past year through VSU Wesley. I
39 know you join me in being proud of our student leaders and how they adapted to offer
40 discipleship opportunities.

41
42 His for the students at VSU,
43 Rev. C.J. Harp

1 **105.s. Wesleyan College**
2

3 Faith and service are cornerstones of the Wesleyan College mission. We cherish our
4 longstanding affiliation with The United Methodist Church and are grateful for the spiritual
5 grounding that relationship provides. Wesleyan’s office of campus ministry serves the entire
6 campus community and offers students ample opportunities to explore their faith and discern
7 their calling in the world. Programming like retreats, pilgrimage weekends, and shared
8 fellowship opportunities also provide welcome respite from the rigors of the academic year.

9 In addition, a variety of organizations enhance the religious life on campus with Bible
10 studies, workshop experiences, trips, retreats, and social activities—student organizations like
11 the Wesleyan Foundation, Baptist Collegiate Ministries, Fellowship of Christian Athletes,
12 Reformed University Fellowship, and the Episcopal and Lutheran Fellowship. Additional student
13 leadership is provided by the Wesleyan Disciples, Servant Leaders, and student interns for
14 Wesleyan’s faith and service activities.

15 Wesleyan emphasizes a Culture of C.A.R.E. which focuses on the importance of
16 Community, Accountability, Respect, and Equity. The Lane Center for Social and Racial Equity
17 leads the campus and surrounding community in celebrating diversity, practicing inclusion, and
18 striving for equity. Creating a sense of belonging and caring is rooted in the integration of faith
19 and service, as is the role of faith and service programming in helping students discern their
20 vocations and chart a course to become who they are called to be. We are blessed to have a core
21 of leaders who are also clergy, who address the many challenges faced by students and the
22 campus community in pastoral ways. We are seeing the fruits of these labors in the climate of
23 care, belonging, and sense of purpose that thrives today at Wesleyan College.
24

25 **105.t. Young Harris College Shines a Light on Student Mental Health**
26

27 Season’s greetings from Young Harris College! As the president of YHC, I want to take a
28 moment to highlight one of our institution’s key focus areas this past year: improving student
29 mental health.

30 Due to the pandemic, students on many campuses are experiencing an increase in mental
31 health challenges as we all navigate how best to move forward in uncertain times. YHC is
32 innovating our approach—both expanding traditional counseling services and implementing
33 creative initiatives that help students experience joy.

34 Earlier this year, YHC partnered with the Virtual Care Group to expand our students’
35 access to counseling services, including extended hours, appointments available 7 days a week,
36 and access to a network of counselors who are as diverse as our student body. Whether our
37 students choose virtual counseling or our on-campus counselor, there is not an additional fee for
38 counseling services.

39 Additionally, YHC’s Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) focuses on proactively
40 addressing issues before they become crises. BIT is a non-emergency responding body. Members
41 of the YHC community—including students, faculty, staff, and parents—are encouraged to
42 report incidents involving students who are exhibiting concerning behavior or signs of distress.
43 BIT then conducts an investigation and determines the best mechanisms for support,
44 intervention, and response.

45 There are many creative ways we’re focused on bringing joy to the YHC campus. One
46 popular example is our Doggie De-stress events, where we invite faculty and staff members to

1 bring their pets to campus to calm our students near exam time. Our Student Development team
2 has also implemented Mental Health Mondays. Each Monday, the team offers a pop-up program
3 that encourages students to take their focus off of themselves and the issues that weigh them
4 down. Often, this means taking part in a project that puts the focus on providing joy and
5 gratitude to others.

6 One week, students took old keys that were repurposed into “Giving Keys.” Each key had
7 a tag with an encouraging word like “peace,” “hope,” and “confidence.” The students took a key
8 that resonated with them and were prompted to pass it on to a friend who needed an uplifting
9 word. Another week, students wrote thank you cards to those who keep our campus running,
10 including the groundskeepers and housekeepers. Students’ spirits were lifted by lifting the spirits
11 of others.

12 These are just a few examples of how YHC is educating our students holistically—not
13 just in academics, but also in mind, body, and spirit. The Wesleyan tradition calls for a trained
14 mind and a warm heart, and our increased focus on mental health sits at the intersection of both.

15
16 Drew L. Van Horn, Ph.D., President of Young Harris College

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1 **106. Georgia United Methodist Foundation, Inc.**

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3 The Georgia United Methodist Foundation serves as a nonprofit extension agency of The
4 United Methodist Church. The Foundation’s value proposition is rooted in our purpose and
5 mission, which is not replicated by any other financial institution available to Methodists in
6 Georgia.

7 The purpose of the Georgia United Methodist Foundation is to partner with
8 congregations, organizations, and individuals in direct support of the ministries and mission of
9 the church. In this way, the Foundation is a ministry partner as we seek to live out our mission to
10 provide faith-based financial solutions for investing, lending, training, and planned giving.

11 Importantly, the Foundation delivers advanced faith-based financial solutions in
12 partnership with Wespath Institutional Investments. This partnership enables the Foundation to
13 offer Georgia Methodists access to a respected team of Wespath advisors who manage the largest
14 reporting faith-based pension fund in the world. Wespath and its subsidiaries manage over \$29
15 billion in assets (including \$5 billion for more than 100 institutional clients). The work of the
16 Foundation, in partnership with Wespath, enables Georgia Methodists to be good stewards of the
17 financial resources entrusted to them by God while living out a strong Christian witness through
18 socially responsible investment practices.

19 Thank you for your support of the Foundation. Please reach out if we can assist you as an
20 individual or if we can be helpful to your church, organization, school, college, or university.

21 To learn more, please contact the Georgia United Methodist Foundation:

22
23 Phone: 770-449-6726

24 Email: info@gumf.org

25 Web: gumf.org

26
27 Respectfully submitted,
28 Mathew A. Pinson, President and CEO
29 The Rev. Dr. Rick Lanford, Regional Vice President
30 Kathryn H. Dennis, Chair of the Board of Trustees
31 Ruth A. Knox, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees
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3 **107. Hinton Rural Life Center**

4 In 2021, Hinton Rural Life Center celebrated 60 years of serving annual conferences in
5 the Southeastern Jurisdiction through equipping clergy and local churches (particularly small,
6 rural churches) and offering opportunities for individuals and church groups to serve in Safe and
7 Healthy Home Repair missions and/or come for retreats and renewal time, experiencing God’s
8 presence and blessing at our 33-acre campus in the Appalachian Mountains. (Check out
9 *Embracing Our Roots* and *Sharing the Fruits* videos at www.hintoncenter.org/about-us to learn
10 about Hinton’s beginnings and the impact of our ministries.) The anniversary celebration
11 provided a year-long opportunity to reflect on the many ways that Hinton, our local community,
12 and generations of United Methodist clergy, retreat groups, and mission teams have experienced
13 God’s faithfulness, and which we continue to experience today!

14 With the support of local volunteers and mission teams, as well as generous support from
15 individual, organizational, and United Methodist churches (Board of Global Ministries Advance
16 Project #731372), Hinton was able to offer relational and impactful ministries. Highlights of
17 2021 include:

- 18 • Completed 123 home repair projects on 25 different homes and 4 nonprofits in our area,
19 prioritizing and addressing the health and safety of homeowners.
- 20 • Hosted over 400 mission participants.
- 21 • Installed vegetable gardens for homeowners to support their nutritional well-being.
- 22 • Provided over 570 loads of firewood to over 480 families/individuals, who heat
23 primarily with wood.
- 24 • Premiered our House on Wheels (HOW) mobile teaching unit to promote home safety
25 awareness and practices in our local community and with our volunteers.
- 26 • Provided local and missional leadership training for more than 35 adults and young
27 people.
- 28 • Provided over 300 children with new clothes at Christmas through Christmas Care.
- 29 • Began installation and enhancements of trails and Sanctuary Gardens on our campus for
30 individuals and groups to experience rest and renewal for mind, body, and soul.

31
32 Another exciting highlight was the planning and promotion of Theotokos Confirmation
33 Retreats, which launched in March of 2022. All four weekends filled, with groups from North
34 Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee. Content focus is on the vows of membership
35 (prayers, presence, gifts, service, witness), biblical stories of call, and services of baptism
36 renewal and Holy Communion. Hinton also developed and now offers a digital confirmation
37 resource, *Theotokos Connections*, designed to be small-church relevant and accessible, but
38 available for any size church.

39
40 Respectfully submitted,
41 Jacqueline Gottlieb
42 CEO and President
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1 **108. United Methodist Connectional Federal Credit Union Chairperson’s Report**
2

3 Your United Methodist Connectional Federal Credit Union began in 1960 serving pastors
4 of the North Georgia and South Georgia Conferences. Today we are open to all United
5 Methodists in the North Georgia, South Georgia, Florida, and Alabama West Florida
6 Conferences.

7 The Board of Directors, management, and staff have worked diligently during the 2020-
8 21 pandemic crisis to ensure our financial stability and serve our members with the best service
9 and attention possible. As a result, in 2021 our 3,382 members increased their share deposits
10 from \$28,905,665 to \$31,265,450.

11 In 2020-21 your Credit Union served over 100 churches by providing over \$5,000,000 in
12 loans through the government backed Paycheck Protection Program. We are glad to have aided
13 local churches to continue their ministries and not be so concerned about programs and salaries.

14 We showed a \$2,406,530 increase in assets (7.5%) in 2021 and lowered operating
15 expenses by \$21,048 or 1.6%. Also, we saw a 42.4% of \$4,637,855 increase in investments.

16 One of the ways we give back to our members and serve the conferences is by giving
17 four \$1,000 scholarships to one student from each of the four Annual Conferences.

18 Every United Methodist is eligible to be a member of the United Methodist Connectional
19 Federal Credit Union and financially benefit from our low-cost services which include:
20

- 21 ✓ Low interest credit cards
- 22 ✓ Auto loan buying service with incentives
- 23 ✓ Mortgage Loans
- 24 ✓ Church Loans and Accounts
- 25 ✓ Financial counseling to help manage one’s budget

26
27 Your United Methodist Connectional Federal Credit Union exists to serve you with financial
28 systems that promote Christian stewardship. Your Board of Directors, Management, and Staff
29 are working every day to ensure the success and stability of your Credit Union now and in the
30 future.

31
32 Max C. Caylor, Chairperson
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| | Summary as of 12/31/20 | Summary as of 12/31/2021 |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Assets | | |
| Cash | \$287,393.76 | \$295,384.37 |
| Loans To Members | \$18,059,813.86 | \$15,707,675.24 |
| Loan Participation | \$1,745,120.30 | \$1,477,120.46 |
| Allowance for Loan Losses | -\$73,125.84 | -\$76,060.63 |
| Other Receivables | \$32,857.44 | \$453,133.29 |
| Investments | \$10,929,467.93 | \$15,567,323.47 |
| Accrued Income | \$64,656.47 | \$47,052.08 |
| Prepaid Exp & Defer Charges | \$46,525.36 | \$53,243.66 |
| Fixed Assets | \$804,238.62 | \$778,606.04 |
| All Other Assets | \$47,075.00 | \$47,075.00 |
| Total Assets | \$31,944,022.90 | \$34,350,552.98 |
| Liabilities | | |
| Accounts Payable | \$19,815.92 | \$19,981.79 |
| Dividends Payable | \$0.01 | \$0.00 |
| Notes Payable | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Taxes Payable | \$5,409.94 | \$287.49 |
| Accrued Expenses | \$117,067.52 | \$115,187.53 |
| Deferred Credits | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Other Liabilities | \$18,514.56 | \$25,392.95 |
| Total Liabilities | \$160,807.95 | \$160,849.76 |
| Equity | | |
| Shares of Members | \$28,905,665.38 | \$31,265,450.63 |
| Reserves | \$682,937.04 | \$682,937.04 |
| Undivided Earnings | \$2,129,588.93 | \$2,194,612.53 |
| Net Income | \$65,023.60 | \$46,703.02 |
| Total Equity | \$31,783,214.95 | \$34,189,703.22 |
| Total Liabilities & Equity | \$31,944,022.90 | \$34,350,552.98 |

| Income Statement | Summary as of 12/31/20 | Summary as of 12/31/2021 |
|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Interest on Loans | \$1,051,908.76 | \$1,000,020.05 |
| Income on Investments | \$100,768.74 | \$30,526.83 |
| Fees & Charges | \$147,702.85 | \$188,459.91 |
| Other Operating Income | \$180,514.63 | \$204,519.83 |
| Operating Income | \$1,480,894.98 | \$1,423,526.62 |
| Operating Expenses | | |
| Compensation | \$596,226.84 | \$592,573.35 |
| Employee Benefits | \$205,453.45 | \$217,017.61 |
| Travel & Conference | \$17,645.43 | \$16,721.79 |
| Association Dues | \$17,037.72 | \$12,082.00 |
| Office Occupancy | \$48,784.52 | \$51,919.53 |
| Office Operations | \$111,799.90 | \$101,512.53 |
| Education & Promotion | \$31,339.78 | \$36,619.02 |
| Loan Servicing | \$76,698.96 | \$72,967.65 |
| Prof & Outside | \$190,111.41 | \$186,734.28 |
| Provision for Loan Losses | \$1,600.00 | -\$11,730.71 |
| Member Insurance | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Federal Operating Fee | \$7,639.05 | \$6,027.90 |
| Interest on Borrowed | \$0.00 | \$100.00 |
| Cash Short/Over | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Annual Meeting | \$1,250.00 | \$2,523.64 |
| Miscellaneous | \$6,419.39 | \$5,889.46 |
| Total Operating Expenses | \$1,312,006.45 | \$1,290,958.05 |
| Income From Operations | \$168,888.53 | \$132,568.57 |
| Income Before Dividends | \$168,888.53 | \$132,568.57 |
| Dividends | \$103,864.93 | \$85,865.55 |
| Gain/(Loss) on Assets | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Net Income | \$65,023.60 | \$46,703.02 |

1 **200. Center for Clergy Excellence**

2
3 The Center for Clergy Excellence is once again preparing for a change in leadership with
4 the appointment of Alice Rogers beginning July 1, 2022. We would like to thank Bernice W.
5 Kirkland for her service to CCE as the former director. Since December 2021 the Center for
6 Clergy Excellence has been served by interim director Terry Walton.

7 The Center for Clergy Excellence provides support to the bishop, cabinet, and Board of
8 Ordained Ministry. We work with the annual conference and districts in all matters of
9 credentialing of candidates for certification, the licensing of Local Pastors, and the
10 commissioning and ordination of provisional elders and deacons. We work to provide resources
11 and training that equips those from the discerning stage to retirement. We support our candidates
12 and clergy by providing required trainings, educational growth programs, and opportunities for
13 meaningful fellowship. When needed we work with clergy at the request of the cabinet to
14 provide counseling resources, and/or training for leadership development and effectiveness. It is
15 the Center for Clergy Excellence's task to also maintain all personal and supervisory records, as
16 directed by the general church guidelines for all candidates and clergy.

17 During the last year we launched one new program to help with the growth and
18 development of our clergy, CAST Coaching. We had 15 clergy participate in 60 hours of training
19 to equip them for coaching opportunities throughout the conference.

20 Leigh Martin has diligently served as the ACE Coordinator since the program began in
21 2018. Prior to the COVID19 Pandemic, ACE launched a total of 17 clergy peer learning groups,
22 with 108 clergy participating in all. Group activities were disrupted due to the pandemic and all
23 ACE groups were granted an extra year to continue their work together. New groups were not
24 launched in 2021 due to the extension given to the current groups. However, in early 2022, ACE
25 launched seven new clergy peer learning groups with 53 active clergy participating. Clergy are
26 drawn to this program as they look for ways to connect with their colleagues so that they can
27 bond, learn, and dream together. We plan to launch more groups in 2023.

28 As we move through 2022, we will be working to create and provide a conference wide
29 Clergy Ethics Training for the early part of 2023. We are eager to return to in-person seminary
30 visits with the decline of Covid-19 and campus restrictions being removed. We had three very
31 successful virtual visits with all our seminaries in the fall, but we seek to better support and
32 engage our students by visiting them on campus. Relationship-building with our candidates for
33 ministry is vital for the retention of these candidates.

34 We are pleased that Lindsay Geist, Director of Wellbeing, will join the Clergy Excellence
35 Team. The position of Director of Wellbeing has been evolving and incubating for the past two
36 years. Under the leadership of Hal Jones, Terry Walton, and Bishop Sue, the need for clergy,
37 church staffs, and congregations to be proactive in seeking well-being assistance has proven
38 critical. The North Georgia Conference recognizes the pressing need to provide emotional and
39 psychological support services for clergy and congregations. As Director, Lindsay will provide
40 strategic guidance, support, and resources for the mission and ministry of the United Methodist
41 Church through advocacy, education, and navigation of well-being resources.

42 In closing, I wish to thank the Assistant Director, Michelle Levan, and Vocational
43 Liaison, Leigh Martin, for their work and commitment to the Center for Clergy Excellence.
44 Michelle's knowledge and experience with CCE has been a great help to me during his time of
45 transition as Interim Director. Leigh Martin has taken on additional responsibilities with the CCE
46 during the last year in addition to her work with ACE. For their support, guidance, and

1 willingness to work harder during transitions, I'm thankful. We look forward to welcoming Alice
2 Rogers and Lindsay Geist to the team this summer!

3
4 Rev. Dr. Terry Walton, Interim Director, Center for Clergy Excellence
5

6 7 **200.a. Board of Ordained Ministry** 8

9 The Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) supports individuals on the journey toward
10 ordination and encourages clergy to live their call meaningfully. In addition to interviewing
11 potential candidates for ordained ministry, the BOM cultivates new candidates for ordination,
12 nurtures provisional members of the conference through Residency In Ministry groups (RIM),
13 and requires continuing education of all clergy.

14 In the fall, the BOM welcomed back Catherine Meeks, Executive Director of the
15 Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing, with an online conversation to continue the dialogue
16 on race, issues of inequality, and racial healing. The time spent with Meeks was one of fruitful
17 discussion and engagement. It allowed the BOM to express concerns about racial inequality and
18 how these concerns can be addressed through the work of the BOM.

19 This was the second year the BOM implemented the new interview process for
20 provisional and full-connection candidates. This new process is a holistic approach that presents
21 the candidate wholly before a team. The goal is to provide the candidates with multiple levels of
22 support throughout the process and allow our interview teams to experience the work and
23 ministry of each candidate in its entirety. This process in no way diminishes the significance or
24 the intensity of the interviews. On the contrary, it allows for continuity and strengthens the
25 discernment needed by the BOM when assessing a candidate for being "fit and ready" and
26 determining "effectiveness" in ministry. The Board has been pleased by the new interview
27 process and considers it an effective method for interviewing clergy candidates.

28 The BOM once again opted for a hybrid interview model. The interviews were held at the
29 Crowne Plaza in Peachtree City. Candidates could choose either an in-person or online
30 interview. For the in-person interviews, the team leader from the BOM was present to help
31 facilitate this interview process. Other members of the BOM leadership team were also present
32 to offer words of welcome and direction. The BOM teams interviewed each candidate in rooms
33 set up with Zoom, with the team leader present while the other BOM members were online. This
34 hybrid model has been effective while ensuring a safe yet personal interview experience.

35 The BOM expresses thanks to Bernice Kirkland, Former Director of the Center for
36 Clergy Excellence, Michelle Levan, Assistant Director of the Center for Clergy Excellence, and
37 Terry Walton, who is serving as Interim Director of the Center for Clergy Excellence. A special
38 thanks to the faithful clergy and laity who serve on the BOM and continue to adapt to the
39 changes and challenges of these times with integrity and grace.
40

41 Julie A. Boone
42 Chairperson, Board of Ordained Ministry
43
44
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46

1 **200.b. Fellowship of Licensed Local Pastors and Associate Members**
2

3 Last year, we focused our attention on the fact that life as we knew it had been
4 unpredictable. Glancing back over 2021, the summation is that life has remained unpredictable
5 and our way of living and worshiping remained drastically changed. We’ve been challenged to
6 think innovatively and creatively about the calling that has been placed upon our lives and the
7 charge we have to keep.

8 One thing that has not changed is the fact that we remain clergy on the move, co-
9 vocational, enduring changing conditions and restrictions with grace and willing cooperation. As
10 clergy, we continue to pray, preach, pastor and worship, as many continue Course of Study or
11 Seminary. We are adapting to the “new norm,” by connecting with others all over the world
12 through live-stream online worship and zoom. We thereby choose faith over fear and prayer
13 over problems.

14 As we embrace the changes and the possibilities they have presented, we continue to be
15 steadfast in making disciples for the transformation of the world, inviting “whosoever will” to
16 the table.

17 The Fellowship of Licensed Local Pastors and Associate Members continue to meet via
18 zoom. We are elated and excited this year for the opportunity and possibility of the FLLPand
19 AM welcoming our colleagues “To the Table” for the first time in two years. Our prayer is that
20 as we strive to be at the table with each other our parishioners will be at the table for each of us.
21 We encourage, commend, and applaud you, my sisters and brothers in Christ, in these strange
22 days to: A. Keep up the important and good work of pastoring and preaching. B. Use the means
23 of social media, email, text, phone, conference call and zoom in order to stay connected with
24 those whom we serve. We should not forget that we are called to make disciples and serve as
25 pastors. Finally, C. Take care of yourself! Stay current with your spiritual practices. Continue to
26 practice prayer, study, silence and solitude and other habits that strengthen your soul. Care for
27 your body. Sleep, eat, exercise and see your physician regularly. Care for your relationships with
28 family and friends. And lastly, care for your mind. Read. Study. I personally believe that when
29 we finally emerge from this pandemic cocoon, we are going to emerge stronger rather than
30 weaker. Thank You! Thank you for doing the work. Thank you for holding yourselves, your
31 family and your churches together as you continue doing the hard and important work of
32 kingdom building. Be assured, your labor is not in vain.

33 Now, would you join us in congratulating and celebrating those completing COS, ACOS
34 and Seminary:

35 COS: Adam Donovan Daniels, Alphonso Smith, Angela Luz Baza, Bill Douglas Lowry,
36 Titus B Constantine, Vaidas Krasauskas, Susan Crosby Gilbert, Tonya Barto Hardeman
37 Brenda Presha (ACOS)

38 Seminary: Clayton Warren Lord Jr, Donghun Nathan Lee, Eric Linwood Powell, Jennifer
39 Kathryn Davis, Joshua Hudson, Justin Russell Combs, Vincent F Moreno, Woojin Kang

40 Finally, no matter what the future holds, never forget, God is present, God is with us. He
41 is our hope. Carry hope with you! And with that, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and
42 peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Romans
43 15:13).

44
45 YoLanda Jones-Colton, Chair
46 Fellowship of Licensed Local Pastors and Associate Members

1
2
3 **200.c. Order of Deacons**

4 “Celebrate good times, come on!” This year is the 25th anniversary of the first class of
5 ordinands in the Order of Deacons in The United Methodist Church. Deacons as an Order have
6 been connecting the church and the world through word, service, compassion, and justice for a
7 quarter of a century now. We have been sharing the gospel in local churches as associate pastors,
8 in hospitals as chaplains, in non-profit organizations as leaders, as therapists in counseling
9 practices, as attorneys in bankruptcy courts, as teachers and professors in schools, and as all-

10 around holy mischief makers in the community.
11 As part of the 25th anniversary celebration this year, deacons will serve as leaders,
12 liturgists, and preachers for the 2022 Ordination Service. Our Order continues to grow, we have
13 over 100 in the deacon family now, and we are the conference with the largest representation of
14 deacons in the country.

15 Deacons have continued to serve up holy mischief even when we have been limited on
16 gathering together in person during these past few years. We have met monthly via Zoom to
17 share ministry ideas, laugh together, learn and stretch ourselves, and provide emotional support
18 for one another. While we have been called to word, service, compassion, and justice out in the
19 world, we have also spent intentional time exhibiting it to one another over the past two years.
20 We are known for our creativity and innovation, having spent years thinking outside of the box
21 in unique appointment settings. As we continue to navigate through the new post-pandemic
22 world of church, deacons are perfectly positioned to partner with elders to adapt to this new
23 season of ministry. Reach out to a deacon today to help you innovate, dream, and problem-solve
24 in new ways as the church continues to change!

25 Lindsay Geist, Chair
26
27

28 **200.d. Order of Elders**
29

30 It is with great joy and profound humility that I submit the report of the Order of Elders
31 for the North Georgia Annual Conference. The theme for the 2022 Session of our gathering is:
32 “A Place for You at the Table.” This theme affirms that all clergy, as well as the laity, of the
33 annual conference are welcomed at the table. Therefore, we bring our gifts, graces, creativity,
34 intelligence, theology, and insight to our specific and appointed locations to make Disciples of
35 Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.

36 The Book of Discipline clearly outlines the purpose, organization, membership, and
37 relationships within the Order of Elders. The continued challenges of the pandemic did not give
38 the Order of Elders the possibility to gather for fellowship, theological exploration, vocational
39 affirmation, spiritual nurture and connection. On October 14, 2021, the Bishop’s Day Apart did
40 give the Orders of Deacon and Elders the opportunity to gather and reconnect in person for the
41 first time since 2019. We were affirmed to care for self, family and key relationships in our lives
42 and ministry. It was a wonderful experience, and we look forward to the future gatherings for the
43 elders. Moreover, the 2022 annual conference will give the clergy the opportunity to reconnect
44 and reestablish the in-person fellowship and spiritual engagement.

45 The future challenges of The United Methodist Church are on the minds and hearts of the
46 clergy. The General Conference is not scheduled to gather until 2024. Therefore, our

1 denomination’s future is a Godly directive and guidance. Hence, we must remember our calling,
2 ordination and to inspire persons under our responsibility to equip and encourage others to grow
3 in their discipleship and evangelize others to do likewise. The Order of Elders look forward to
4 engaging the clergy intentionally and purposefully in 2022-2023. Please remember, all are
5 invited to God’s table, and we must not exclude anyone from the table

6 Finally, I would like to affirm and thank the representatives who are the members of the
7 Order of Elders: Miguel Velez-Andujar, C. Kay Fuino, Bert Neal, Shari Rates, Lavell Sanders,
8 Julie Schendel, and Michelle Strall.

9
10 Leon Matthews,
11 Chairperson

14 201. Conference Communications Office

15
16 The North Georgia Conference Communications Office has an important role in our
17 United Methodist connection. With responsibilities for both internal and external
18 communication, the communications team develops and oversees online content, shares reliable
19 news and resources with church leadership and clergy, contributes to the planning and
20 implementation of the annual conference session, manages media relationships, and takes part in
21 special projects.

22 No two years bring the same communications strategy or needs, but reliable, steady, and
23 trustworthy information and resources are always essential. Using the conference website, e-
24 newsletters, social media, and videos, the communications office strives to inform, celebrate, and
25 equip North Georgia United Methodists as they carry out the mission of the church.

26 With more than 30,000 visits each month, the conference website (www.ngumc.org) is
27 the place for clergy and church leaders to turn for news, information, the conference calendar,
28 and resources. Later this year, the communications office plans to refresh ngumc.org. Over the
29 next few weeks, send us your feedback on the website. Where do you see room for
30 improvement? What do you depend on from the website? Email communications@ngumc.org
31 with the subject “Website.”

32 Recognizing the benefit of streamlined information, the conference sends one key e-
33 newsletter each week, the “Weekly Update,” that includes news, featured resources, and
34 upcoming events relevant to clergy and church leaders. If you subscribe to one Conference e-
35 newsletter, make it “Weekly Update.” It’s your best steady connection to conference and
36 denominational news.

37 Additionally, we send targeted e-newsletters that directly relate to specific ministry areas
38 and regions. Please subscribe to your district e-newsletter, the “Monday Memo” from Assistant
39 to the Bishop Terry Walton, and the “Wellbeing Wednesday” e-newsletter focused on clergy
40 mental health. Sign up by clicking “Subscribe Now” at ngumc.org.

41 Social media is another easy avenue for connecting to information and inspiration from
42 the North Georgia Conference. Thousands of North Georgia United Methodists are part of the
43 community on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ngaumc), Twitter ([@connectNGUMC](https://twitter.com/connectNGUMC)), Instagram
44 ([@NGUMC](https://www.instagram.com/NGUMC)), and Vimeo (vimeo.com/ngumc).

1 These tools – from the information on the website, to newsletter content, to social media
2 posts, to videos – are available for congregations to use. Simply credit the source and writer and
3 use in your church’s context.

4 The conference communications office also relates to United Methodist Communications,
5 our denomination’s communications agency. We highly recommend the communications
6 resources provided by UMCOM, including website design and hosting for United Methodist
7 churches (umcchurches.org/).

8 Your conference communications office serves as a connection point for your
9 congregation as you carry out the mission of the church and help you share the good news that
10 “There’s a Place for You at the Table.”

11
12 Sybil Davidson
13 Conference Communicator

14 15 16 **202. Episcopacy Committee Report**

17
18 The Episcopacy Committee continues to support, encourage and appreciate Bishop Sue
19 Hauptert- Johnson (Bishop Sue) for her welcoming spirit. Everyone is given a place at the table to
20 work together, in accomplishing the mission and vision for our conference. Bishop Sue has led
21 the conference through another year of challenging times in the pandemic, with concerns for the
22 well-being of clergy and laity. Bishop Sue worked with the conference staff, the cabinet, clergy
23 and laity, throughout the year resulting with fruitful discussions for making disciples for the
24 church today and in the future.

25 We are grateful that Bishop Sue has encouraged these discussions: to make positive
26 changes in the conference office; to improve communications to stay connected on the website;
27 to gain inspiration from emerging leaders under 35 years old; to provide vision and hear ideas
28 from clergy and laity “Reclaiming the Welcoming Table” webinars; to share with laity at District
29 listening sessions; to hear from clergy at the Bishop's Day Apart; to celebrate with retired clergy;
30 to gain new insight from young clergy that will be leading in the future; to make new cross racial
31 appointments; and to become one with Christ in ministry within our conference and worldwide.

32 We are blessed to have Bishop Sue as our missional leader in the North Georgia
33 Conference. She did an excellent job with positive comments leading a virtual 2021 Annual
34 Conference with in-person Ordination Service and Service of Remembrance. Bishop Sue led a
35 group of newly ordained clergy and others to the Holy Land in early February. We are thankful
36 for Bishop Sue’s leadership and her spiritual disciplines to keep us focused on our mission and
37 ministries in exciting and challenging times.

38 We wish Judy Bush a happy retirement. We appreciated Judy’s gracious spirit and
39 excellent service over the last five years as Bishop Sue’s Administrative Assistant. We welcome
40 Susan Gunter as Bishop Sue’s new Administrative Assistant and look forward to working with
41 her.

42 We are also excited and thankful for Bishop Sue’s family. Samantha, her daughter, is a
43 junior at the University of Florida and currently studying abroad in Ireland. Rev. Allen Johnson,
44 her husband, is doing great work serving as an Associate Pastor at Johns Creek UMC. Bishop
45 Sue is very proud of her family, and so are we. Please continue to keep Bishop Sue and her
46 family in prayer and keep sending them positive words of encouragement. God has blessed us

1 with a bishop who invites everyone to the table. We encourage Bishop Sue to continue the
2 practices of self-care and we pray for her strength as she leads us to work together to make
3 disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

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5 Deloris Carhee, Chair
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8 **203. Statistician's End of Year Report** 9

10 I want to begin by thanking the statistician team for all their hard work in assisting the
11 churches of the conference in completing their 2021 end of year reports. The team was expanded
12 this year to include not only appointed clergy and District Mission Specialists, but also several
13 District Administrative Assistants. Thirty-five dedicated colleagues did the hard work many
14 would not dare to attempt. Thank you so much for all your efforts. Well done team.

15 When we stop and think about the past decade, it is obvious the past two years have been
16 very difficult for everyone including churches. Some of the statistical data for 2021 showed
17 some improvement over 2020, but some showed a continued decline since 2018 and even before.
18 One would think the pandemic has been the greatest cause of this decline, but some of these
19 declines were happening prior to the pandemic.

20 Some notable statistics are as follows:

- 21 ● In 2021 we lost a total of 7,821 members, as compared to a loss of 7,581 in 2020. For 2018
22 through 2021, we lost 25,583 members or 7.2% of our membership. We have now had five
23 consecutive years of declining membership.
- 24 ● The number of churches within the annual conference has also been declining. At the end of
25 2020, we had 778 churches, and at the end of 2021, we had 772. Since 2018 we have lost 62
26 churches or 7.4%.
- 27 ● Our average weekly attendance dropped significantly in 2021, down to 59,636 from 93,361 in
28 2020. This reflects a decrease of 33,725 from 2020, a 36% decrease. Since 2018, our average
29 worship attendance has dropped from 105,053 to 59,636, a 43% decrease.
- 30 ● Our online worship skyrocketed from a weekly average of 31,934 in 2019 to 127,996 in 2020;
31 however, this number dropped in 2021 to 93,004. The accuracy of this statistic is questionable
32 as it is impossible to determine how these numbers were derived by each of the churches and
33 how long each of these viewers were viewing the worship services.

34 All statistical data from 2002 through 2021, can be found at www.ngumc.org/eoy and is
35 available by church, district, and the conference. Year to year comparison is also available.

36 As I close, I would like to especially thank Michael Murphy-McCarthy, Joshua Abell, and
37 Keith Cox for all their work which enabled us to collect the end of year data. Thank you to the
38 District Superintendents for putting together their statistician team and any assistance they gave
39 them in accomplishing this great task. Lastly, I want to thank all the pastors, staffs, and laity of
40 the churches who gathered, entered, and submitted their information in a timely fashion. For
41 those who did not submit their information in a timely fashion, please do better next year, your
42 statistician deserves better from you.

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44 Respectfully submitted,
45 Rev. Charles E. Broome,
46 Conference Statistician

1 **204. North Georgia Conference Housing and Homeless Council**

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3 The purpose of the Housing and Homeless Council (HHC) is to support those who are
4 serving our neighbors in need, specifically through the administering of capital and operational
5 grants. The council is an administrative agency of the North Georgia Conference and is made up
6 of lay and clergy representatives from each district, at-large members, and ex-officio
7 representatives.

8 Typically, the Council awards grants twice a year to churches and non-profit agencies
9 across North Georgia who provide housing and other essential services to persons experiencing
10 homelessness and poverty. From 1990 through 2021, the HHC has awarded grants totaling
11 \$5,333,651. Council members conduct site visits to each applicant and make recommendations
12 to the Council for funding.

13 Due to the ongoing effects of the Covid19 pandemic, the Executive Committee of the
14 Council (with the approval of the full council) made the decision to cancel the Fall 2021 cycle.
15 We were able to have a Spring 2021 cycle, in which we awarded \$72,200 worth of capital
16 (\$50,540) and operational grants (\$21,660).

17 The theme of the 2021 Homeless Offering was “For Such a Time as This” and was
18 collected on February 28, 2021. 100% of the Homeless Offering goes to ministries serving those
19 experiencing poverty and homelessness. Total 2021 offering receipts were \$90,698.45. The
20 Housing Trust Fund, held with the Georgia United Methodist Foundation, ended the year with a
21 value of \$1,952,533.57.

22 The Executive Committee recommended additional changes to the Housing and
23 Homeless Council beginning in 2022. Our spring cycle is now capital requests only, and the fall
24 cycle is now operational requests only. We continue to use at least 70% of our offering totals
25 toward capital requests and up to 30% of our totals for operational requests, as is outlined in our
26 policies. We believe that this change allows our grant funds to make the most impact around the
27 conference.

28 We continue to be inspired by the incredible ministry taking place around our conference
29 and consider it an honor to offer financial support to organizations and programs who are
30 walking alongside our neighbors in need each day. If your congregation is discerning a way to
31 serve your community, we would love to talk with you and offer support. We are always pleased
32 to hear of new projects, so we hope you’ll consider partnering in ministry with us.

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34 Submitted by Howard Cox, Chair and Rev. Laura Rappold, Director
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| 1 | | |
| 2 | Capital Grants 2021 | |
| 3 | | |
| 4 | Covenant House | \$4080.00 |
| 5 | Drake House | \$4080.00 |
| 6 | Family Promise of Hall County | \$4000.00 |
| 7 | Family Promise of New Rock | \$4080.00 |
| 8 | Grace UMC | \$4080.00 |
| 9 | Habitat North Central Georgia | \$2080.00 |
| 10 | Habitat Gwinnett | \$2080.00 |
| 11 | Hamilton Mill UMC, The Pantry | \$4080.00 |
| 12 | Headland Heights UMC | \$1500.00 |
| 13 | Intown Community Ministries | \$4080.00 |
| 14 | Isaiah House | \$2080.00 |
| 15 | MUST Ministries | \$4080.00 |
| 16 | Salvation Army | \$4080.00 |
| 17 | Square Foot Ministries | \$2080.00 |
| 18 | Toco Hills Community Alliance | \$4080.00 |
| 19 | | |
| 20 | Operational Grants 2021 | |
| 21 | | |
| 22 | Acworth UMC | \$975.00 |
| 23 | Clayton First UMC | \$975.00 |
| 24 | Community Resource Center | \$975.00 |
| 25 | DEAM | \$975.00 |
| 26 | Desire Thy Portion | \$975.00 |
| 27 | Family Promise Augusta | \$975.00 |
| 28 | First UMC Douglasville | \$210.00 |
| 29 | Haven House | \$975.00 |
| 30 | Gateway House | \$975.00 |
| 31 | Golden Memorial UMC | \$975.00 |
| 32 | Habitat Towns/Union | \$975.00 |
| 33 | Hands of Christ, Inc. | \$975.00 |
| 34 | Homeless Coalition of Cherokee County | \$975.00 |
| 35 | Mosaic Center | \$975.00 |
| 36 | MUST Ministries | \$975.00 |
| 37 | Neighborhood Cooperative Ministries | \$975.00 |
| 38 | New Covenant UMC | \$975.00 |
| 39 | North Fulton Community Charities | \$975.00 |
| 40 | North Georgia Interfaith Ministries | \$975.00 |
| 41 | One Roof Ecumenical Ministries | \$975.00 |
| 42 | Rock Spring UMC | \$975.00 |
| 43 | Simple Needs Georgia | \$975.00 |
| 44 | THS Emergency Shelter | \$975.00 |
| 45 | | |
| 46 | | |

**205. The Trustees of the North Georgia Conference
of The United Methodist Church, Inc.**

The Conference Board of Trustees (CBOT) provides oversight of properties and other assets that are entrusted to us for the benefit of the Annual Conference in accordance with *The Discipline* of our church. Additionally, CBOT fulfills its fiduciary role with respect to properties that are in its purview as a result of UM polity and secular law. We practice transparency and accountability in all ways possible as we oversee and support various initiatives and programs through judicious use of assets and report these to the Annual Conference (AC) and the AC leadership.

Norton Commercial continues to serve as the real estate agent of the AC through CBOT. This relationship was begun at the direction of the 2017 AC. The relationship is 5 years old, and Norton’s competence and expertise in evaluating, selling, and overseeing properties have proven to be very beneficial. As of March 1, 2022, Norton has facilitated the sale of 64 properties since July 1, 2017 (total sale value of \$26,492,761). We have two properties that are currently under contract with an aggregate contract value of \$805,000.

At the request of the North Georgia Camp and Retreat Ministries (NGCRM), in 2021 CBOT recommended and AC approved that the AC allow NGCRM to reallocate the Wesley Campership Fund from use as camperships to become part of the NGCRM capital endowment. After consultation with Russell Davis, ED of NGCRM, the CBOT requests a release of the “capital endowment” designation of up to \$1M so that NGCRM can utilize those funds for operations in the face of uncertainty and budget pressures.

A relocation committee that is charged with considering new sites for the conference offices began working with an architect/planner, Jim Winer, to counsel the CBOT for a permanent location of the future UM Center. Our current UM Center lease terminates in March 2023. The Relocation Committee report follows.

AC approved the recommendation of the CBOT for the formation of a committee to fairly and equitably begin to use the Barnes Fund for ministry. This Committee began its work as the Barnes Evaluation and Administration Team (BEAT) under the leadership of Rev. Steven Usry and Mr. Nate Abrams. While originally a construct of CBOT, the BEAT committee is recommending a Standing Rule that will facilitate it becoming a committee of the Conference, with attendant reporting and accountability directly to AC.

The trustees continue to provide oversight of the E.R. Park Medical Mission Fund and the Louise D. Park Eye Fund. The E.R. Park Medical Mission Fund can be accessed through the Conference Director of Administrative Services. The expectation of the Park Eye Fund as stipulated in Mrs. Parks’ will is to identify patients “in definite need of financial assistance in order to secure the indicated treatment of the disorder of the eye or eyes which would result in blindness if such treatment were not otherwise available”. At the 2019 AC, we reported entering a relationship with the Emory Eye Center. Through 3/31/2022, donations of \$812,214 have been made from the Park Eye Fund to the Emory Eye Center to provide financial support for Crosslinking surgery for 62 children and young adults and to provide glaucoma medicine for 75 patients. The Park Eye Fund has an accumulated balance of \$416,176 as of 3/31/2022. Thank you for the trust you have placed with us as we strive to be good stewards of a portion of our Conference’s resources.

1 CBOT Recommendations to the Annual Conference:

- 2 1. Allow North Georgia Camp and Retreat Ministries to reallocate the \$1m of the \$2.9m
3 donation last year from Wesley Campership Fund to become part of the NGCRM
4 operating budget, as NGCRM sees fit.
5 2. Affirm the purchase of property on Main Street, College Park, Georgia, for the purpose
6 of a new United Methodist Center.

7 On behalf of your conference trustees, I want to say thank you for your support of our
8 Annual Conference and to thank each member of the trustees for their service.

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10 Julie Childs, Chair
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205.a. Norton/NGUMC Property Quicksheet

Norton/NGUMC Property Quicksheet

| Name | Address | County | District | Property Type | Parcel Number | Lot/Acreage | Building SF | Status | Price | Notes | Sale Date | AC Closure Resolution Date |
|------------------------------------|--|------------|---------------|---|--|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|--|-----------|----------------------------|
| Connections at Metropolitan | 867 Metropolitan Parkway SW, Atlanta, GA 30310 | Fulton | Central North | Church, Chapel, & Parsonage/Commercial Building | 14 010700100514 14 010700100605 | 0.4767 | 9300 | Upcoming | TBD | Closing in 2022 | | |
| Hosanna | 50 Hosanna Rd, Griffin, GA 30223 | Spalding | South West | Church | 202 010060 | 2.1 | 1,920 | Upcoming | TBD | Norton now managing property. Listing coming soon. | | |
| Pleasant Hill Griffin | 655 High Falls Rd, Griffin, GA 30223 | Lamar | South West | Church, Fellowship Hall, Cemetery, & Land | 086005 069 215 | 4.97 | 2,866 | Upcoming | TBD | Title work needs further examination prior to listing. | | 8/29/20 |
| Faith Riverdale (Parsonage) | 754 Huntington Dr, Jonesboro, GA 30236 | Clayton | Central North | Parsonage | 131758 002 | 0.413 | 1,266 | Upcoming | \$160,000 | Tenants refused to vacate property. Norton has filed for dispossession in Clayton County. Waiting on the courts. | | 6/4/21 |
| Mt. Airy | 335 Burgess Rd, LaGrange, GA 30240 | Troup | South West | Church & Cemetery | 0310 000014 | 11.801 | 2,204 | Under Contract | \$80,000 | Hopeful to close in 2022. Exact timeframe unknown. | | 8/29/20 |
| Redemption | 965 Winters Dr, Atlanta, GA 30344 | Fulton | Central North | Church, Fellowship Hall & School | 14 0112 000110462 | 1,3659 | 21,452 | Under Contract | \$725,000 | Closing Mar 2022 | | 6/4/21 |
| Aubury | 4320 Gough Mill Rd, Hogsansville, GA 30230 | Troup | South West | Church | 0462 000032 | 2.775 | 2,140 | SOLD | \$106,000 | | 4/8/19 | 6/14/19 |
| Athens-Elberton District Parsonage | 136 Fernside Road, Bogart, Georgia 30622 | Clarke | Central East | Parsonage | 0342 0004 | 0.75 | 4,463 | SOLD | \$86,000 | | 11/9/20 | 6/14/14 |
| Bowersville | 72 Under St, Bowersville, GA 30316 | Hart | North East | Church & Fellowship Hall | 08 22 0001 | 0.75 | 2,832 | SOLD | \$60,000 | | 8/28/20 | 6/14/14 |
| Briarcliff | 4185 Briarcliff Rd, Atlanta, GA 30345 | DeKalb | Central South | Church & School | 18 232 0001 18 236 13022 | 3.177 | 50,200 | SOLD | \$1,500,000 | | 7/10/18 | 6/14/18 |
| Burnt Hickory | 9484 Cartersville Hwy, Dallas, GA 30132 | Paulding | Central West | Church & Fellowship Hall | 0824 11088 0000 028 4 11089 0000 | 5.77 | 5,456 | SOLD | \$295,000 | | 1/20/22 | 8/29/21 |
| Campbellton | 8650 Campbellton Fairburn Rd, Fairburn, GA 30213 | Fulton | Central North | Church, Cemetery, & Parsonage | 09 00601008802 54 | 7.089 | 6,817 | SOLD | \$390,000 | | 4/24/20 | 6/14/19 |
| Campbellton (Parsonage) | 8710 Campbellton Fairburn Rd, Fairburn, GA 30213 | Fulton | Central North | Parsonage | 0100 0036 013 | 6.038 | 1,551 | SOLD | \$110,000 | | 4/28/21 | --- |
| Cartersville Land | 131 R Rd NE, Cartersville, GA 30121 | Barrow | North West | Land Only | 0085 237 | 2.27 | 5,126 | SOLD | \$25,000 | | 1/28/21 | 8/29/20 |
| Cassey Springs | 7250 Highway 225 S, Chatsworth, GA 30705 | Murray | North West | Church & Fellowship Hall | 136 0043 | 2.92* | 2,331 | SOLD | \$85,270 | | 12/7/18 | 6/14/18 |
| Clem | 512 Clem Lowell Rd, Carrollton, GA 30116 | Carroll | Central West | Land Only | 0059 A 0013 204 020 | 1.172 | 2,092 | SOLD | \$49,000 | | 12/15/17 | 6/15/17 |
| Comescon | 5138 Emory Street, Covington, GA 30014 | Newton | Central South | Church, School, & Other Buildings | 02 3000300008000 | 1.97 | 11,166 | SOLD | \$89,000 | | 2/6/20 | 6/14/18 |
| Comescon | 5128 Emory Street, Covington, GA 30014 | Newton | Central South | House | 0059 A 0013 204 020 | 1.172 | 4,132 | SOLD | \$85,000 | | 8/25/21 | 8/29/20 |
| Corinth Hogsansville | 600 GA-100, Hogsansville, GA 30230 | Hancock | South East | Church & Fellowship Hall | 001 086 | 2.76 | 4,644 | SOLD | \$49,000 | | 12/10/20 | 8/29/20 |
| Culverton | 82 Sam Hill Rd, Sparac, GA 31087 | Dawson | North East | Church & Parsonage | 001 086 | 2.76 | 4,644 | SOLD | \$49,000 | | 12/10/20 | 8/29/20 |
| Dawsonville | 21 Church St, Dawsonville, GA 30534 | Dawson | North East | Church & Parsonage | 001 086 | 2.76 | 4,644 | SOLD | \$49,000 | | 12/10/20 | 8/29/20 |
| Dunson | 11 Barnard Ave, La Grange, GA 30241 | Troup | South West | Church & Fellowship Hall | 0901C013002 0901C013001 | 1.86 | 3,360 | SOLD | \$219,500 | | 7/17/20 | 6/14/18 |
| East Point Ave | 2792 East Point St, Atlanta, GA 30344 | Fulton | Central North | Church, Cemetery, & School | 14 0115 00090763 | 0.466 | 8,508 | SOLD | \$680,000 | | 6/30/20 | 6/19/15 |
| East Point Ave | 2677 GA-34, Newnan, GA 30263 | Coveta | South West | Church, Cemetery, & School | 1026 3070 001 | 2.046 | 4,827 | SOLD | \$711,295 | | 7/27/20 | 6/14/19 |
| Fair Oaks Marietta | 1480 Boyer Avenue SE, Marietta, GA 30060 | Cobb | Central West | Church, School, & Fellowship Hall | 17028100110 | 2.300 | 23,000 | SOLD | \$23,900 | | 2/5/21 | 8/29/20 |
| Faith Riverdale | 514 Valley Hill Rd SE, Riverdale, GA 30274 | Clayton | Central North | Church & Fellowship Hall | 13179B 0004A | 12.5 | 7,000 | SOLD | \$470,000 | | 1/27/22 | 6/4/21 |
| Grantville | 54 Church St, Grantville, GA 30220 | Coveta | Central West | Church | 604 0002 001 | 0.47 | 5,490 | SOLD | \$181,600 | | 11/20/20 | 6/4/21 |
| Hightower Shilvertown | 204 Park Lane, Thomaston, GA 30286 | Upson | South West | Church & School | 131 166 | 5.679 | 13,536 | SOLD | \$175,000 | | 4/18/19 | 6/14/18 |
| Hightower Shilvertown (Parsonage) | 113 Meares St, Thomaston, GA 30286 | Upson | South West | Parsonage | 124 081 | 0.46 | 2,152 | SOLD | \$73,500 | | 5/7/19 | 6/14/18 |
| Jones Memorial | 1320 Phillips Rd, Morrow, GA 30260 | Clayton | Central North | Church, School, & Land | 12060 6022 13080 6004 | 12.2 | 36,171 | SOLD | \$1,345,000 | | 12/10/20 | 8/29/20 |
| Livingston | 1377 Sanders Rd, Rome, GA 30069 | Floyd | North West | Church & Cemetery | 1315 0686 | 1.6 | 2,026 | SOLD | \$69,000 | | 3/27/18 | 6/9/16 |
| Midway Lenoire | 1395 Liberty Hill Rd, Lenoire, GA 30240 | Troup | South West | Church, Fellowship Hall, Cemetery, & Land | 0830 000005 | 3.044 | 3,664 | SOLD | \$99,000 | | 11/25/20 | 8/29/20 |
| Mt. Airant | 571 Dennis Station Rd SW, Eatonton, GA 31024 | Putnam | Central East | Church, Fellowship Hall & Cemetery | 082 026 | 3.93 | 2,219 | SOLD | \$10,000 | | 11/20/20 | 8/29/20 |
| Mt. Airy | 105 Neal Blvd, Lawrenceville, GA 30046 | Gwinnett | Central East | Church | R5187 1221A | 0.92 | 3,268 | SOLD | \$90,000 | | 5/25/21 | 6/4/21 |
| Mt. Glead Grantville | 2202 Bohannon Rd, Grantville, GA 30220 | Coveta | South West | Church | 040 3011 002A 040 3011 002A | 2.146 | 3,545 | SOLD | \$89,000 | | 9/30/20 | 8/29/20 |
| Mt. Olivet | 822 Mount Olivet Road, Homer, GA 30547 | Banks | North East | Church | B60 053 | 3.52 | 1,800 | SOLD | \$20,000 | | 6/3/20 | 6/4/21 |
| Mt. Taber | 1497 Mt. Taber Church Rd, Dallas, GA 30157 | Paulding | Central West | Church & Cemetery | 112 1 4 012 0000 | 0.8 | 2,996 | SOLD | \$80,000 | | 10/21/21 | 6/4/21 |
| Mt Zion, Franklin | 4460 Liberty Hill Glenn Rd, Franklin, GA 30217 | Hearld | South West | Church, Cemetery, & School | 00025 0020 | 4.51 | 2,356 | SOLD | \$22,500 | | 9/30/19 | 6/14/19 |
| New Heart | 6465 Old National Hwy, College Park, GA 30349 | Fulton | Central North | Land Only | 13 0132 L0836 | 11.51 | --- | SOLD | \$800,000 | | 6/23/21 | 6/7/09 |
| New Hope Dekalb | 2110 Moreland Avenue SE, Atlanta, GA 30316 | DeKalb | Central South | Church, Fellowship Hall & Cemetery | 15 081 02 013 | 2.6 | 5,200 | SOLD | \$225,000 | | 11/23/20 | 8/29/20 |
| New Hope Lawrenceville | 1806 New Hope Rd, Lawrenceville, GA 30045 | Gwinnett | Central East | Church, Cemetery, & Parsonage | RS 217 001 | 3.14 | 8,300 | SOLD | \$425,000 | | 7/10/20 | 8/29/20 |
| New Hope Monroe | 1919 New Hope Church Rd, Monroe, GA 30656 | Walton | Central East | Church | C0610127 | 0.94 | 3,480 | SOLD | \$50,000 | | 6/18/21 | 6/4/21 |
| New Oakland City | 1093 Arlington Ave, Atlanta, GA 30310 | Fulton | Central North | Church | 14 01190005913 | 0.1889 | 12,760 | SOLD | \$90,000 | | 5/16/18 | 6/19/15 |
| North Rome | 209 Kingston Ave NE, Rome, GA 30161 | Floyd | North West | Church & School | J131137 | 0.8788 | 9,947 | SOLD | \$82,500 | | 8/13/20 | 6/15/17 |
| Philadelphia | 1184 Harman Rd, Ocedessdale, GA 30222 | Meriwether | South West | Church & Cemetery | 035 027 | 2.7 | 1,592 | SOLD | \$20,000 | | 3/11/20 | 8/29/20 |
| Philadelphale | 357 Green St, Meansville, GA 30256 | Pike | North West | Church | 082 021 E | 1.78 | 1,980 | SOLD | \$2,000 | | 7/6/18 | 6/15/17 |
| Poplar Springs | 245 Adamsville Hwy, Adamsville, GA 30103 | Barrow | North West | Church | A009 0199 002 | 2.484 | 2,800 | SOLD | \$800,000 | | 7/25/19 | 6/15/17 |
| Powers Ferry | 282 Powers Ferry Rd, Marietta, GA 30067 | Cobb | Central West | Church & School | 16124300370 | 3.885 | 22,015 | SOLD | \$2,100,000 | | 6/11/21 | 8/29/20 |
| Prospect | 395 Brent Rd., Barresville, GA 30204 | Lamar | South West | Church | 080 010 | 3.16 | 1,900 | SOLD | \$44,000 | | 5/4/18 | 6/1/05 |
| Providence | 2609 Rat Kinney Rd, Starbuck, GA 30666 | Barrow | Central East | Church, Fellowship Hall & Cemetery | XX137 009 | 2.68 | 1,808 | SOLD | \$85,000 | | 3/25/20 | 6/14/18 |
| Riverview | 1244 Furry Ferry Rd, Evans, GA 30809 | Columbia | South East | Church, Cemetery, & School | 077 026 | 4.047 | 12,900 | SOLD | \$288,000 | | 6/28/19 | 6/14/19 |
| Rocky Head | 6020 Owl Rock Rd SW, Atlanta, GA 30331 | Fulton | Central North | Church & Cemetery | 14 F0130 L0058 | 1.8595 | 4,200 | SOLD | \$100,000 | | 11/19/21 | 6/4/21 |
| Salem Pine Mountain | 101 Dennis Smith Rd, Pine Mountain, GA 31822 | Troup | South West | Church & Fellowship Hall | 0340 000075 | 6.503 | 4,056 | SOLD | \$100,000 | | 8/29/20 | --- |
| Shiloh Crest | 922 Shilohcrest Way, Forest Park, GA 30297 | Cobb | Central North | Land Only | 130 16A A039 | 1 | 2,300 | SOLD | \$4,500 | | 12/31/18 | --- |
| Smith Chapel | 3325 Humphries Hill Road, Austell, GA 30106 | Henny | Central South | Church, Cemetery, & School | 18009601030 | 0.54 | 2,300 | SOLD | \$70,000 | | 6/14/19 | 6/15/17 |
| Snapping Shoals | 3171 Old Snapping Shoals Rd, McDonough, GA 30252 | Hancock | South West | Church & Cemetery | 182 010 2906 | 3.0* | 7,216 | SOLD | \$150,000 | | 9/19/19 | 5/6/90 |
| Smyrna | 18843 GA-22, Sparta, GA 31807 | Hancock | South East | Church & Cemetery | 181 006 | 1.337 | 1,337 | SOLD | \$160,000 | | 10/22/18 | 6/14/19 |
| St. James Hogsansville | 401 Granite Street, Hogsansville, GA 30230 | Troup | South West | Church & School | 021C015004 MA17 013, MA17 014, MA17 008 | 1.49 | 7,707 | SOLD | \$150,000 | | 9/30/19 | 6/14/19 |
| St. James Manchester | 14 Johnson Ave, Manchester, GA 31816 | Meriwether | South West | Church | XX133 026 XX133 027 XX133 028 XX133 029 | 1.462 | 6,222 | SOLD | \$113,000 | | 9/23/20 | 8/29/20 |
| Statham Land | 2287 Atlanta Hwy SE, Statham, GA 30666 | Barrow | Central East | Land Only | --- | 17.465 | --- | SOLD | \$450,000 | | 10/4/21 | --- |

Norton/NGUMC Property Quicksheet

| Name | Address | County | District | Property Type | Parcel Number | Lot/Acreage | Building SF | Status | Price | Notes | Sale Date | AC Closure Resolution Date |
|---------------------------------|---|----------|---------------|---|--|-------------|-------------|--------|-------------|-------|-----------|----------------------------|
| Still Waters | 2650 N Druid Hills Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30329 | DeKalb | Central South | Church & School | 18 151 01 003 | 4.41873 | 19,780 | SOLD | \$5,584,396 | | 5/18/18 | 6/4/06 |
| Still Waters (Parsonage) | 1495 High Haven Ct, Atlanta, GA 30329 | DeKalb | Central South | Parsonage | 18 151 01 096 | 0.5 | 2,554 | SOLD | \$360,000 | | 11/30/17 | |
| Tenth Street Underwood Memorial | 425 10th St NW, Atlanta, GA 30318 | Fulton | Central North | Church & School | 17 01490070447 | 1.0065 | 20,700 | SOLD | \$2,615,000 | | 10/10/19 | 6/14/19 |
| Trinity | 2480 Athens Rd, Rosston, GA 30662 | Franklin | North East | Church & Cemetery | 031 091 | 9.86* | 3,960 | SOLD | \$100,000 | | 4/12/19 | 6/14/19 |
| Union City | 6410 Watson St, Union City, GA 30291 | Fulton | Central North | Church | 09F16050770166 | 1.1054 | 4,209 | SOLD | \$255,000 | | 2/27/20 | 6/14/19 |
| Union City (Parsonage) | 6311 Thompson Dr, Union City, GA 30291 | Fulton | Central North | Parsonage | 09F160300761357 | 0.5528 | 1,515 | SOLD | \$75,000 | | 4/3/20 | 6/14/19 |
| Union Springs | 6710 Whitesville Rd, West Point, GA 31833 | Troup | South West | Church | 0560 000039 | 1 | 3,060 | SOLD | \$50,000 | | 12/7/20 | 8/29/20 |
| White's Chapel | 2020 Whites Chapel Rd, Conyers, GA 30094 | Rockdale | Central South | New Sanctuary Original Church & Cemetery | 0280010316 0450010004 045001095D | 4.39* | 10,328 | SOLD | \$247,000 | | 8/31/18 | 6/14/18 |
| White Oak | 1895 Settlers Rd SW, Conyers, GA 30094 | Rockdale | Central South | Noble Home Land Only | 083001033K | | | | | | | |
| Whitesville | 4624 White Oak Rd, Appling, GA 30802 | Columbia | South East | Church | 009 013A | 1.07 | 3,552 | SOLD | \$100,000 | | 10/27/21 | 6/4/21 |
| Zebulon | 4790 Pine Lake Rd, West Point, GA 31833 | Harris | South West | Church & Cemetery | 024A028 024A028A | 1.47 | 2,288 | SOLD | \$59,500 | | 9/22/21 | 6/14/19 |
| Zions Chapel | 7266 Browns Chapel Rd, Sparta, GA 31087 | Hancock | South East | Church & Cemetery | 148 001 | 2 | 1,500 | SOLD | \$10,000 | | 1/29/21 | 8/29/20 |
| | 5331 Indian Trail, Thomaston, GA 30286 | Upson | South West | Church & Cemetery | 046 038 | 1.786 | 3,930 | SOLD | \$79,200 | | 3/12/21 | 6/14/18 |

*Size does not include Cemetery

| Totals | |
|----------------|--------------|
| SOLD | \$26,492,761 |
| Listed | 50 |
| Under contract | \$85,000 |
| Upcoming | \$180,000 |
| Totals | \$27,457,761 |

| |
|---------------|
| 64 Properties |
| 0 Properties |
| 2 Properties |
| 4 Properties |
| 68 Properties |

1 **205.b. United Methodist Center Relocation Task Force**
2

3 A United Methodist Center Relocation Task Force, charged with considering and
4 recommending to the Conference Board of Trustees a new location for our North Georgia
5 Conference United Methodist Center, has been at work for several years on behalf of the Annual
6 Conference.

7 The lease on the current United Methodist Center, located at 1700 Century Center Blvd.,
8 Atlanta, terminates March 31, 2023. The goal of the task force has been selecting and planning
9 for a mission-centered strategic headquarters for the North Georgia Conference in 2023.

10 Jane Brooks, former Executive Assistant to the Bishop, was the initial chair of the task
11 force, working with former chair of the Trustees, John Simmons. Upon Jane’s retirement and
12 John Simmons’ rotation off as Chair of the Conference Board of Trustees, Terry Walton,
13 Executive Assistant to the Bishop, succeeded Jane as chair of the Task Force, and Julie Childs,
14 present Chair of Trustees, succeeded John Simmons. Additionally, Conference Lay Leader Nate
15 Abrams succeeded Bill Martin in 2021.

16 The current task force members are: Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, Julie Childs (chair of
17 Conference Board of Trustees), Bert Neal (representative of the Conference Board of Trustees),
18 Nate Abrams (conference lay leader), John Pinson (cabinet representative), and Terry Walton
19 (assistant to the bishop and chair).

20 Working closely with architect/planner, Jim Winer, of Make3 Architecture / Planning /
21 Design, and consulting with Conference Treasurer Keith Cox, the task force focused its goals
22 and priorities.

23 The task force adopted 5 parameters originally set by the Board of Trustees in 2015:

- 24 1. Affordability,
- 25 2. Accessibility,
- 26 3. Visibility,
- 27 4. Sustainability, and
- 28 5. Availability.

29 The members recognize that the United Methodist Center is a witness to the rest of North
30 Georgia and its location makes a statement. The task force heavily weighed selection of a
31 location where church and community are experiencing revitalization and innovative
32 resurrection. In other words, let’s align our next home with our mission. In addition to the 5
33 parameters, the task force sought:

- 34 • Shared space with a United Methodist Church or a United Methodist related agency
- 35 • In an underserved community
- 36 • And a thriving community

37 The committee recognizes the changing needs for the United Methodist Center. In the past
38 two years we have learned that virtual work is productive and realistic. This means the needed
39 square footage is significantly less than the present office space. Present square footage is
40 15,376. Proposed square footage is 5,400.

41 Possibilities for leasing and owning were explored.

42 Ultimately eight sites were shortlisted and considered by the task force: Decatur First UMC,
43 Avondale Patillo UMC, Sandy Springs UMC, Embury Hills UMC, Chamblee First UMC, Central
44 UMC, Global Ministries Headquarters, and College Park UMC.

1 After much consultation, prayer, and discernment, property adjacent to College Park UMC
2 was selected by the task force as a location for a post-pandemic hybrid space that will allow The
3 United Methodist Church to be a witness across North Georgia of the larger church.

4 Centrally located, the site is convenient to I-75, I-85, I-285, and I-20, it is served by a Marta
5 rail station, and is just a few miles from the Atlanta airport. The property is across the street from
6 city hall in busy downtown College Park.

7 The Conference Board of Trustees made an onsite visit to College Park to see the
8 possibilities firsthand. The Board of Trustees members were genuinely impressed with the
9 development and the sense of community within and around the College Park UMC and the
10 College Park community. The trustees feel the most beneficial short- and long-term plan for the
11 North Georgia Conference is to build an office building that will fit into a development already
12 occurring within and around College Page UMC.

13 The budget for the new United Methodist Center is \$3.4 million dollars. Funds from the sale
14 of the Simpsonwood Conference and Retreat Center were designated for the construction of the
15 new UM Center and are projected to be adequate.

16 Working with architect and planner Jim Winer, initial plans have been drawn for a 1-floor,
17 5,400 square foot building, at a cost of \$3,377,500. This total includes program management,
18 moving expenses, site assessment, legal, environmental, civil, landscape, architectural, interiors,
19 graphics, structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, voltage, audio visual, testing, inspections,
20 construction, furniture, equipment, communications, security, signage, and contingency.

21 Upon the approval of the task force recommendation earlier this year, the Conference Board
22 of Trustees began taking steps to purchase the College Park property. In the current real estate
23 market, time is of the essence. The purchase may be complete by the time of Annual Conference;
24 however, if this location is not supported by the members of the 2022 Annual Conference, the
25 developer associated with the project has assured the Trustees of their interest in purchasing back
26 the property.

27 After Annual Conference, the Board of Trustees is prepared to take next steps in building our
28 next United Methodist Center. The current landlord has expressed flexibility in offering
29 continued lease of the upper floor of the present United Methodist Center.

30 Your Relocation Task Force and Conference Board of Trustees have devoted countless
31 hours, prayer, and discernment to come to this decision. The present task force extends our
32 gratitude to the members who preceded us. It has been an honor to each of us to serve in this
33 way.

34
35 Terry Walton
36 Chair, United Methodist Center Relocation Task Force
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205.c. Churches Requesting to Disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church

North East District

Center UMC, Hoschton
Chattahoochee UMC
Coosa UMC, Union County
Dry Pond UMC
Gaines Chapel UMC

North West District

Adairsville UMC
Beech Creek UMC
Chapel Hill UMC
Dawnville UMC
Emerson UMC
Fairview, Dalton UMC
Faith UMC , Cartersville
Finley Chapel UMC
Fishers Chapel UMC
Lawrence Chapel UMC
McCaysville UMC
Metropolitan UMC
Nellie Peters UMC
New Hope UMC, Summerville
Oak Hill UMC, Lyerly
Pine Chapel UMC
Sam Jones Memorial UMC
Smith Chapel UMC, Tunnel Hill
South Broad UMC, Rome
The Way UMC
Tunnel Hill UMC

Central North District

Ebenezer UMC, Roswell
New Life UMC
Sardis UMC

Central South District

Gaithers UMC
Mansfield UMC
New Hope UMC, Locust Grove
Newborn UMC
Prospect UMC, Covington
Sewell UMC
Starrsville UMC

Central West District

Bowdon First UMC
Garrett's Chapel UMC
Union UMC, Waco

Central East District

Bold Springs
Union Chapel

South East District

Concord UMC, Eatonton
Union Chapel UMC
Mt. Zion UMC, Washintgon
Bethel UMC, Wilkes County
Smyrna UMC, Washington
Quest UMC
Norwood UMC
St. Paul UMC, Lincoln Co.
Ruckersville UMC
Bethlehem UMC, Elberton
Middleton UMC
Woodlawn UMC

South West District

Arbor Chapel UMC
Ayres Memorial UMC
Calvary UMC, Shady Dale
Carmel UMC
Franklin UMC
Godfrey UMC
Greenville UMC
Harmony UMC, Franklin
Hillsboro UMC
Hopewell UMC, Whitesville
Manchester UMC
Mt. Gilead UMC, Sharpsburg
New Hope UMC, Monticello
Pleasant Grove UMC, LaGrange
Powell Chapel UMC
Raleigh UMC
Trinity UMC, Durand

1 205.d. Disaffiliation Agreement

2
3 **DISAFFILIATION AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO ¶ 2553**
4

5 This Disaffiliation Agreement Pursuant to ¶ 2553 (“Disaffiliation Agreement”) is entered
6 into this _____ day of _____, 20___, by and between _____ (“Local
7 Church”) and the North Georgia Annual Conference (“Annual Conference”), acting by and
8 through its Conference Board of Trustees.
9

10 WHEREAS, Local Church is a United Methodist church in good standing within the boundaries
11 of Annual Conference, and for the purposes of this Agreement “in good standing” means that the
12 Local Church is compliant with the provisions of *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist*
13 *Church* (“Discipline”) applicable to local churches;
14

15 WHEREAS, Local Church has held a church conference, in compliance with ¶¶ 246.8, 248, and
16 2553.2-.3 of *Discipline*, at which at least two-thirds (2/3) of the professing members present at the
17 church conference of Local Church voted to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church;
18

19 WHEREAS, pursuant to ¶ 2501.1 of the *Discipline*, Local Church holds its real and personal,
20 tangible and intangible property “in trust for The United Methodist Church and subject to the
21 provisions of its *Discipline*.”
22

23 WHEREAS, property subject to ¶ 2501.1 “can be released from the trust, transferred free of trust
24 or subordinated to the interests of creditors and other third parties only to the extent authority is
25 given by the *Discipline*.” (¶ 2501.2)
26

27 WHEREAS, ¶ 2553 provides a specific circumstance in which property subject to ¶ 2501.1 can be
28 released from the trust imposed by that paragraph.
29

30 WHEREAS, ¶ 2553.4 requires the terms and conditions of Local Church’s disaffiliation from The
31 United Methodist Church to be “memorialized in a binding Disaffiliation Agreement.”
32

33 WHEREAS, Local Church and Annual Conference wish to (1) resolve all matters between them,
34 and Local Church wishes to acquire from Annual Conference all of Annual Conference’s interest,
35 on behalf of The United Methodist Church, in the real and personal, tangible and intangible
36 property held by Local Church and (2) comply with the requirements of ¶ 2553 and Judicial
37 Council *Decision* 1379.
38

39 NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and all the mutual covenants herein
40 contained, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is
41 hereby acknowledged, Local Church and Annual Conference agree as follows:

- 42 1. **Conditions Precedent.** Local Church and Annual Conference acknowledge and agree:
43 a. *Good Standing.* The Local Church represents and warrants to the Annual Conference
44 that the Local Church is in good standing, as defined in the premises.
45 b. *Standards for Conduct of Church Conference Vote.* The Local Church represents and
46 affirms that it has transmitted all records to the appropriate Annual Conference

1 agencies regarding its leadership and membership, that it has, prior to the church
2 conference vote, taken all reasonable measures to notify the members of the Local
3 Church of the impending vote, that it has provided copies to the Annual Conference of
4 all informational documents regarding the effects of disaffiliation that have been
5 distributed to the members, and that it has not held any secret meetings of the
6 membership of the Local Church for purposes of discussing or voting on disaffiliation
7 without the knowledge and consent of the applicable District Superintendent.

8 c. *Church Conference Vote.* At least two-thirds (2/3) of the professing members present
9 at a church conference of Local Church must vote to disaffiliate from The United
10 Methodist Church for the reasons set forth in Paragraph 2553 of the *Book of Discipline*.
11 Local Church must provide documentation, to the satisfaction of Annual Conference,
12 which evidences the result of the disaffiliation vote taken at the church conference.
13 Such documentation must be certified by an authorized officer of Local Church.

14 d. *Annual Conference Vote.* This Disaffiliation Agreement must be “ratified by a simple
15 majority of the members . . . present and voting” at a duly-called session of Annual
16 Conference, as required by Judicial Council *Decision* 1379 and ¶ 2529.1b(3).

17 Should any of the above not occur or be found to be inaccurate, this Disaffiliation Agreement shall
18 immediately become null and void.

19 2. Applicability of ¶ 2501. Local Church acknowledges and agrees that pursuant to ¶ 2501 of the
20 *Discipline*, Local Church holds all property, real and personal, tangible and intangible, in trust for
21 the benefit of The United Methodist Church.

22 3. Date of Disaffiliation. Should Local Church timely comply with all of its obligations as set
23 forth herein, Local Church’s disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church will be effective
24 immediately upon the Annual Conference’s ratification referenced in Section 1 above
25 (“Disaffiliation Date”).

26 4. Local Church’s Obligations. Unless a different date is specified, Local Church shall, no later
27 than thirty days after the Disaffiliation Date, do the following:

28 a. *Payments.* Local Church shall pay to Annual Conference, in a manner specified by
29 Annual Conference, the following:

30 i. In consideration of the payments specified and upon confirmation by the
31 applicable District Superintendent that all other obligations of the Local Church
32 have been satisfied, Local Church shall have the right to retain its real and
33 personal, tangible and intangible property without charge. Any costs to transfer
34 title or otherwise relating to Local Church’s retention of its property will be
35 borne by Local Church.

36 ii. Any unpaid apportionments for the twelve (12) months immediately prior to the
37 Disaffiliation Date, as calculated by Annual Conference, totaling _____;

38 iii. An additional twelve (12) months of apportionments, as calculated by Annual
39 Conference, totaling _____;

40 iv. An amount equal to Local Church’s pro rata share, as determined by Annual
41 Conference, of Annual Conference’s unfunded pension obligations, based on
42 the Annual Conference’s aggregate funding obligations as determined by the
43 General Board of Pension and Health Benefits using market factors similar to a
44 commercial annuity provider, totaling _____;

45 v. Any other payments that are related to conference-provided benefits that are
46 direct billed to the Local Church for benefits provided prior to the effective date

1 of disaffiliation. The parties will consult with the Conference Benefits Office
2 to determine if there is an amount owed for direct billed benefits, and the parties
3 further agree to true-up any such obligations within a reasonable period of time
4 after the effective date of disaffiliation;

5 vi. An amount equal to any grants or other direct contributions that have been paid
6 by the Annual Conference or any of its church support agencies to or on behalf
7 of the Local Church to support any aspect of the Local Church's mission,
8 ministry, or building programs within the four-year period immediately
9 preceding the Disaffiliation Date; and

10 vii. In the event all of the above payments are not made within thirty days of the
11 Disaffiliation Date, this Disaffiliation Agreement shall be null and void.

12 b. *Other Liabilities.* Local Church shall either satisfy all of its other debts, loans, and
13 liabilities, or assign or transfer such obligations to its new entity. Local Church must
14 provide sufficient documentation of same to Annual Conference.

15 c. *Intellectual Property.* Local Church shall cease all use of "United Methodist," the Cross
16 & Flame insignia, and any other intellectual property of the denomination and Annual
17 Conference, including the removal of all signage containing the same. The Local
18 Church will make provisions for the transfer to the Annual Conference or its designee
19 all paraments, hymnals, and worship elements, and the costs of such transfer shall be
20 borne by the Local Church.

21 d. *Group Tax Exemption Ruling.* As of the Disaffiliation Date, Local Church shall cease
22 to use, and also shall ensure that any affiliates of Local Church which have been
23 included in the group tax exemption ruling shall cease to use, any and all documentation
24 stating that Local Church is included in the denomination's group tax exemption ruling
25 administered by the General Council on Finance and Administration of The United
26 Methodist Church. Local Church and any of its affiliates which have been included in
27 the group tax exemption ruling will be removed as of the Disaffiliation Date. The Local
28 Church shall have the responsibility of engaging appropriate tax professionals if the
29 Local Church decides to pursue its own tax exemption ruling, but nothing herein will
30 require the Local Church to do so.

31 e. *Records and Cemeteries.* The Local Church shall cooperate with the Annual
32 Conference and its staff in securing the records of the Local Church, including church
33 archives, membership rolls, and historical documents related to funerals, baptisms,
34 weddings, minutes, etc., with the Pitts Theology Library at Emory University and will
35 comply with all policies and procedures of Pitts Theology Library in the storage and
36 archiving of such records. If the Local Church has a cemetery or columbarium, the
37 Local Church shall be responsible for and shall provide its plan for maintenance after
38 disaffiliation and continued access for families and loved ones of United Methodists
39 buried there.

40 f. *Covenant as the one universal church.* Annual Conference and Local Church covenant
41 and agree that they are all part of the one universal church in service to Christ, and
42 throughout the disaffiliation process and for the future they will honor the mission and
43 ministry of all Christians. As part of this covenant, Annual Conference and Local
44 Church agree that for a period of two (2) years following the Disaffiliation Date, both
45 parties will refrain from making any comments or remarks whatsoever about the other

1 or any of the other's ministers, members, or employees, whether oral or in writing, that
2 could reasonably be expected to adversely affect the reputation of the other.

3 5. Organizational Transition. Local Church shall take all steps necessary to close and/or dissolve
4 any legal entities and to settle, liquidate, or transfer all assets and obligations of such entities, or
5 to establish any new legal entities, or to modify its current organizing documents, as needed to
6 effectuate its disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church, subject to the approval by the
7 Annual Conference but without any obligation of the Annual Conference to assist with the
8 preparation thereof. Local Church shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Annual Conference
9 and its officers, directors, agents, and employees from any liability or costs (including reasonable
10 attorney fees) resulting from any claim, action, or cause of action for damages to persons or
11 property resulting from Local Church's failure to take all necessary steps as required by this
12 Section 5.

13 6. Property. Upon completion of all requirements set forth above, Local Church will have full
14 ownership of the property and assets of the Local Church, except for those specifically required to
15 be transferred to the Annual Conference under this Agreement or for those subject to the rights of
16 persons or entities who are not parties to this Agreement. The parties shall ensure all necessary
17 transfers or other transactions relating to the above properties are completed within thirty days of
18 the Disaffiliation Date. Any costs resulting from such transfers or other transactions shall be borne
19 by Local Church. Annual Conference shall fully cooperate with Local Church, as needed and
20 applicable, to ensure that such transfers and other transactions convey all of Annual Conference's
21 interest – both for itself and on behalf of The United Methodist Church – in the real and personal,
22 tangible and intangible property of Local Church. All documents required for transfer from the
23 Local Church to any successor entity shall be prepared by the Local Church at its sole expense,
24 subject to approval by the applicable District Superintendent, and upon confirmation by the
25 applicable District Superintendent that all obligations of the Local Church set forth in this
26 Agreement have been satisfied, the District Superintendent will consent to and approve the release
27 of the trust clause.

28 7. Release of Claims. Upon the completion of all of their respective obligations herein, Annual
29 Conference and Local Church, for themselves and their agents, representatives, members, trustees,
30 employees, successors, attorneys, and assigns, hereby fully and forever covenant not to sue each
31 other, and release and discharge each other, and their current and former trustees, officers,
32 representatives, employees, and assigns, in both their official and individual capacities, from any
33 liability for any and all causes of action and claims, including any statutory or common law cause
34 of action, tort or contractual claims, any claims for attorneys' fees, expenses and all other damages,
35 whether known or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen, which Annual Conference or Local Church
36 ever had, now has, hereafter may have or claim to have against any of the above-named entities or
37 persons in any way arising out of their relationship with each other. The parties further represent
38 they have no pending lawsuit, charge, complaint, or other action against each other.
39 Notwithstanding the foregoing releases and covenants not to sue, the parties may take action to
40 enforce this Disaffiliation Agreement in any court where jurisdiction and venue are proper.

41 8. Independent Legal Advice. The Local Church is required to retain their own legal counsel and
42 other advisors as necessary to facilitate the transactions contemplated herein. The Annual
43 Conference, its Board of Trustees, its officers, directors, and employees, do not and will not offer
44 any legal, accounting, tax, or other advice to the Local Church. All expenses associated with
45 advice and counsel necessary to facilitate these transactions is the sole responsibility of the Local
46 Church.

1 9. Time Limit. Should the Local Church fail to satisfy all of its obligations set forth herein by this
2 Disaffiliation Agreement shall be null and void.

3 10. Continuing as Plan Sponsor. Nothing in this Disaffiliation Agreement shall prevent Local
4 Church, after the Disaffiliation Date, from continuing to sponsor benefit plans from the General
5 Board of Pension and Health Benefits, to the extent permitted by federal law, and provided that
6 Local Church Non-Severability. Each of the terms of this Disaffiliation Agreement is a material
7 and integral part hereof. Should any provision of this Disaffiliation Agreement be held
8 unenforceable or contrary to law, the entire Disaffiliation Agreement shall be deemed null and
9 void.

10
11 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Local Church and the Annual Conference, through authorized
12 officers, have adopted this Disaffiliation Agreement on the date first above written.

13
14 LOCAL CHURCH: ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

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16
17 BY: _____ BY: _____

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19 ITS: _____ ITS: Chair, Board of Trustees

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1 **205.e. Barnes Evaluation and Administrative Team (B.E.A.T.)**
2

3 The 2020 Annual Conference voted overwhelmingly to pool funds from several accounts
4 and all church property sales for the purpose of establishing a grant funding mechanism that
5 administers investments for the maximization of strategic missions across our Annual
6 Conference. This fund, “The Barnes-Gibson Fund for Church Development,” has a current
7 balance of approximately \$32.5M. The Barnes Evaluation and Administration Team (BEAT)
8 provides approval and oversight for distributing funds. One of the first decisions made by BEAT
9 was to establish a spending policy that protected the Barnes Fund Corpus in perpetuity. This
10 spending policy was then approved by the Conference Board of Trustees on 03/04/2021. BEAT
11 works in collaboration with District Superintendents, District Strategic Growth Teams, and
12 Conference agencies to ensure that all eight districts are offered the same opportunity to seek
13 funds for their district-specific missional needs. Investments are distributed via vital ministry
14 grants that support the mission and vision of local congregations.

15 In 2021, the spending policy set by BEAT provided approximately \$784,000 for grant
16 investments throughout our Annual Conference. BEAT received grant applications from 19 local
17 churches and/or districts. Fourteen grant investments were made for ministry projects ranging
18 from churches seeking to enhance their digital ministry or their handicap accessibility to others
19 starting medical clinics or opening a park for their local community. BEAT also launched a
20 Barnes Fund Investment Dashboard (www.ngumc.org/BEATdashboard) designed to provide a
21 summary of all grant investments being made across the conference. The dashboard is updated
22 regularly to promote transparency and accountability, and to educate our Annual Conference
23 about the innovative ministry investments that BEAT is funding.

24 In 2022, the spending policy set by BEAT is providing approximately \$1.4M in grant
25 investments throughout our Annual Conference. Two significant changes to the grant process
26 were made at the beginning of the year.

- 27 ● BEAT adjusted to three grant funding windows: February 1, May 1 and September 1. All
28 applications must be approved by a DSGT and sent to BEAT before each of these
29 deadlines. This adjustment has allowed BEAT to more effectively vet the increasing
30 number of applications and prioritize, per established and published criteria, the ministry
31 opportunities presented to them via the application process.
- 32 ● BEAT expanded grant access to include not only churches and districts, but also select
33 standing boards of the Annual Conference.

34
35 BEAT awarded more than \$540,000 in ministry grants during the February funding window.
36 Those investments can be reviewed on the BEAT Dashboard.

37 A great first step for any leaders of local churches, districts or standing boards interested in
38 exploring the possibility of applying for a ministry grant would be a visit to BEAT’s webpage
39 (www.ngumc.org/BEAT). A host of resources are located there including:

- 40 ● Documents and videos explaining the Barnes Fund and BEAT
- 41 ● A list of those serving on the Barnes Evaluation and Administration Team
- 42 ● Information on how to apply for a grant along with the Grant Application
- 43 ● A grant funding rubric explaining how grants are evaluated by BEAT.

44 BEAT also encourages anyone thinking of making an application for a ministry grant to
45 begin the process by having a conversation with your District Superintendent. Our
46 Superintendents are equipped to provide guidance on whether making an application to BEAT is

1 the best action to pursue. They are also able to provide guidance on their District Strategic
2 Growth Teams' BEAT grant review process.

3 BEAT has proposed new Standing Rules that will codify the work of the team as an agency
4 reporting to the Annual Conference. The Conference Board of Trustees has reviewed and
5 approved these new BEAT Standing Rules. At this 2022 Annual Conference, BEAT requests a
6 vote of approval on these Standing Rules that will memorialize the structure and work of the
7 team.

8 The members of BEAT look forward to the rest of 2022 and seeing the applications for
9 innovative ministry that are submitted from all over our Annual Conference.

10

11 Respectfully submitted,
12 Mr. Nate Abrams and Rev. Dr. Steven Usry
13 BEAT Co-Chairs

1 **206. North Georgia Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits**
2 **2022 Annual Conference Report**
3

4 The Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits works closely with Wespath
5 Benefits & Investments to provide pensions, welfare plans, and health insurance. Since 1982
6 clergy pension and welfare plans have been denominational plans as directed by General
7 Conference. Health insurance is provided at the discretion of the annual conferences.

8 The North Georgia Conference (NGC) elects to cover clergy appointed half time or
9 greater in the Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP), the current denominational pension
10 plan. Active and retired clergy may be covered by CRSP, the Ministerial Pension Plan
11 (MPP), and/or the Pre-82 plan, depending on when their service in the pastorate occurred. As
12 a result of action at the 2016 General Conference, ordained clergy appointed at ¾ time or
13 greater are covered by the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP), the denominational welfare
14 plan, which provides both disability coverage and death benefits. Churches or employers
15 with clergy covered by these plans are direct billed monthly by the NGC for the cost of these
16 plans.

17 In 2018, the Annual Conference approved the “auto enrollment with auto escalator”
18 feature of the United Methodist Pension Investment Plan (UMPIP) to ensure that all our
19 clergy take advantage of this program. As of 2019, through this feature clergy are
20 automatically enrolled in this program with 1% of their compensation going into UMPIP
21 unless the clergy person elects to not make an UMPIP contribution or elects to make a 1% or
22 greater contribution. **As of 2020, every clergy member who has not opted out of the auto**
23 **escalation feature through the UMPIP Contribution Election form will have their**
24 **election increased by one percentage point each year until the maximum of 10% is**
25 **reached.**

26 For active full-time clergy, the NGC mandates participation in the HealthFlex
27 Exchange offered by Wespath. This exchange consists of 6 medical/pharmacy plans, most of
28 which include a health savings account (HSA) or health reimbursement account (HRA) to
29 help offset out-of-pocket expenses; 3 dental plans; and 3 vision plans; Medical
30 Reimbursement Accounts; and Dependent Care Accounts. Wespath provides robust wellness
31 initiatives, including a comprehensive Employee Assistance Program (EAP) that provides
32 counseling services and work/life services to help balance work and personal responsibilities.

33 Active health coverage is direct billed to churches monthly. We are recommending
34 decreases to the pre-tax employee cost of each plan as shown in 2022 Recommendations by
35 the North Georgia Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits. The recommendations
36 also reflect a decrease in the amount billed to the churches for the clergy health benefits,
37 bringing the total per clergy participant at each church to \$1,250/month.

38 Eligible retired clergy and Conference lay employees receive a Health
39 Reimbursement Account administered by Via Health, a product of Willis Towers Watson.
40 Participants **must** buy Medicare Part B supplements and Part D plans through ViaHealth.
41 The NGC provides a graduated annual amount for reimbursement based on service years.
42 Once these service years are earned and the clergy person has retired, the clergy person is
43 eligible for this benefit even if the clergy person surrenders their credentials or moves their
44 membership to a different Annual Conference. This arrangement has helped reduce retiree
45 medical costs while providing flexibility and security for clergy.

1 Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) rates are as follows:
2

| <u>Years of Service</u> | <u>Tier</u> | <u>Rate</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 35+ years | 100% | \$3,600 |
| 25-34 | 80% | \$2,880 |
| 15-24 | 60% | \$2,160 |
| 10-14 | 40% | \$1,440 |

8
9 The funded status of our benefits plans, as of 12/31/2021 is very sound, with both the
10 pre-1982 pension plan and the retiree medical plan reflecting “fully funded” status. Further,
11 our ongoing benefits programs for active participants (CRSP, CPP, Healthflex) remain
12 funded on a current year basis via direct billing to churches.

13 The cost of clergy on medical leave with disability benefits remains steady, as
14 reflected in the budgets for disability premiums. We have 10 clergy receiving CPP benefits
15 as of December 31, 2021. The CPP plan pays 70% of plan compensation plus CRSP DC
16 pension contributions. The conference pays for the medical plan and CRSP DB pension
17 benefit. While the conference board is tasked with caring for these folks, we would ask that
18 you reach out to those in your community and pray for those who are not.

19 Please review the Comprehensive Benefits Funding Plan available at Annual
20 Conference.

21
22 Morris Henderson, Chair
23

24 **206.a. 2022 Recommendations of the North Georgia Conference**
25 **Board of Pensions and Health Benefits**
26

27 **Recurring:**

- 28 1. That the 2023 annuity rate for each year of service rendered by our clergypersons
29 prior to 1982 (aka the Past Service Rate) be set at \$724.
30
- 31 2. That the Annual Conference approves the 2023 Comprehensive Funding Plan
32 recommended by the Board of Pensions and Health Benefits.
33
- 34 3. That the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) Adoption Agreement with the
35 Wespath Benefits & Investments cover clergy appointed ½ time or greater for 2023.
36
- 37 4. That the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) Adoption Agreement with Wespath
38 Benefits & Investments cover provisional and ordained clergy at ¾ time or greater for 2023.
39
- 40 5. That the \$10,000 benefit payment for the death of full-time active clergy covered by
41 CPP remain in effect for 2023.
42
- 43 6. That the Conference continue the UMPIP “Auto enrollment with auto escalation”
44 features of the WesPath UMPIP program for clergy.
45

7. That the Annual Conference approves the Resolutions Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired, Disabled, or Former Clergypersons of the North Georgia Annual Conference

New for 2022:

1. That all participant premiums for the HealthFlex private exchange health insurance program be established as follows:

| 2023 Pre-tax Employee HealthFlex Rates | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | B1000/Year | B1000/Month | C2000/Year | C2000/Month | C3000/Year | C3000/Month |
| Single | \$ 2,412.00 | \$ 201.00 | \$ 1,908.00 | \$ 159.00 | \$ 372.00 | \$ 31.00 |
| 2-party | \$ 5,436.00 | \$ 453.00 | \$ 4,488.00 | \$ 374.00 | \$ 1,548.00 | \$ 129.00 |
| Family | \$ 7,224.00 | \$ 602.00 | \$ 5,916.00 | \$ 493.00 | \$ 1,884.00 | \$ 157.00 |
| | H1500/Year | H1500/Month | H2000/Year | H2000/Month | H3000/Year | H3000/Month |
| Single | \$ 1,608.00 | \$ 134.00 | \$ 504.00 | \$ 42.00 | \$ (852.00) | \$ (71.00) |
| 2-party | \$ 3,888.00 | \$ 324.00 | \$ 1,812.00 | \$ 151.00 | \$ (756.00) | \$ (63.00) |
| Family | \$ 5,100.00 | \$ 425.00 | \$ 2,268.00 | \$ 189.00 | \$ (1,248.00) | \$ (104.00) |
| Optional Dental & Vision Plans - Monthly Rates | | | | | | |
| | Dental | | | Vision | | |
| | PPO 2000 | PPO | HMO | VSP | VSP Premier | |
| Single | \$ 53.00 | \$ 44.00 | \$ 16.00 | \$ 8.00 | \$ 14.00 | |
| 2-party | \$ 106.00 | \$ 87.00 | \$ 28.00 | \$ 13.00 | \$ 23.00 | |
| Family | \$ 159.00 | \$ 131.00 | \$ 50.00 | \$ 20.00 | \$ 36.00 | |

The excess premium credit for H3000 will apply to either dental or vision amounts selected first and then any remaining amount will be deposited into an HSA for any participant who chooses that plan.

2. That the amounts billed to churches for clergy health insurance be reduced to a flat rate of \$1,250 per month.

206.b. Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan
North Georgia Conference (711)
2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

This funding plan incorporates, to the best of our understanding, the plan sponsor's obligations and funding of the benefits provided to clergy and laity, as noted below.

It is understood by the signees that defined benefit plan liabilities [Pre-82 Plan, Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) and Clergy Retirement Security Program Defined Benefit (CRSP DB) and other sponsored defined benefit plans] continue until the last benefit is paid to participants and their surviving spouses irrespective of the funding level of the plan. That is, even if the assets in the plan are larger than the liabilities in the plan, the plan sponsor still has a liability (obligation) and potential future contribution due to the plan.

Benefit Obligations Summary

Plan Contributions for 2023

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) DB | \$2,440,174 |
| Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) DC | \$1,255,430 |
| Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) | \$0 |
| Pre-82 Plan (Pre-82) | \$0 |
| United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) Lay | \$85,500 |
| United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) Clergy | \$0 |
| Other Defined Contribution (DC) Obligations | \$81,715 |
| Other Defined Benefit (DB) Obligations | \$0 |
| Health—Active Participants | \$9,422,665 |
| Health—Additional Sponsored Coverage | \$291,889 |
| Post-Retirement Medical (PRM) | \$2,013,163 |
| Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) | \$1,192,454 |

Ongoing Funding Contributions

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Pre-82 Plan (Pre-82) | \$0 |
| Post-Retirement Medical (PRM) | \$0 |

North Georgia Conference (711) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

| | | |
|---|------------------|------------|
| Conference Benefit Officer (or equivalent) | Amy King | 03/16/2022 |
| Conference Treasurer | Keith Cox | 03/16/2022 |
| Conference Board of Pension Chair | Morris Henderson | 03/29/2022 |
| Council on Finance and Administration Chair | | |



Opinion on **North Georgia Conference 2023** Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

The funding plan meets the standards for a Pre-82 funding plan as established by Wespath Benefits and Investments and the favorable opinion requirements for a funding plan. Note: The statement above and any written opinion provided by Wespath do not imply any representation as to the ability or probability of the applicable plan sponsor to fulfill the obligations included in the funding plan.

Wespath Benefits and Investments

Wespath Benefits and Investments
1901 W Chestnut Ave
Glenview, IL 60025

North Georgia Conference (711) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Accounts

| Wespath Accounts | | Market Value as of 12/31/2020 | Market Value as of 12/31/2021 | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|--------|
| CURRENT/ACTIVE BENEFITS RES | | \$5,195,027 | \$4,156,257 | |
| Pre-82 designated assets | \$0 | Investment Objective | Intermediate-term | |
| PRM designated assets | \$0 | Actual Allocation | Equity | 65.00% |
| | | | Fixed | 35.00% |
| | | | Short-term | 0.00% |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| NORTH GEORGIA SUPERANNUATE | | \$64,872 | \$78,849 | |
| Pre-82 designated assets | \$0 | Investment Objective | Long-term | |
| PRM designated assets | \$0 | Actual Allocation | Equity | 65.00% |
| | | | Fixed | 35.00% |
| | | | Short-term | 0.00% |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| OUT OF PLAN CRSP AND MPP | | \$0 | \$24,278,206 | |
| Pre-82 designated assets | \$0 | Investment Objective | Intermediate-term | |
| PRM designated assets | \$0 | Actual Allocation | Equity | 65.00% |
| | | | Fixed | 35.00% |
| | | | Short-term | 0.00% |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| OUT OF PLAN PRE-1982 | | \$985,598 | \$265,336 | |
| Pre-82 designated assets | \$0 | Investment Objective | Intermediate-term | |
| PRM designated assets | \$0 | Actual Allocation | Equity | 65.00% |
| | | | Fixed | 35.00% |
| | | | Short-term | 0.00% |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| \$ | RETIREE HRA PLAN RESERVE | \$39,552,269 | \$19,094,352 | |
| Pre-82 designated assets | \$0 | Investment Objective | Long-term | |
| PRM designated assets | \$19,094,352 | Actual Allocation | Equity | 65.00% |
| | | | Fixed | 35.00% |
| | | | Short-term | 0.00% |

North Georgia Conference (711) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

| Non-Wespath Accounts | Market Value as of 12/31/2020 | Market Value as of 12/31/2021 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|-----------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|---------------|--|--|--|--------------|--|--|--|------------------|--|--|
| \$ GUMF Retiree Medical | \$21,033,662 | \$25,826,219 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <table border="0" style="width: 100%; margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Pre-82 designated assets</td> <td style="text-align: right; width: 20%;">\$0</td> <td style="width: 30%;">Investment Objective</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;">Long-term</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PRM designated assets</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$25,826,219</td> <td>Actual Allocation</td> <td>Equity 75.00%</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Fixed 25.00%</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Short-term 0.00%</td> </tr> </table> | Pre-82 designated assets | \$0 | Investment Objective | Long-term | PRM designated assets | \$25,826,219 | Actual Allocation | Equity 75.00% | | | | Fixed 25.00% | | | | Short-term 0.00% | | |
| Pre-82 designated assets | \$0 | Investment Objective | Long-term | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PRM designated assets | \$25,826,219 | Actual Allocation | Equity 75.00% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Fixed 25.00% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Short-term 0.00% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

\$ *A portion of this account has been designated as plan assets. The allocated amounts will be shown separately on the Allocation screen and will not be included in the Market Value for this account.*

North Georgia Conference (711) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Incoming Money

Primary Sources

Estimated amount for 2023

Apportionments \$2,356,327

Annual Apportionment \$2,480,344

x Expected Collection Percentage 95.00%

Direct Billing

Other Sources

CRSB DC Direct Bill

CRSP DB Direct Bill

Refer to the following "Allocate Funding Sources" pages for actual amounts allocated from the above funding sources.

North Georgia Conference (711) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Allocate Funding Sources to Benefit Obligations

| Funding Sources | | Current/Active Benefits Res | North Georgia Superannuate | Out Of Plan Crsp And Mpp | Out Of Plan Pre-1982 | Apportionments |
|---|-------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Available Balance | | \$4,156,257 | \$78,849 | \$24,278,206 | \$265,336 | \$2,356,327 |
| Total Allocated | | \$85,500 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$2,356,327 |
| Remaining Balance | | \$4,070,757 | \$78,849 | \$24,278,206 | \$265,336 | \$0 |
| Plan Contributions for 2023 | | | | | | |
| CRSP DB | \$2,440,174 | | | | | |
| CRSP DC | \$1,255,430 | | | | | |
| MPP | | | | | | |
| Pre-82 | | | | | | |
| UMPIP Lay | \$85,500 | \$85,500 | | | | |
| UMPIP Clergy | | | | | | |
| \$10,000 Death Benefit for active participants in C | \$35,000 | | | | | \$35,000 |
| MetLife Death Benefit | \$30,440 | | | | | |
| UNUM Lay LTD | \$16,275 | | | | | \$16,275 |
| Health Active | \$9,422,665 | | | | | |
| Health Additional | \$291,889 | | | | | \$291,889 |
| Post-Retirement Medical | \$2,013,163 | | | | | \$2,013,163 |
| CPP | \$1,192,454 | | | | | |
| Ongoing Funding Contributions | | | | | | |
| Pre-82 | | | | | | |
| Post-Retirement Medical | \$0 | | | | | |

North Georgia Conference (711) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Allocate Funding Sources to Benefit Obligations

| Funding Sources | | Direct Billing | Crsb Dc Direct Bill | Crsp Db Direct Bill | Pre-82 Surplus | Prm In-Plan & Outside Assets |
|---|-------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| Available Balance | | | | | \$13,633,658 | \$44,920,571 |
| Total Allocated | | \$10,645,559 | \$1,255,430 | \$2,440,174 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Remaining Balance | | | | | \$13,633,658 | \$44,920,571 |
| Plan Contributions for 2023 | | | | | | |
| CRSP DB | \$2,440,174 | | | \$2,440,174 | | |
| CRSP DC | \$1,255,430 | | \$1,255,430 | | | |
| MPP | | | | | | |
| Pre-82 | | | | | | |
| UMPIP Lay | \$85,500 | | | | | |
| UMPIP Clergy | | | | | | |
| \$10,000 Death Benefit for active participants in C | \$35,000 | | | | | |
| MetLife Death Benefit | \$30,440 | \$30,440 | | | | |
| UNUM Lay LTD | \$16,275 | | | | | |
| Health Active | \$9,422,665 | \$9,422,665 | | | | |
| Health Additional | \$291,889 | | | | | |
| Post-Retirement Medical | \$2,013,163 | | | | | |
| CPP | \$1,192,454 | \$1,192,454 | | | | |
| Ongoing Funding Contributions | | | | | | |
| Pre-82 | | | | | | |
| Post-Retirement Medical | \$0 | | | | | |

North Georgia Conference (711) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

| Plan Contributions for 2023 | | Funding Needed |
|---|-------------|----------------|
| CRSP DB | \$2,440,174 | \$0 |
| CRSP DC | \$1,255,430 | \$0 |
| MPP | | \$0 |
| Pre-82 | | \$0 |
| UMPIP Lay | \$85,500 | \$0 |
| UMPIP Clergy | | \$0 |
| MetLife Death Benefit | \$30,440 | \$0 |
| UNUM Lay LTD | \$16,275 | \$0 |
| \$10,000 Death Benefit for active participants in C | \$35,000 | \$0 |
| Health Active | \$9,422,665 | \$0 |
| Health Additional | \$291,889 | \$0 |
| Post-Retirement Medical | \$2,013,163 | \$0 |
| CPP | \$1,192,454 | \$0 |

| Ongoing Funding Contribution for 2023 | | Funding Needed |
|---------------------------------------|-----|----------------|
| Pre-82 | | |
| Post-Retirement Medical | \$0 | \$0 |

North Georgia Conference (711) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP)

Plan Overview: The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) retirement program providing lifetime income and account flexibility designed for those who serve as clergy of The United Methodist Church. The plan is designed to provide participants with one portion of their overall retirement benefits. CRSP replaced the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) effective January 1, 2007.

CRSP consists of two components:

- A defined benefit (DB) plan--provides a monthly benefit at retirement based upon years of credited service to the Church
- A defined contribution (DC) plan--provides a retirement account balance established and funded by the annual conferences

Elections and Estimates

| | Final |
|---|--------------|
| Eligibility requirement | 50%+ |
| Conference Full Time Equivalents (FTE) | 477.75 |
| CRSP Defined Benefit (DB) | |
| Required contribution for 2023 | \$2,440,174 |
| CRSP Defined Contribution (DC) | |
| Expected average future annual increases | 1.00% |
| Estimated contribution for 2023 | \$1,255,430 |

CRSP DB Denominational Information as of 1/1/2021

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Total plan liability | \$(2,134,736,431) |
| Total plan assets | \$2,520,654,197 |
| Total plan funded status | \$385,917,766 |
| Total plan funded ratio | 118% |
| Plan sponsor's liability percentage | 2.8684% |

North Georgia Conference (711) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Key Actuarial Assumptions Used in CRSP DB Cost Calculations

| | |
|--|--|
| Discount rate | 7.00% |
| Future Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) increases | 2.00% |
| COLA increases for actives | 2.00% |
| Mortality | Pri-2012 TQ Adj, generational projection using MP2020 |

Calculated values are based upon the assumptions and methods documented in the actuarial valuation report issued in September, 2021.

North Georgia Conference (711) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP)

Plan Overview: Supplement Three to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) provides clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church from 1982 through 2006. MPP is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) retirement plan. MPP requires that exactly 65% of the account balance must be annuitized when it is to be distributed. The remainder may be rolled over to UMPIP, another qualified plan or an IRA, or paid in a lump sum.

Elections and Estimates

| | Final |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Required contributions for 2023 | \$0 |

MPP Denominational Annuities Information as of 1/1/2021

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Total MPP annuities liability | \$(3,630,817,808) |
| Total plan assets | \$4,439,554,422 |
| Total plan funded status | \$808,736,614 |
| Total plan funded ratio | 122% |
| Plan sponsor's liability percentage | 2.1913% |

Future MPP Denominational Annuitants Information as of 1/1/2021

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Total participant account balances | \$3,437,346,240 |
| Plan sponsor's participant account balances | \$92,542,036 |

Key Actuarial Assumptions Used in MPP Annuities Cost Calculations

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Discount rate | 6.25% |
| Benefit increases | Based on increases selected by participant |
| Mortality | Pri-2012 TQ Adj, generational projection using MP2020 |

Calculated values are based upon the assumptions and methods documented in the actuarial valuation report issued in September, 2021.

North Georgia Conference (711) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Pre-82 Plan (Pre-82)

Plan Overview: Supplement One to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), also known as the Pre-82 Plan, provides clergy with a pension benefit for their years of ministry with The United Methodist Church prior to 1982. The Pre-82 Plan was replaced by MPP effective January 1, 1982. If a clergyperson retires within the conference (and does not terminate), the minimum benefit payable is based on two factors:

- 1) Years of service with pension credit--approved by each conference on the recommendation of the Conference Board of Pensions (CBOP) in accordance with plan provisions and The Book of Discipline.
- 2) The conference pension rate (past service rate)--the dollar amount chosen by the conference as the amount payable for each approved year of service with pension credit (may change from year to year).

The number of years of service with pension credit is multiplied by the PSR, and the product is the minimum annual benefit payable to those clergy eligible for Pre-82 Plan benefits. In certain situations, the benefit received from the Pre-82 plan may vary based on the applicability of what is referred to as Defined Benefit Service Money (DBSM), which is the defined contribution feature of the Pre-1982 Plan. At the time that a participant retires, the DBSM account is converted to a life-based benefit. At that point, the clergy's benefit is the greater of the PSR benefit or DBSM benefit. If the conference increases the PSR, the clergy's benefit is recalculated; however the DBSM-based benefit does not change.

Elections and Estimates

| | Final |
|--|--------------|
| Past Service Rate (PSR) | 724 |
| Estimated PSR cost-of-living increase | 0.00% |
| Contingent Annuitant Percentage (CA%) | 75 % |
| Discount rate | 5.5000% |
| Minimum contribution for 2023 | \$0 |
| Advanced funding contribution for 2023 payable in 2022 | \$0 |

Funding Plan Contribution

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Funding plan liability as of 1/1/2021 | \$(30,734,446) |
| Total of in-plan and outside assets | \$41,183,863 |
| Funded status | \$10,449,417 |
| Funded ratio | 134% |
| Funded status projection as of 12/31/2022 | \$12,922,899 |
| Proposed ongoing funding contribution for 2023 | \$0 |

North Georgia Conference (711) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Pre-82 Denominational information as of 1/1/2021

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Total plan liability | \$(1,773,713,538) |
| Total plan assets | \$1,977,157,868 |
| Total plan funded status | \$203,444,330 |
| Total plan funded ratio | 111% |

Calculated values are based upon the assumptions and methods documented in the actuarial valuation report issued in September, 2021.

North Georgia Conference (711) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Health—Active Participants

Elections and Estimates

| | Final |
|--|--------------------------|
| Health plan offered to actives | Self-Funded - HealthFlex |
| Actual annual plan benefit cost paid in 2021 | \$8,389,125 |
| Budgeted annual plan benefit cost for 2022 | \$8,724,690 |
| Projected annual plan benefit cost for 2023 | \$9,422,665 |
| Expected average future annual increases | 8.00% |

Rationale for each change

From HealthFlex 2023 Rate Sheet

North Georgia Conference (711) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Health—Additional Sponsored Coverage

Categories of participants who are provided health benefit coverage during periods of non-employment. Without plan sponsor-funded premiums, these participants would not be provided coverage or benefits.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Clergy or lay on disability (including pending disability) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Surviving spouses or children of deceased active participants |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Clergy or lay on leaves of absence |

Coverage Obligations

| Covered Category | Estimated obligation as of 12/31/2020 | Estimated obligation as of 12/31/2021 |
|---|--|--|
| Clergy or lay on disability (including pending disability) | \$909,846 | \$1,452,000 |
| Surviving spouses or children of deceased active participants | \$62,985 | \$83,664 |
| Clergy or lay on leaves of absence | \$0 | \$0 |
| Total | \$972,831 | \$1,535,664 |

Annual cost calculation

The following calculations are not a present value of future costs.

| | | |
|---|---|-------------|
| Total estimated obligation as of 12/31/2021 | | \$1,535,664 |
| Average number of years of remaining coverage | ÷ | 6.1366 |
| Estimated annual cost as of 12/31/2021 | = | \$250,248 |
| Expected average future annual increases | x | 8.00% |
| Projected annual cost as of 12/31/2023 | = | \$291,889 |

North Georgia Conference (711) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Post-Retirement Medical (PRM)

Valuation

The most recent actuarial valuation was provided by Willis Towers Watson as of 01/01/2022.
Per *The Book of Discipline*, your next PRM biennial actuarial valuation is required as of 01/01/2024.

PRM Actuarial Valuation as of 01/01/2022

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Valuation report (in-plan) assets | \$0 |
| EPBO net plan sponsor cost | \$41,453,314 |
| APBO net plan sponsor cost | \$34,800,345 |
| Service cost net plan sponsor cost | \$636,325 |
| Annual plan benefit cost | \$1,983,412 |
| Intention regarding PRM | Retain current plan benefit |

| Participant counts by category | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Active participants | 569 |
| Active dependents | 407 |
| Retirees | 341 |
| Surviving spouses | 106 |
| Dependents of retired participants | 192 |
| Total participants | 1,615 |

| Key actuarial assumptions | |
|--|------------|
| Census date | 01/01/2021 |
| Discount rate | 2.60% |
| Expected return on assets | 0.00% |
| Valuation year medical trend or inflation rate | 6.25% |
| Ultimate medical trend or inflation rate | 5.00% |
| Fiscal year for ultimate medical trend | 2027 |

North Georgia Conference (711) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Elections and Estimates

Description of Benefit

HRA

| | Final |
|---|--------------|
| Health plan benefit offered to retirees | Via Benefits |
| Expected average future annual increases | 1.50% |
| Projected annual plan benefit cost as of 2023 | \$2,013,163 |

Funding Plan Contribution

The following calculations are not a present value of future costs.

| | | |
|---|---|--------------|
| Net PRM assets | | \$44,920,571 |
| APBO net plan sponsor cost | - | \$34,800,345 |
| Funded status | = | \$10,120,226 |
| Portion of funded status payable (\$0 if Funded status ≥ \$0) | | \$0 |
| Funding plan service cost (\$0 if Net PRM assets ≥ EPBO) | + | \$0 |
| Ongoing funding contribution for 2023 | = | \$0 |

Rationale for each change

The Annual Conference voted in 2021 to no longer provide the HRA benefit to spouses of clergy who retire after 12/31/2021. Due to the reduction in the HRA liability, the Conference voted to move approximately \$25m of the assets into a separate account to help lower the liability of churches that are choosing to disaffiliate.

North Georgia Conference (711) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)

Plan Overview: The Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) provides death, long-term disability and other welfare benefits for eligible clergy of The United Methodist Church and their families. It is an Internal Revenue Code 414(e) "church plan" funded by plan sponsor insurance premiums. Generally, clergy are eligible to participate in CPP if they satisfy the eligibility requirements, including full-time appointment with plan compensation of at least 25% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC). Plan sponsors may elect to cover participants with three-quarter time appointments and/or to continue to cover clergy who, due to certain leaves or appointments, are not otherwise eligible to continue coverage.

The CPP adoption agreement executed by the NORTH GEORGIA contains its elections to cover or not to cover categories mentioned above.

Elections and Estimates

| | Final |
|--|--------------|
| Expected average future annual increases | 1.60% |
| Estimated premium for 2023 | \$1,192,454 |

North Georgia Conference (711) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP)

Plan Overview: The United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) is an Internal Revenue Code section 403(b) defined contribution retirement savings plan for clergy and lay employees of The United Methodist Church and affiliated organizations. Participants may make before-tax, Roth and/or after-tax contributions through payroll deductions. Participant contributions, various optional plan sponsor contributions and investment earnings comprise the individual's retirement account balance.

United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) Lay

Elections and Estimates

| | Final |
|--|----------|
| Expected average future annual increases | 2.20% |
| Estimated contribution for 2023 | \$85,500 |

Rationale for each change

Decrease in staff participating in the match.

United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) Clergy

Elections and Estimates

| | Final |
|--|-------|
| Expected average future annual increases | 0.00% |
| Estimated contribution for 2023 | \$0 |

North Georgia Conference (711) 2023 Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

Other Defined Contribution (DC) Obligations

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Name | Estimated annual contribution |
| \$10,000 Death Benefit for active participants in C | \$35,000 |

Description
\$10,000 Death Benefit for active participants in CPP

| | |
|--|--------------|
| | Final |
| Expected average future annual increases | 0.00% |
| Estimated contribution for 2023 | \$35,000 |

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Name | Estimated annual contribution |
| MetLife Death Benefit | \$30,440 |

Description
MetLife Death Benefit

| | |
|--|--------------|
| | Final |
| Expected average future annual increases | 0.00% |
| Estimated contribution for 2023 | \$30,440 |

Rationale for each change
Renewal rate provided by Metlife

| | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| Name | Estimated annual contribution |
| UNUM Lay LTD | \$16,275 |

Description
UNUM Lay LTD

| | |
|--|--------------|
| | Final |
| Expected average future annual increases | 5.00% |
| Estimated contribution for 2023 | \$16,275 |

1 **207. Commission on Equitable Compensation**

2
3 **207.a. Summary Report – 2022 Commission on Equitable Compensation**

4
5 The Commission on Equitable Compensation (CEC) is composed of laity and clergy
6 representing each district, the Cabinet, and Conference staff. Our purpose is to recommend
7 standards, provide resources, and offer accountability for insuring our pastors are compensated
8 fairly and treated with dignity. Our goal is that churches and clergy may work together with a
9 common and affirmed expectation of pastoral support.

10 In addition to recommending minimum compensation and housing guidelines for pastors,
11 another charge of the commission is to provide grants for assistance in funding full-time clergy
12 in churches that are experiencing financial difficulties. The commission also supports District
13 Superintendents as they identify missional churches, which provide either a unique ministry or a
14 United Methodist presence otherwise lacking in a community. The intent of these direct grants is
15 to be a short-term solution and not long-term support.

16 The commission also monitors and identifies churches that are in arrearage for their
17 pastor’s pension and insurance premiums due to less than full payment for periods of three
18 months and greater. These arrearages constitute “unintended” grants, as the conference covers
19 the cost of unpaid pension and insurance premiums to prevent a lapse in benefits for the pastor;
20 however, benefits arrearages remain an ongoing liability for the church. The CEC reminds
21 churches to prioritize paying clergy benefits before submitting apportionment payments.
22 Benefits arrearages accrue, with the balances carried over into the next year.

23 The last two and a half years have been extremely challenging for all churches with
24 unprecedented stress placed upon our pastors due to the pandemic. In addressing adequate
25 support for our clergy, the CEC recognizes that minimum salaries for full-time clergy have not
26 been raised since AC2018, and the minimum housing allowance has not been increased for the
27 last six years. Minimum salaries in the North Georgia Conference are 7.5% below the
28 denominational average and 17% below many conferences in the Southeastern Jurisdiction. In
29 consideration of these factors and current trends in the cost of living, the CEC proposes a 5.6%
30 increase to minimum salary levels and similarly to the housing allowance. Minimum
31 compensation detail and guidelines are in our full report.

32 The CEC acknowledges that many churches have elected to maintain and, in some cases,
33 reduce salary levels for clergy and lay staff. However, with regard to the information previously
34 noted and to properly care for our pastors, staff, and their families, the commission encourages
35 churches consider a cost-of-living salary increase of 5% for both clergy and lay staff for 2023.

36 Thank you to the laity and clergy of the North Georgia Conference for your faithful work
37 in the ministry we share in Christ.

38
39 Harden Hopper, CEC Chair
40 harden.hopper@ngumc.net
41

1 conference *Handbook* and *Journal* as “churches receiving equitable compensation.” These
2 specific churches or charges will be reported based on the following methodology:

- 3 1. If the total balance due as of December 31 of the current year is greater than the total
4 balance due as of December 31 of the previous year by an amount exceeding two months
5 invoice amount, said church or charge will be reported as a church or charge having
6 received Equitable Compensation Funds.
- 7 2. The amount recorded in the report will equate to the total difference between this year's
8 total balance due and last year's total balance due.
- 9 3. Churches with benefits arrearage who pay their pastor(s) above minimum cash
10 compensation have 18 months from January 1, 2022, to pay the previous year's benefits in
11 full or reduce base salary to the conference minimum cash compensation.

12 13 **207.e. Conference Pastors Payment**

14 The CEC recommends all pastors be paid in advance. This alleviates undue hardship on pastors
15 and their families from a salary delay when appointed to a new appointment. Furthermore, any
16 payment(s) due to the conference office or other designated office(s) for the pastor's benefits is
17 to be paid at the first of each month to comply with ¶624.1 and the conference's arrearage policy.
18 Since pension payments and insurance premiums are part of the financial support package, these
19 should be paid prior to the payment of conference apportionments in the event the church
20 financial condition will not allow for full payment of both.

21 22 **207.f. Conference Standards for Pastoral Support**

23 The following items are to be included in the definition of full clergy financial support for
24 appointment year 2022:

- 25 1. Base compensation, includes cash compensation payments, payments to cover or assist
26 personal Social Security taxes of the pastor and any other cash benefits paid to the pastor.
- 27 2. Annual conference pension plan payments and life and health insurance premiums.
- 28 3. Provision for a parsonage or a housing allowance.
- 29 4. Reimbursement for travel/business expenses and continuing education, and any other
30 expenses as may be required by the annual conference.

31
32 **Note:** Base compensation may be divided into salary and a utilities/furnishings allowance to
33 minimize a pastor's tax liability. Local churches should be familiar with Internal Revenue
34 Service requirements for pastors receiving nontaxable reimbursement when establishing
35 compensation.

36 37 **207.g. Minimum Compensation**

38 The CEC acknowledges that the last two years have been extremely challenging for all churches,
39 and notwithstanding payroll protection grants and other measures, many churches have struggled
40 to maintain ongoing levels of staffing and salaries. The CEC also recognizes that mental and
41 emotional health concerns for our clergy have come to the forefront as pastors have been stressed
42 in unprecedented ways, which the rising cost of living has compounded. In determining
43 compensation recommendations going forward, it is important to consider some relevant
44 information.

45 The last increase to full-time clergy minimum salaries in the North Georgia Conference was
46 during the AC2018 session for 2019. The minimum salary for Part Time Local Pastors was

1 established at the AC2019 session for 2020 and has remained unchanged. The minimum
 2 housing allowance for full-time clergy has remained unchanged since 2016. For 2022, the North
 3 Georgia Conference minimum salaries are 7.5% below the average minimums for the
 4 denomination in general, and 17% below neighboring conferences in the Southeastern
 5 Jurisdiction.

6
 7 As a step toward addressing inequity in minimum compensation levels and cost of living
 8 increases, for 2023 the CEC is recommending an increase to minimum salary levels for all clergy
 9 classifications, and an increase to the minimum housing allowance for full-time clergy. The
 10 CEC also encourages churches consider a cost-of-living salary increase of 5% for both clergy
 11 and lay staff for 2023.

12
 13 The Commission recommends the following minimum compensation for the annual conference
 14 in the year 2023.

| 15 <u>Category</u> | <u>2022</u> | <u>2023</u> |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| 16 (*)(**)Full Connection | \$40,000 | \$42,240 |
| 17 (*) Associate Member | \$37,800 | \$39,917 |
| 18 (*) Provisional Member | \$37,800 | \$39,917 |
| 19 (*) Full Time Local Pastor | \$34,815 | \$36,765 |
| 20 (*) Part Time Local Pastor | \$12,750 (a) | \$13,464 (a) |

21
 22 * This amount represents the total of Sections I and II of the "Clergy Financial Support
 23 Worksheet" as found on the conference website under Forms, Clergy and Financial Support.

24 ** Full Connection refers to both Elders and Deacons.

25 (a) These amounts are per appointment, based on ten hours per week, and are established in order
 26 to assure equitable pay for Part Time Local Pastors (PTLP). Churches served by a PTLP are
 27 NOT eligible for Equitable Compensation funds.

28
 29 **207.h. Accountable Reimbursement Plan**

30 Local churches shall reimburse pastors for travel/business expenses and continuing education
 31 expenses under an accountable reimbursement plan that complies with Internal Revenue Service
 32 regulations. These IRS regulations require that reimbursements made outside an accountable
 33 reimbursement plan to be reported as taxable income. The local church shall budget sufficient
 34 funds to meet the anticipated cost of pastoral travel and business expenses based on the most
 35 current year's actual expenses or the amount determined with the pastor.

36
 37 **207.i. Continuing Education and Spiritual Growth**

38 The local church shall budget sufficient funds to meet the pastoral continuing education
 39 expectation of the Pastor (Staff)-Parish Relations Committee as outlined in *The 2016 Book of*
 40 *Discipline* in ¶258.2g(8). This amount shall be no less than \$800 annually.

41 *The 2016 Book of Discipline* ¶350 deals with continuing education and spiritual growth. The
 42 Commission would like to emphasize that this paragraph in the *Book of Discipline* states that
 43 each clergy's continuing education and spiritual growth program should include at least one
 44 week each year and at least one month during one year of every quadrennium. Additionally,

1 such leaves shall not be considered as part of the minister’s vacations. For more information on
2 this subject, please refer to *The 2016 Book of Discipline* ¶350, page 293.

3
4 **207.j. Vacation Recommendations**

5 The Commission recommends that all churches/charges of the conference provide their pastor(s)
6 annual vacation periods of at least the following schedule and make necessary financial
7 arrangements for pulpit supply during the pastor’s absence from the pulpit. Guidelines for
8 vacation periods shall be based on the credited years of service as indicated in the Directory and
9 Service Record published annually in the conference journal:

10
11 **207.k. Credited Years of Service Vacation Recommendation**

| | | |
|----|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 12 | 1 to 5 years | 3 weeks (including 3 Sundays) |
| 13 | 6 to 10 years | 4 weeks (including 4 Sundays) |
| 14 | 11 plus years | 5 weeks (including 5 Sundays) |

15
16 Vacation shall be calculated based on the conference year July 1-June 30.

17
18 **207.l. 2022 Equitable Compensation**

19 The Commission recommends the following items be included in the Annual Conference
20 Equitable Compensation Plan for 2022.

21
22 **Estimated Costs associated with a Full Connection Deacon or Elder:**

| | 2022 | 2023 |
|----|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 23 | | |
| 24 | Minimum Total Compensation | (1) \$ 40,000 \$ 42,240 |
| 25 | Minimum Housing allowance | (2) \$ 17,600 \$ 18,600 |
| 26 | Pension | (3) \$ 9,196 \$ 9,280 |
| 27 | Health Insurance | (4) \$ 15,516 \$ 15,000 |
| 28 | Continuing Education | (5) \$ 800 \$ 800 |
| 29 | Total Estimated Cost | \$ 83,112 \$ 85,920 |

- 30
31 (1) May be broken out between gross base salary, other cash compensation, utilities
32 allowance and parsonage-related allowances as identified on the Clergy Financial
33 Support Worksheet in sections I & II.
34 (2) Where parsonage is not provided. See Guidelines and Standards for Housing Allowance
35 and Parsonage for further explanation.
36 (3) Actual cost may vary. The amount listed is an estimate from the conference benefits
37 office.
38 (4) This amount is the minimum as set by the annual conference. The basis for this
39 recommendation is found in ¶258.2g (8) and ¶350.4 of *The 2016 Book of Discipline*.

40
41 **207.m. Equitable Compensation Fund**

42 The Commission on Equitable Compensation administers the Equitable Compensation Fund to
43 assure each pastor receives a minimum compensation approved by the annual conference (¶625.3
44 *The 2016 Book of Discipline*). The Commission will make disbursements from the Equitable
45 Compensation Fund in accordance with *The 2016 Book of Discipline*, ¶342, ¶624, and ¶625.

1 All full-time clergy appointed to serve as pastor-in-charge are eligible to receive grants
2 from the Equitable Compensation Fund under the North Georgia Annual Conference Equitable
3 Compensation Plan.

4 Churches may not receive salary supplementation funds from both Congregational
5 Development and the Commission on Equitable Compensation. A local church that
6 demonstrates the ability to maintain a full-time pastor may apply to its district superintendent for
7 a grant. It is recommended that the cabinet and the Commission on Equitable Compensation use
8 available resources to limit the number of consecutive years a church can receive Equitable
9 Compensation Funds.

10 Before a pastor can receive Equitable Compensation Funds, approval must be obtained
11 from the bishop, cabinet, and the Commission on Equitable Compensation. In order for a pastor
12 to receive Equitable Compensation Funds for the coming conference year, the Commission must
13 receive a request from the pastor's district superintendent by April 15. This request must include
14 the following information: district, church name, pastor's name, and a breakdown of the funds
15 that are being requested. If a request must be made for the period of January 1-June 30, this
16 request must be received by the Commission by October 15. In extreme situations, the cabinet
17 may request funds at any time.

18 The Commission will assemble advisory material, including but not limited to
19 denominational resources, annual conference resources and such information helpful in
20 understanding and establishing compensation in The United Methodist Church. The
21 Commission will provide such material and/or consultants from the Commission upon request by
22 district superintendents or committees on staff/pastor relations or in any event, where such
23 information would be beneficial in developing or maintaining an effective compensation package
24 or program. The Commission will be responsible for making adequate requests from the
25 Conference Council on Finance and Administration as needed for approval of budget and
26 expenditures.

27 If Equitable Compensation Fund requests exceed the approved conference budgeted
28 amounts for the Equitable Compensation Fund, the Commission is required to notify the
29 Conference Council on Finance and Administration.

30 The Commission shall report to the annual conference the charges and the clergy
31 members receiving Equitable Compensation Funds or who have received disbursements from the
32 Equitable Compensation Fund during the past calendar year, including the number of years such
33 funds have been disbursed to the charge and the clergy member.

34 35 **207.n. Guidelines and Standards for Housing Allowance and Parsonage**

36 Every church must provide adequate housing for its pastor. The church or charge may meet this
37 need by means of a parsonage or by providing a housing allowance sufficient to buy or rent a
38 home in the area served by the church. The minimum housing allowance for 2023 is \$18,600.
39 The district superintendent must approve any exceptions to less than minimum. The allowance
40 should respect the Internal Revenue Service regulations and rulings. The housing allowance
41 should be clearly established, recorded in the charge conference minutes and excluded from Box
42 1 but listed in Box 14 in the W-2 form provided to the pastor. It is recommended that if a pastor
43 has any questions concerning his/her compliance with the IRS regulations, he/she should consult
44 a professional tax consultant or a certified public accountant.

207.o. Minimum Standards for Church-provided Parsonages

These guidelines are intended to offer direction and goals for local church leaders in decisions regarding the construction of new parsonages and/or the upgrading and maintenance of existing parsonages. While the Commission understands that many parsonages within the annual conference do not meet these minimum standards, it is expected that measures will be taken by the local church to bring their parsonage(s) within these standards as soon as possible. In addition to these standards, it is expected that everything in the parsonage will be in working order.

1. **Bedrooms:** The parsonage shall have three or four bedrooms of at least 120 square feet each with ample lighted closets in each. The master bedroom shall have its own bath. It is recommended that the master bedroom be located on the main level. At least one bedroom and bath shall be on the main level.
2. **Bathrooms:** There shall be at least two full baths in the house.
3. **Kitchen:** The kitchen shall be large enough for family eating space or a breakfast nook as well as built-in cabinets, double sink, cooking range, self-cleaning oven, and frost-free refrigerator with a large freezer and icemaker.
4. **Climate control:** Central heat and air are required, along with insulation to meet present day building codes. Energy efficient windows and doors are to be provided in order to conserve energy. Screens must also be provided for all windows.
5. **Office:** An office with adequate office equipment and furniture shall be provided either at the parsonage or at the church.
6. **Living/Dining Area:** There shall be common living space consisting of a living room, family/recreational room, and dining room for entertaining.
7. **Floor coverings:** The church shall provide proper floor coverings in the parsonage with either carpeting or hardwood flooring in living spaces and tiled or vinyl flooring in the kitchens and bathrooms.
8. **Window treatments:** The church shall provide blinds or shades for all windows. Curtains may be provided but are not required.
9. **Telecommunications:** The parsonage shall have connections for cable or satellite television, telephone and high-speed internet. If these services are desired and activated by the pastor, the pastor shall pay the fees for such services.
10. **Utility area:** There shall be an indoor utility area to include an automatic clothes washer and dryer provided by the church.
11. **Wiring/Plumbing:** All wiring and plumbing must conform to present day codes and are to provide for present and future needs in order that all appliances and computer equipment may be used safely. All receptacles must be properly grounded.
12. **Security and Safety:** The church shall provide smoke alarms and fire extinguishers. Carbon monoxide detector/alarms should be installed near the furnace, kitchen and water heater areas and sleeping areas if said appliances use gas. All exterior doors shall have dead bolt locks. It is recommended that the church also provide a security system for the parsonage with the pastor paying for the monitoring services.
13. **Parsonage grounds:** Parsonage grounds should have foundation shrubbery, shade trees, and adequate yard space for children. It is recommended that the church provide lawn maintenance service for the parsonage; if not, a powered lawn mower must be provided for the parsonage. The mower should be a riding mower if the yard is larger than ½ acre.

1 Maintenance of the mower is the responsibility of the church. A fenced play area is
2 recommended.

3 14. **Garage/Carport and storage:** A two-car garage or covered carport shall be provided
4 and a minimum of 120 square feet of outdoor storage space shall be provided.

5 15. **Insurance:** An amount of insurance equal to at least 80% of the replacement value of the
6 parsonage and church-owned contents should be carried by the church (fire and extended
7 coverage). The pastor must carry adequate insurance to cover the pastor and the pastoral
8 family's personal belongings and furnishings. The church does not insure the pastor's
9 personal belongings either at the parsonage or at the church building.

10 16. **Parsonage Updates:** All parsonages shall be updated or renovated to conform as nearly
11 as possible to the suggested minimum standards in these guidelines, which were
12 approved by the Annual Conference in 2016.

13 17. Any parsonages not meeting the standards must be approved for usage by the district
14 superintendent on an annual basis.

15 16 **207.p. General Guidelines for Parsonages**

17 **Guidelines for Privacy:**

18 Although the parsonage is the property of the church, it must be understood that it is also the
19 private home of the parsonage family. Courtesy dictates that the parsonage be visited only upon
20 invitation by the parsonage family. Even the annual mandatory parsonage review and parsonage
21 committee meetings must be scheduled with the parsonage family with at least a two-week
22 notice.

23 24 **Guidelines for Care of Property:**

25 The parsonage family shall take care of the house, furnishings and property, making it a policy to
26 leave them in good condition. Best results will be obtained as the parsonage family and
27 parsonage committee work together, feeling free to discuss the needs with each other. It is
28 understood that there will be a natural depreciation of property and contents, which calls for
29 repairs and replacements periodically.

30 31 **Guidelines for Parsonage Upkeep:**

- 32 1. It is recommended that the church's annual budget include a parsonage fund equivalent to
33 at least 3% of the value of the property for the purpose of repairs, maintenance, pest
34 control, and insurance. Unused yearly funds should be placed in an interest-bearing
35 account to be used for capital expenses of the parsonage to include the future purchase of
36 a new parsonage where the current does not meet minimum parsonage standards.
- 37 2. The parsonage family shall be consulted in the selection of color schemes, window
38 treatments, and equipment.
- 39 3. The parsonage shall be kept well painted inside and out.
- 40 4. Every parsonage shall have a parsonage file. The parsonage file is to be maintained by
41 the parsonage family and shall include all guarantees, repair parts lists, instructions for
42 use of equipment, and an inventory of all church-owned contents. The file shall also
43 include a maintenance log which will list when and from whom items were purchased,
44 who to call for repairs, when and by whom improvements were made, and any other
45 information helpful to future parsonage families. A pictorial record, preferably in video
46 format, should be taken as soon as possible on or after each moving day. This record will

1 be invaluable for insurance purposes in case of fire or other catastrophe. It also would
2 serve as a record of the parsonage's initial condition. An extra copy of the pictorial
3 record and the parsonage file shall be updated and stored in a secure place away from the
4 parsonage.

- 5 5. HVAC systems shall be cleaned periodically, at least upon the change of the parsonage
6 family.
7

8 **Guidelines for Pets and Guide or Service Animals:**

9 Keeping animals outside the parsonage is recommended. It is understood, however, that family
10 pets, guide or service animals kept inside the home bring much comfort and joy. Therefore, if
11 they are kept inside the parsonage, the following guidelines must be met:

- 12 1. The church trustees must be kept informed of any pet inside or outside the parsonage.
13 2. Only a domestic pet, which will be defined as a small dog, cat, caged bird or aquarium
14 fish can be kept in the parsonage. Guide and service animals are not to be considered
15 pets. Any other animal requires the approval of the church trustees. Also, more than one
16 indoor pet or service animal requires the approval of the trustees.
17 3. All damages incurred by any pet or service animal will be the responsibility of the pastor
18 and will be reported to the church trustees and assessed. Payment for repairs should be
19 immediate, but no later than moving day. Flea and tick treatment is required.
20 4. Upon the change of the parsonage family, if animals have been kept inside, the parsonage
21 family must make an extra effort to clean the entire parsonage thoroughly to eliminate
22 any evidence of the animals having been present, which includes fleas, ticks, pet hair, pet
23 dander, stains, excrements, etc. This cleaning would include having all carpet / rugs
24 professionally cleaned.
25

26 **Guidelines for Smoking:**

27 There shall be no smoking inside the parsonages.
28

29 **Guidelines for Handling Unusual Damages:**

30 The Pastor/Staff Relations Committee and the Board of Trustees shall have regular inspections
31 of the parsonage (see *Mandatory Parsonage Review Guidelines* below). This will permit all
32 parties to review the general condition of the parsonage in order to identify deficiencies of the
33 parsonage and define programs and time schedules for improvement.

- 34 1. Any unusual damages caused by the parsonage family shall be reported to the district
35 superintendent.
36 2. Unusual damages caused by the parsonage family shall be paid for by the pastor
37 involved. Various approaches for repayment of damage repair expenses may be
38 necessary, including but not limited to the following:
39 a. Payment in full to the church for any unusual damages when identified;
40 b. Payment in full to the church prior to moving to next appointment (or retirement);
41 c. Creating a repayment schedule which may follow the pastor to his/her next
42 appointment (or retirement);
43 d. In every case, the handling of such matters must be done in consultation with the
44 supervising district superintendent.
45
46

1 **Guidelines for Utilities:**

2 Arrangements should be made by the pastor with appropriate companies to prorate all utility bills
3 up through moving day. The moving pastor shall not have the utilities turned off. It is
4 recommended that the church have the utility accounts in the church's name with the pastor
5 paying the amounts due for the utilities to the church a week prior to the due date. This will
6 prevent any transfer issues arising from pastors moving.
7

8 **Mandatory Parsonage Review Guidelines:**

- 9 1. A meeting concerning the parsonage will be conducted each year prior to charge
10 conference.
11 2. This meeting will be held in the parsonage and will include a mandatory review of the
12 entire parsonage—inside and out.
13 3. The attendance of the following individuals is expected: the pastor, the trustee
14 chairperson, the parsonage committee chairperson, and the chairperson of the pastor/staff
15 relations committee (see *The 2016 Book of Discipline*, ¶2533.4). If the pastor has a
16 spouse, he/she should also be included.
17 4. The specific date can be set any time during the year, but it must be set at least two weeks
18 prior to the church's annual charge conference with all parties agreeing to the date set.
19 5. Even though this mandatory meeting takes place to satisfy a disciplinary requirement, it
20 is recommended that other parsonage committee meetings be held to consider parsonage
21 improvements and other concerns.
22 6. A parsonage report detailing the findings and recommendations made during the meeting
23 will be completed and signed by all in attendance at the parsonage review. This report
24 will be submitted to the district superintendent during the charge conference. One copy
25 of the report shall be placed in the parsonage file at the parsonage and a second copy
26 shall be kept at the church or away from the parsonage grounds.
27 7. Any concern by either the pastor or church may be addressed at a later meeting. The
28 district superintendent may become involved, if deemed necessary by either party.
29 8. Continual patterns of parsonage abuse will be documented and stored in each pastor's
30 file.
31

32 **Check List When a Parsonage is Being Vacated:**

33 The following checklist shall be completed when a parsonage family is moving. It is the
34 responsibility of the parsonage family to clean thoroughly both the parsonage and grounds. It is
35 not the responsibility of the church to clean the parsonage. A walk through by the parsonage
36 committee should be conducted prior to the new pastor's arrival to confirm the following items
37 have been completed and it is ready for the new family.
38

- 39 1. Windows cleaned inside.
40 2. Window blinds/shades cleaned.
41 3. Rugs and carpets vacuumed (shampooed if needed, professionally cleaned if pets or
42 service animals were kept in the parsonage).
43 4. All hard surface floors cleaned.
44 5. All appliances cleaned inside and out.
45 6. All cabinets cleaned inside and out.
46 7. Basement, closets and shelving cleaned.

- 1 8. Light bulbs replaced as necessary.
- 2 9. Bathrooms thoroughly cleaned, including fixture, tile grout, shower doors/curtains,
- 3 medicine cabinets, walls, and floors.
- 4 10. Garage, carport, and outside buildings swept and left orderly.
- 5 11. The lawn shall be left in a well-maintained order.
- 6 12. All trash is properly disposed. (It is recommended that the church provide an extra
- 7 refuse container during move week.)
- 8 13. A list of all items needing the attention provided to the parsonage committee.
- 9 (This checklist may be used by the incoming pastor to rate items upon move-in as
- 10 excellent, satisfactory, or poor.)
- 11

12 **207.q. Summary statement for parsonages**

13 The parsonage is a witness of the church the stewardship of the congregation; therefore, the
14 parsonage should receive the same kind of care as the church building. An occasional open
15 house is suggested as a means of the church and the parsonage family sharing this witness and as
16 a way of enhancing the relationship between the congregation and the parsonage family.

17
18

**207.r. Current year statistics to assist Staff Parish Relations Committees
in establishing a fair and equitable package for their pastor(s)**

| Salary and Housing Data for "pastors-in-charge" appointed to a church at minimum salary or above | | | | |
|---|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| (Does not include associate pastors) | | | | |
| Total Members | Number of Churches | Avg Salary + Utilities | Avg Housing Allowance | # of Churches with Housing Allowance |
| 4500 plus | 9 | \$158,726.00 | \$37,871.71 | 7 |
| 2500-4499 | 17 | \$127,153.00 | \$30,516.63 | 16 |
| 1500-2499 | 22 | \$100,441.09 | \$28,400.58 | 19 |
| 1000-1499 | 27 | \$96,798.96 | \$25,322.24 | 21 |
| 750-999 | 26 | \$83,998.65 | \$20,739.75 | 12 |
| 500-749 | 30 | \$70,999.63 | \$22,720.83 | 18 |
| 300-499 | 67 | \$56,761.33 | \$20,431.70 | 43 |
| 200-299 | 43 | \$53,667.23 | \$20,139.40 | 20 |
| 100-199 | 61 | \$46,607.28 | \$19,308.70 | 23 |
| 99 and less | 10 | \$44,514.50 | \$15,600.00 | 4 |

| Average Salaries and Utilities for ALL those appointed to a church at minimum salary or above | | |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------|
| District | Avg Salaries and Utilities | Number of Churches |
| Atlanta Districts | \$68,624.42 | 128 |
| Non-Atlanta Districts | \$63,845.34 | 298 |
| All Districts | \$65,281.31 | 426 |

| Average Housing Allowance by district for ALL those appointed to a church at minimum salary or above | | |
|---|------------------------|--------------------|
| District | Avg. Housing Allowance | Number of Churches |
| District Central West | \$22,095.20 | 40 |
| District Central North | \$24,014.47 | 60 |
| District Central East | \$22,371.75 | 55 |
| District Central South | \$22,579.90 | 42 |
| District North West | \$20,975.00 | 21 |
| District North East | \$22,156.30 | 27 |
| District South East | \$20,969.75 | 20 |
| District South West | \$21,518.57 | 21 |
| | | |
| Atlanta Districts | \$23,423.76 | 102 |
| Non Atlanta Districts | \$21,870.84 | 184 |
| All Districts | \$22,424.68 | 286 |

1 **207.s. Pastors Receiving Equitable Compensation Jan-Jun 2022 (figures are annualized)**

2

3 **Clergy Eq. Comp. Received Classification # Years**

4 Dana Ezell \$47,804 FE 3

5 Willie Green \$24,179 FE 2

6 Matt Murphy \$49,779 FE 2

7 Sungwon Nam \$45,079 FE 6

8 Hee Chul Park \$46,719 FE 3

9 Laura Patterson \$32,900 FE 2

10

11

12 **207.t. Churches/Charges Receiving Equitable Compensation Jan-Jun 2022**

13 **(figures are annualized)**

14

15 **Church District Eq. Comp # Years**

16 St Timothy/Allgood D4CS \$47,804 3

17 Korean Church of Norcross D3CE \$46,719 3

18 Oconee Street UMC D3CE \$32,900 2

19 Bentley Hill D4CS \$24,179 11

20 Korean Church of Newnan D8SW \$45,079 6

21 Shepherd of the Hills UMC D1CW \$49,779 2

22

23

24

25 **207.u. Churches receiving equitable compensation due to LESS THAN FULL PAYMENT**

26 **of the pastor's pension and insurance premiums in 2021 (>3 months behind):**

27

| District | Church | Arrearage Balance | Months in Arrearage |
|----------|----------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| D3CE | Suwanee Worship Center UMC | \$16,211.31 | 7 |
| D4CS | Ousley UMC | \$14,651.18 | 7 |
| D6NE | Wesley Chapel UMC Dahlonga | \$3,827.16 | 12 |
| D3CE | Young Harris Memorial UMC Athens | \$6,833.08 | 3 |
| D7SE | Grovetown UMC | \$5,986.20 | 6 |
| D2CN | New Spirit UMC | \$3,772.56 | 12 |
| D5NW | Mizpah UMC | \$3,386.70 | 5 |
| D6NE | Bethlehem UMC Buford | \$2,539.04 | 12 |
| D2CN | Forest Park UMC | \$1,696.90 | 12 |
| D3CE | Johnson UMC Watkinville | \$1,575.45 | 10 |
| D5NW | Fields Chapel UMC | \$1,048.11 | 3 |
| D5NW | Gates Chapel UMC | \$279.69 | 12 |
| D5NW | Nine Mile UMC | \$279.69 | 12 |
| D3CE | Korean Church of Hamilton Mill | \$584.06 | 6 |
| | Unintended Equitable Comp | \$62,671.13 | |

1 **208. Council on Finance and Administration**

2
3 **208.a. Conference Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services**

4
5 North Georgia Conference apportionment payment percentage was 91.9% for
6 2021. This represents significant sacrificial giving from our churches, especially
7 considering the challenges of 2021. Total apportionment payments were \$15,594,426.

8 The North Georgia Conference paid a total of \$5,318,656 in General Church
9 apportionments in 2021, which reflects a payment rate of 91.9%. We remit what we
10 collect from the churches, and we do not have an “underpayment factor” in our
11 apportionment allocations.

12 The Northeast District achieved the highest percentage of apportionments paid,
13 98.3%.

14 81.8% of our churches paid 100% of their apportionments in 2021. This
15 represents 651 churches.

16 The Treasury and Benefits Offices continue to emphasize the provision of up-to-
17 date financial administration information for local churches, including information from
18 applicable government agencies. We focus on providing information on administrative
19 best practices and benefits information via our website, while also interpreting applicable
20 statutes and regulations and answering questions specific to individual churches, laity and
21 clergy. We are continuing to use and improve the quality of brief instructional videos on
22 topics that have engendered interest and inquiry from local church staff over many years.

23 The IT Department continues initiatives to automate processes and increase the
24 use of cloud-based systems. This focus on automation and remote services has proven
25 invaluable during this period of social distancing.

26 The annual conference audit will be substantially concluded prior to Annual
27 Conference session. The conference audit for 2020 audit is posted on the North Georgia
28 Conference website, and the 2021 audit will be posted upon completion. No material
29 adjustments nor recommendations are anticipated

30
31 **208.b. Investment Summary**

32
33 Conference funds are invested strictly in accordance with the Investment
34 Guidelines approved by the Annual Conference in 2016 and published on pages 61-66,
35 volume I, 2021 Annual Conference *Journal*. Investment maturities and rates of return
36 vary based on projections of cash needs, as well as on market fluctuations.

37 Gain on invested balances in 2021 was approximately 8.4% (primarily
38 unrealized).

39 Total investments at December 31, 2021 were \$124,904,212 of which
40 \$74,111,105 represents investments designated for health and pension benefits programs.

41
42 **Thanks to Treasury and Benefits Staff!**

43
44 Staff from the Treasury, Benefits, and Information Technology departments
45 consistently perform excellent work and strive to provide great service to our churches
46 and members.

1 Treasury and Benefits Staff:
2 Melody Brown
3 Ann Beesley
4 Bruce Cooper, CPA, CFE
5 Joshua Abell
6 Valerie Henry
7 Amy King, CPA
8 Michael Murphy-McCarthy
9 Judy Woodall

10
11 Thanks to our great staff for their diligence, integrity and professionalism.
12 I would like to express my deep appreciation to you, the members of the North
13 Georgia Conference, for allowing me to serve as your Treasurer for the past 21 years.
14 You have shown me love, grace, mercy, kindness, and support through the ups and
15 downs we've all shared. May God bless you and your families, and our great Conference
16 and denomination!

17
18 Keith M. Cox, CIA, CTP
19 Conference Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services
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208.c. Exhibit I: Apportionments by Funds

Exhibit I, Apportionments by Funds

Period #



| fundname | 2020 | | | | 2021 | | | | | |
|--|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------|-----|--|
| | Prior Apport | Month | Prior Paid | P % | Apport | Monthly | Paid | % | + - | |
| North Georgia Conference | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 Ministerial Support | \$4,382,497 | \$637,404 | \$3,955,707 | 90.3 % | \$3,423,695 | \$371,464 | \$3,142,904 | 91.8 % | 1.5 | |
| 2 Retired Ministers Pension & Insurance Benefits | \$2,685,003 | \$388,542 | \$2,432,854 | 90.6 % | \$1,849,941 | \$204,734 | \$1,703,744 | 92.1 % | 1.5 | |
| 3 Conference Administration | \$1,902,861 | \$275,892 | \$1,719,835 | 90.4 % | \$1,857,944 | \$201,727 | \$1,705,015 | 91.8 % | 1.4 | |
| 4 Conference Benevolences | \$1,783,056 | \$261,228 | \$1,614,055 | 90.5 % | \$1,540,254 | \$167,993 | \$1,414,659 | 91.8 % | 1.3 | |
| 5 Capital Funding | \$124,093 | \$17,650 | \$113,864 | 91.8 % | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | | | |
| 6 Higher Education | \$1,473,997 | \$213,107 | \$1,330,233 | 90.2 % | \$1,293,137 | \$140,528 | \$1,187,009 | 91.8 % | 1.5 | |
| 12 Church Development | \$1,404,501 | \$204,040 | \$1,273,758 | 90.7 % | \$1,164,951 | \$126,705 | \$1,069,423 | 91.8 % | 1.1 | |
| Group Total | \$13,756,008 | \$1,997,863 | \$12,440,307 | 90.4 % | \$11,129,922 | \$1,213,151 | \$10,222,753 | 91.8 % | 1.4 | |
| General Church | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 Black College Fund | \$497,119 | \$73,677 | \$451,022 | 90.7 % | \$414,973 | \$44,888 | \$381,097 | 91.8 % | 1.1 | |
| 8 Ministerial Education Fund | \$1,246,232 | \$196,243 | \$1,124,892 | 90.3 % | \$897,646 | \$109,803 | \$830,109 | 92.5 % | 2.2 | |
| 9 Interdenominational Cooperation Fund | \$97,458 | \$15,017 | \$89,653 | 92.0 % | \$12,398 | \$1,426 | \$11,416 | 92.1 % | 0.1 | |
| 10 World Service Fund | \$3,689,840 | \$571,771 | \$3,270,144 | 88.6 % | \$2,867,025 | \$349,801 | \$2,632,456 | 91.8 % | 3.2 | |
| 11 Africa University Fund | \$111,247 | \$16,161 | \$100,813 | 90.6 % | \$93,306 | \$10,126 | \$85,829 | 92.0 % | 1.4 | |
| 14 Episcopal Fund | \$1,092,723 | \$169,861 | \$967,060 | 88.5 % | \$1,151,706 | \$136,893 | \$1,054,115 | 91.5 % | 3.0 | |
| 15 General Administration Fund | \$438,122 | \$67,984 | \$388,260 | 88.6 % | \$353,068 | \$41,578 | \$323,636 | 91.7 % | 3.0 | |
| Group Total | \$7,172,741 | \$1,110,714 | \$6,391,845 | 89.1 % | \$5,790,122 | \$694,514 | \$5,318,656 | 91.9 % | 2.7 | |
| Southeastern Jurisdiction | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16 SEJ's Mission and Ministry Fund | \$56,002 | \$8,251 | \$50,664 | 90.5 % | \$55,990 | \$5,852 | \$53,017 | 94.7 % | 4.2 | |
| Group Total | \$56,002 | \$8,251 | \$50,664 | 90.5 % | \$55,990 | \$5,852 | \$53,017 | 94.7 % | 4.2 | |
| Report Total | \$20,984,751 | \$3,116,828 | \$18,882,816 | 90.0 % | \$16,976,034 | \$1,913,517 | \$15,594,426 | 91.9 % | 1.9 | |

208.d. Exhibit II: Apportionments by District

Exhibit II, Apportionments by District
Period # 12



| District | 2020 | | | 2021 | | | +/- |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| | Prior Apport | Prior Paid | Prior % | Apportioned | Paid | % | |
| District Central East | \$3,268,759.00 | \$2,877,818.31 | 88.0 % | \$2,555,816.00 | \$2,316,077.27 | 90.6 % | 2.58 |
| District Central North | \$4,531,018.00 | \$4,198,220.54 | 92.7 % | \$3,681,841.00 | \$3,589,067.95 | 97.5 % | 4.83 |
| District Central South | \$2,582,565.00 | \$2,241,645.76 | 86.8 % | \$2,058,292.00 | \$1,959,172.12 | 95.2 % | 8.39 |
| District Central West | \$3,008,290.00 | \$2,479,768.38 | 82.4 % | \$2,473,470.00 | \$1,819,717.69 | 73.6 % | -8.86 |
| District North East | \$2,061,128.00 | \$1,954,582.86 | 94.8 % | \$1,717,755.00 | \$1,688,020.25 | 98.3 % | 3.44 |
| District North West | \$2,109,857.00 | \$1,940,541.67 | 92.0 % | \$1,702,420.00 | \$1,617,926.30 | 95.0 % | 3.06 |
| District South East | \$1,677,880.00 | \$1,533,994.52 | 91.4 % | \$1,401,486.00 | \$1,246,712.92 | 89.0 % | -2.47 |
| District South West | \$1,745,254.00 | \$1,656,243.68 | 94.9 % | \$1,384,954.00 | \$1,357,731.69 | 98.0 % | 3.13 |
| Total | \$20,984,751.00 | \$18,882,815.72 | 90.0 % | \$16,976,034.00 | \$15,594,426.19 | 91.9 % | 1.88 |

208.c. Fund Balances

North Georgia Conference
Fund Balances
As of 12/31/2020 and 12/31/2021 (Unaudited)

| | Fund Balances 12/31/2020 Audited | Fund Balances 12/31/2021 Unaudited | Change |
|--|--|--|---------------------|
| Unrestricted Undesignated | | | |
| CFA Reserve | \$5,609,444 | \$4,634,346 | (\$975,098) |
| Unrestricted Designated | | | |
| Connectional Ministries | 452,655 | 767,326 | 314,671 |
| Academy for Clergy Excellence^2 | 240,198 | 150,237 | (89,961) |
| Board of Ordained Ministries - Transitioning | 113,114 | 115,106 | 1,992 |
| Conference Ministerial Education Fund | 292,247 | 182,141 | (110,106) |
| Congregational Excellence (Previously Church Dev.) | | | |
| Liquid | 1,878,818 | 1,513,597 | (365,221) |
| Non-liquid | 26,618 | 26,618 | 0 |
| Total Congregational Excellence | 1,905,436 | 1,540,215 | (365,221) |
| Disaster Response | 83,729 | 77,251 | (6,478) |
| Benefits Programs | | | |
| Current Benefits Reserve | 9,324,893 | 7,075,422 | (2,249,471) |
| Out-of-Plan Pre - 1982 | 1,217,871 | 301,632 | (916,239) |
| Retiree HRA Plan Reserve | 15,380,935 | 9,558,848 | (5,822,087) |
| Out-of-Plan CRSP and MPP | 0 | 24,278,206 | 24,278,206 |
| Total Benefits Programs | 25,923,699 | 41,214,108 | 15,290,409 |
| Board of Trustees - Methodist Ctr, Episcopal Res. | 3,650,879 | 4,195,860 | 544,981 |
| Board of Trustees - Closed Church Properties | 3,791,400 | 2,179,000 | (1,612,400) |
| Total Board of Trustees | 7,442,279 | 6,374,860 | (1,067,419) |
| Conference Parsonage Fund | 1,049,053 | 3,065,315 | 2,016,262 |
| Windfall Committee (Trustees) | 6,707,866 | 0 | (6,707,866) |
| Atlanta - West Church Start (Formerly Tenth St Undr) | 2,102,300 | 62,177 | (2,040,123) |
| Board of Laity | 251,153 | 296,518 | 45,365 |
| Housing and Homeless Council | 1,858,208 | 1,998,458 | 140,250 |
| Charles Barnes Fund for Church Development | 15,492,821 | 32,841,706 | 17,348,885 |
| Simpson Bequest Fund | 762,742 | 0 | (762,742) |
| Camp Wesley Campership Fund | 2,918,812 | 0 | (2,918,812) |
| Total District Work Funds | 685,866 | 1,072,672 | 386,806 |
| District Unrestricted Fund | 0 | 803,579 | 803,579 |
| All Other Unrestricted Designated (g) | 135,336 | 158,925 | 23,589 |
| Total Unrestricted Designated | 68,417,514 | 90,720,594 | 22,303,080 |
| Total Temporarily Restricted (h) | 2,235,937 | 2,264,669 | 28,732 |
| Total Permanently Restricted (i) | 264,186 | 285,997 | 21,811 |
| Total Fund Balances | \$76,527,081 | \$97,905,606 | \$21,378,525 |

(a) Based on February 2022 actuarial valuation, over-funding transferred to "Out-of-Plan CRSP and MPP."

(b) Conf Board of Trustees approved closing Windfall Fund and transferring all funds to the Barnes Fund.

(c) Atlanta West - \$1.1M paid out to P'tree Rd UMC for the church start, \$950K transferred to the Barnes Fund.

(d) Church sales net proceeds, Windfall and Atlanta West transfers.

(e) Former S'wood Chapel Mtc Fund. Holding period ended 8/2021, funds transferred to Methodist Ctr replacement.

(f) Trustees closed fund and approved transferring fund balance to the N. GA Camp Ministries Capital Asset Fund.

(g) Episcopal Office, Archives & History

(h) Millsaps Sustentation, Park Eye Fund, Park Medical Missions Fund, Retiree Needs, Pastor Sustentation,

Butler Fund, Myrtle Black Home Mission Fund, Golden Cross, Peace with Justice, Youth Service Fund,

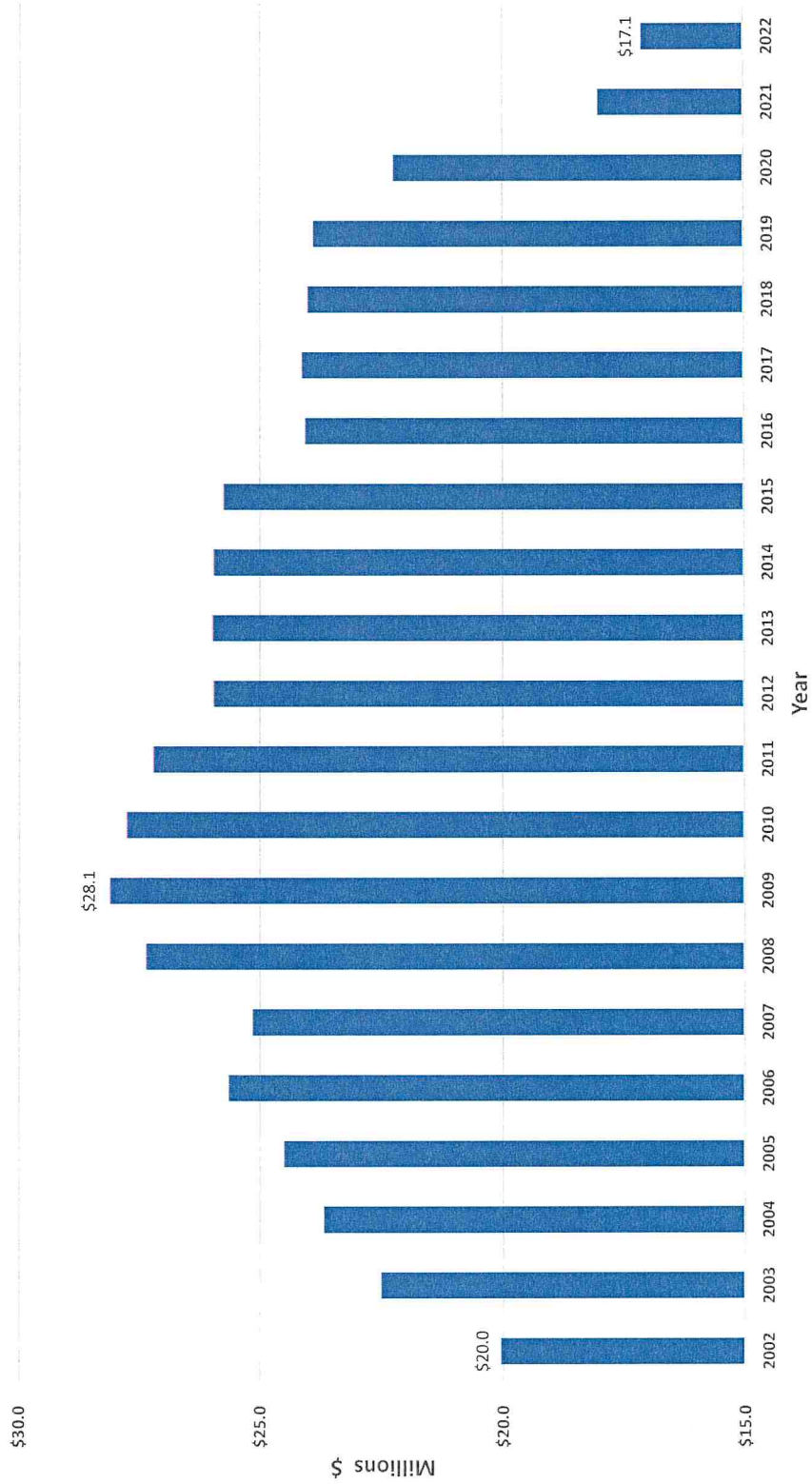
Board of Mission Fund, Gibson Fund, Christian Education Sunday, Native American Awareness

(i) Superannuate Fund, Culpepper Fund

208.f. 20 Year Apportionment History

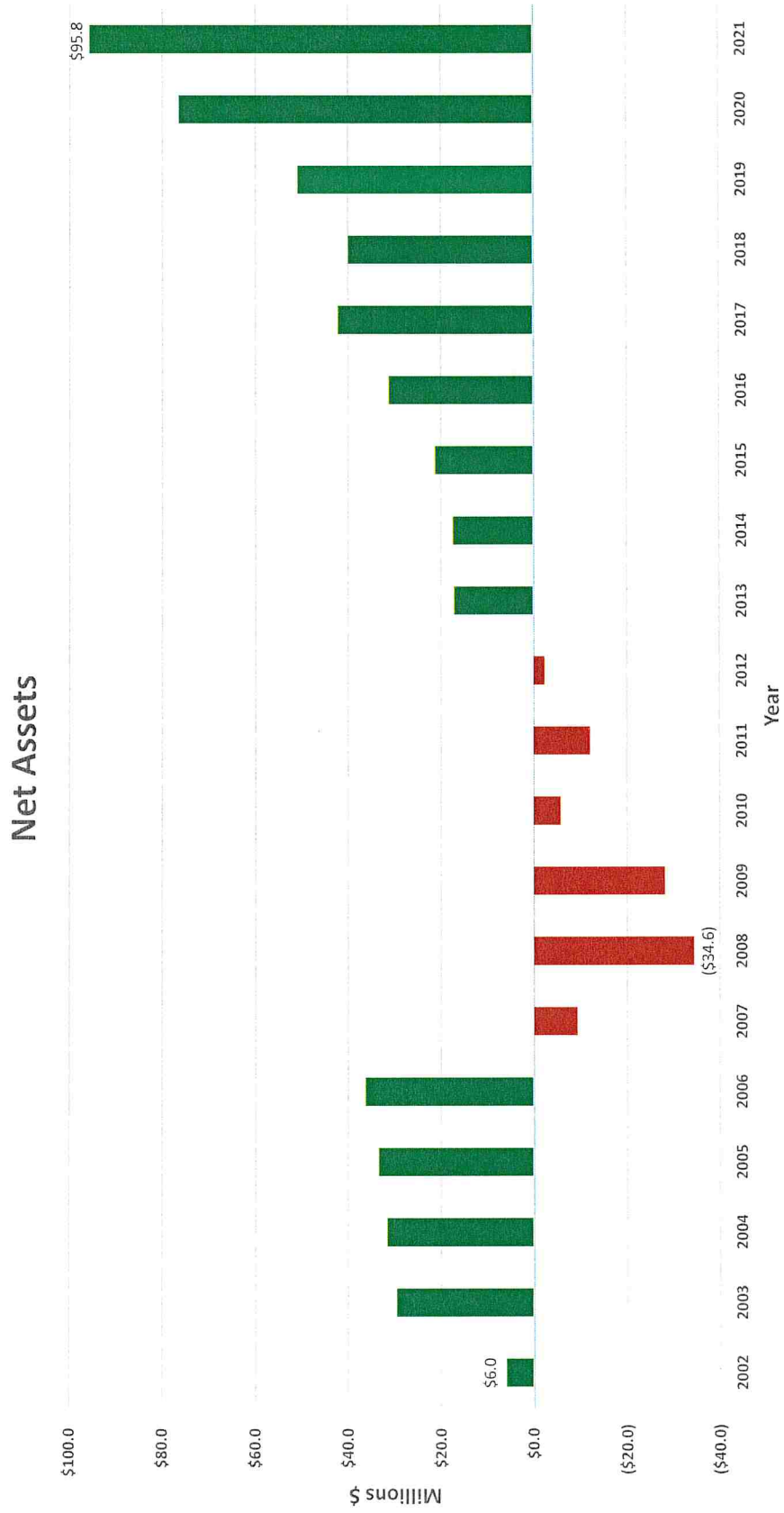
North Georgia Conference

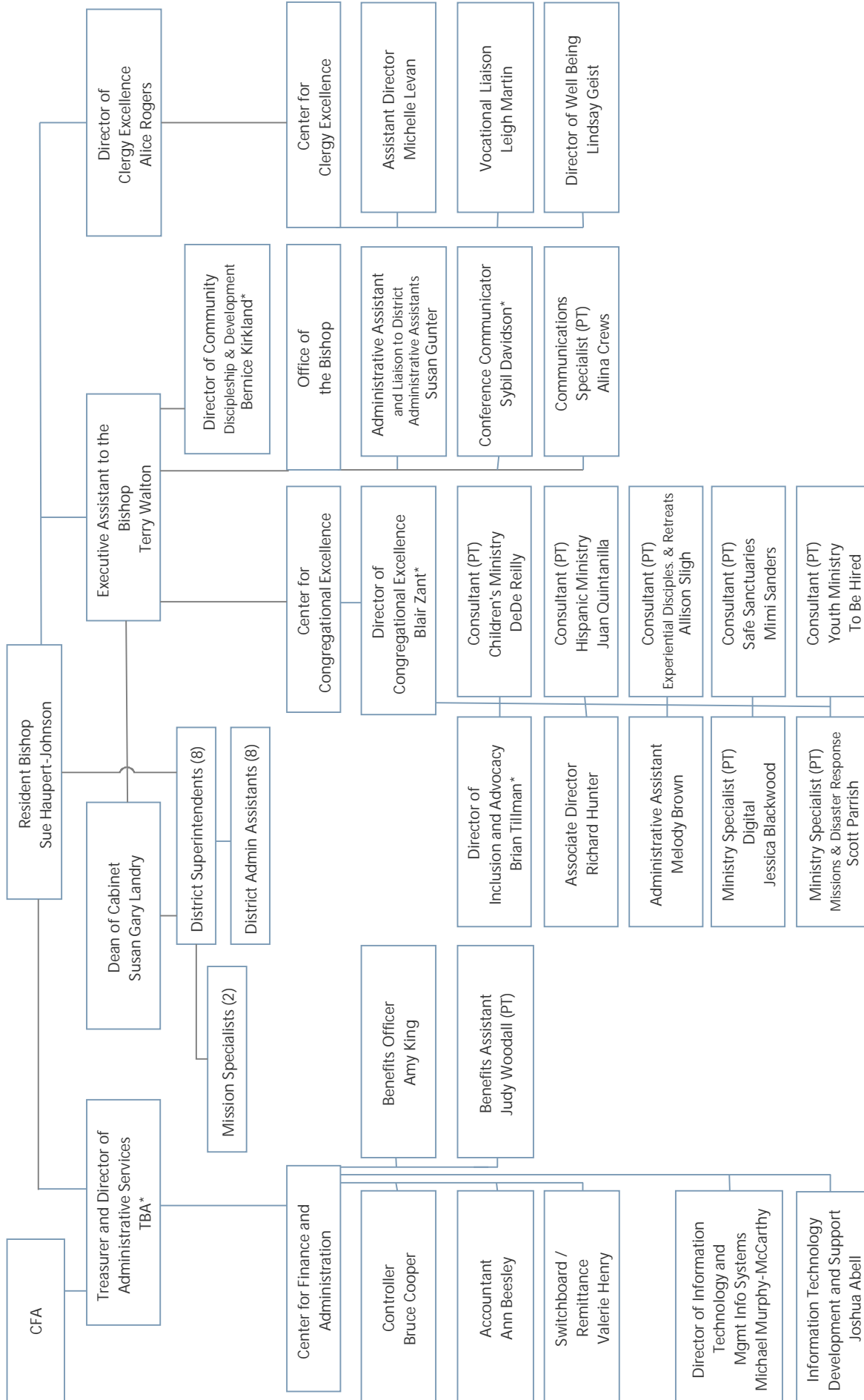
Apportionments (Includes DWFs)



North Georgia Conference

208.g. Net Assets 2002 to 2021





* Member of Extended Cabinet

3/31/2022

1 **208.i. Report of the Council on Finance and Administration**
2 **2022 North Georgia Conference Annual Conference Handbook**
3

4 The Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) serves as a steward of the North
5 Georgia Annual Conference’s financial resources. CFA underwrites the ministry needs of
6 the annual conference and the global denomination while prioritizing the work of the
7 local church.

8 CFA has taken a conservative approach to the conference budget, seeking to retain
9 resources at the local church level. We have achieved this goal through decreases in
10 general church apportionments, reductions in budget line items, and utilization of reserve
11 funds. Reductions over the past years include:

- 12
- 13 • 2020 7.8%
- 14 • 2021 19%
- 15 • 2022 5%
- 16

17 The 2023 proposed budget represents a 6.1% decrease in annual conference expenses
18 for an overall reduction of 4%. It includes a compensation increase of 3.5% for district
19 superintendents and 3% for conference staff based on previously adopted formulas.

20 The Barnes Fund for Church Development provides an innovative way to fund church
21 growth in North Georgia. The corpus will underwrite \$1,500,000+ annually in grants.
22 CFA’s Recommendation #9 endorses the discontinuance of rolling over fund balances
23 into reserves. CFA recommends all departmental reserves as of December 31, 2022 be
24 transferred to the Barnes Fund.

25 The Conference Board of Trustees asked CFA to fund legal fees incurred by the
26 North Georgia Conference in 2021 and 2022. CFA approved the use of reserve funds for
27 three requests of \$100,000, \$250,000, and \$300,000, totaling \$650,000 to date. All of
28 these funds had not been expended when this report was written.

29 The United Methodist Church supports the Boy Scouts of America Abuse Survivors
30 Settlement and committed \$30 million to the Survivor Trust Fund. The general church
31 allocated amounts to annual conferences based on claims associated with each
32 conference. CFA approved the use of reserve funds to pay the North Georgia Annual
33 Conference’s allocation of \$1,092,505.

34 Through faithful stewardship, the North Georgia Annual Conference is blessed to
35 have a healthy balance sheet and prudent reserves. Our goal is to support the United
36 Methodist Church’s mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of
37 the world.

38 I am grateful for the tremendous work that Keith Cox and his gifted team perform on
39 behalf of the North Georgia Conference. We are blessed by their leadership and
40 expertise.

41 Keith retires on June 30, 2022 after twenty-one years of faithful service to the
42 North Georgia Annual Conference. Laity and clergy join in expressing our heartfelt
43 gratitude for Keith’s exceptional work for God’s kingdom.
44

1 CFA engaged Boardwalk Consulting to lead the search for the next Conference
2 Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services. We look forward to introducing the
3 new staff person at Annual Conference.
4

5 In Christ,
6 William R. Burch
7 Council on Finance and Administration Chairperson
8

9 **208.j. 2022 Council on Finance and Administration Recommendations**

10
11 1. We recommend in addition to those observances set by the General Conference
12 (defined in 2016 Book of Discipline ¶263), the following special days, with offerings, but
13 without quotas, be observed in 2022/23: Homeless Offering (last Sunday in February),
14 Mother's Day Offering for Wesley Woods Senior Living (Mother's Day, second Sunday
15 in May), Murphy-Harpst (third Sunday in July), Golden Cross (third Sunday in August),
16 Wellroot Family Services Offering
17 (third Sunday in September), Aldersgate Homes (fourth Sunday in October).
18

19 2. We recommend that each of the following be permitted to have one direct mail appeal
20 for funds in 2022: Wellroot Family Services, Wesley Woods Senior Living; Aldersgate
21 Homes, Inc.
22

23 3. We recommend the adoption of the apportionment formula approved at Annual
24 Conference 2006, and used each year since, as described in the 2023 *Recommended*
25 *Budget Interpretation*. (Included in the 2022 Annual Conference *Handbook*)
26

27 4. We recommend that all churches and conference-related agencies ensure that their
28 internal control systems are adequate to safeguard their assets as well as to ensure
29 compliance with completing an annual audit pursuant to 2016 Book of Discipline
30 ¶258(4)(d). For churches whose operating budgets are less than \$500,000, we recommend
31 that those churches use the “Local Church Audit Guide” to fulfill their audit obligation.
32

33 5. We recommend apportioning General Church funds for 2023 at the same level as 2022
34 and 2021.
35

36 **Rationale and Considerations:**

37 The 2023 amounts were predicated on GCFA-proposed budget reductions which have not
38 yet been voted on by General Conference due to the ongoing delay of General
39 Conference session. CFA used anticipated 2021 and 2022 General Agency
40 apportionments because the prior quadrennial budget “expired” on 12/31/2020. The
41 General Agency budgets passed by GC 2016, per Judicial Council ruling 1409, would
42 require restating the 2023 recommended budget; would preclude recognizing planned
43 General Agency spending reductions and radical changes in denominational economic
44 conditions. Most importantly, it would result in an increase in our
45 recommended 2023 apportionments budget by over \$1.6 million.
46

1 6. We recommend that local churches institute or update risk management practices and
2 procedures to protect church assets, employees, and volunteers. This includes complying
3 with practices defined in the “Safe Sanctuaries” program and to monitor compliance with
4 that program.

5
6 7. We recommend that all clergy either living in church-owned parsonages and/or that
7 maintain personal belongings in a church-owned office, seek counsel from their insurance
8 agent about securing insurance coverage for their personal property, since that property is
9 not covered by the church's insurance.

10
11 8. We recommend that cabinet and extended cabinet clergy appointed to the UM Center
12 have housing-related allowances for 2023 designated as follows: Housing allowance (in
13 lieu of parsonage)-\$32,749 per year; utility allowance-\$5,000 per year. (These are the
14 same levels as the last 12 years) For non-cabinet clergy appointed to the UM Center,
15 housing-related allowance shall be at a level no lower than the minimum recommended
16 by the Commission on Equitable Compensation, but may be higher, as determined by the
17 respective ministry director. (Based on the unique circumstances of the cabinet and staff
18 clergy, the Conference Treasurer is authorized to adjust individual compensation
19 components, provided the total financial support does not exceed the amounts budgeted)

20
21 9. We recommend discontinuing the long-standing practice of “rolling over”
22 departmental fund balances (except MEF) to the subsequent budget year. Following the
23 practice for many years has provided for large departmental reserves, which in turn
24 diminishes budgetary discipline and contributed to imprecise budgeting. We further
25 recommend that any unused departmental reserves as of 12/31/2022 be transferred to the
26 Barnes Fund for Church Development.

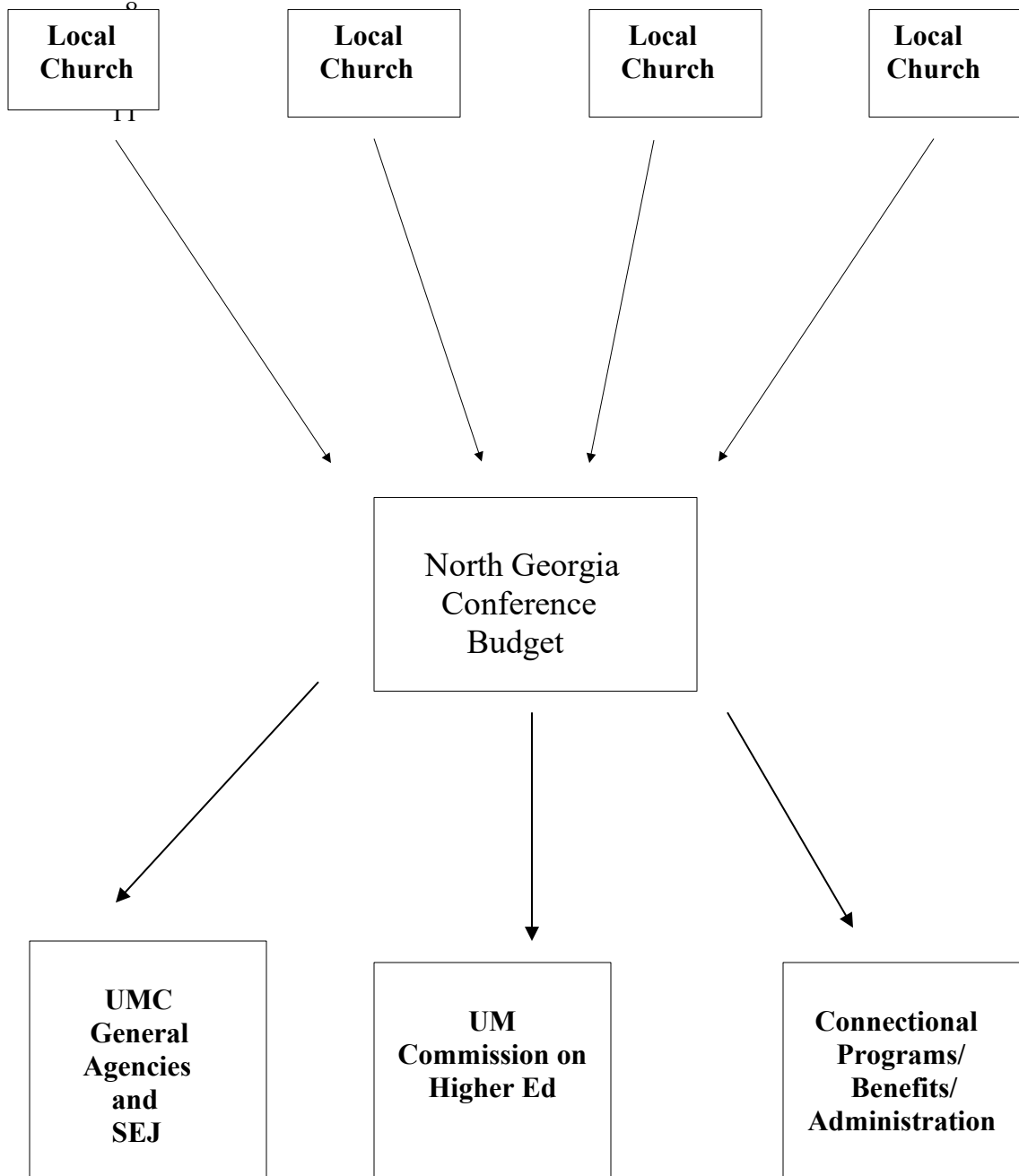
208.k. Recommended 2023 Budget

North Georgia Annual Conference
 16 Line Summary Budget
 2023 Budget - Recommended by CFA

| | 2021 Approved Budget | 2021 Expended | 2021 Exp vs Appr % | 2022 Approved Budget | 2023 Recommended Budget | 2023 vs 2021 Exp Incl/(Dec) Amount | 2023 vs 2021 Exp Incl/(Dec) % | 2023 vs 2022 Budget Incl/(Dec) Amount | 2023 vs 2022 Budget Incl/(Dec) % |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| North Georgia Conference | | | | | | | | | |
| I. | 2,825,000 | 2,278,053 | 80.6% | 2,811,500 | 2,995,315 | 717,262 | 31.5% | 183,815 | 6.5% |
| II. | 1,850,000 | 1,649,775 | 89.2% | 1,800,000 | 1,550,000 | (99,775) | -6.0% | (250,000) | -13.9% |
| III. | 3,480,221 | 2,977,092 | 85.5% | 3,472,250 | 3,304,800 | 327,708 | 11.0% | (167,450) | -4.8% |
| IV. | 1,540,300 | 1,071,503 | 69.6% | 792,452 | 564,273 | (507,230) | -47.3% | (228,179) | -28.8% |
| V. | 0 | 0 | - | 25,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 | - | 0 | 0.0% |
| VI. | 1,293,181 | 1,187,009 | 91.8% | 1,278,812 | 1,150,931 | (36,078) | -3.0% | (127,881) | -10.0% |
| XII. | 1,165,000 | 1,069,423 | 91.8% | 1,074,000 | 979,600 | (89,823) | -8.4% | (94,400) | -8.8% |
| | 0 | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | 0 | - |
| Total North Georgia Conference | 12,153,702 | 10,232,855 | 84.2% | 11,254,014 | 10,569,919 | 337,064 | 3.3% | (684,095) | -6.1% |
| General Church | | | | | | | | | |
| VII. | 414,985 | 381,097 | 91.8% | 414,985 | 414,985 | 33,888 | 8.9% | 0 | 0.0% |
| VIII. | 897,684 | 830,109 | 92.5% | 897,684 | 897,684 | 67,575 | 8.1% | 0 | 0.0% |
| IX. | 12,413 | 11,416 | 92.0% | 12,413 | 12,413 | 997 | 8.7% | 0 | 0.0% |
| X. | 2,867,108 | 2,632,456 | 91.8% | 2,867,108 | 2,867,108 | 234,652 | 8.9% | 0 | 0.0% |
| XI. | 93,297 | 85,829 | 92.0% | 93,297 | 93,297 | 7,468 | 8.7% | 0 | 0.0% |
| XIV. | 1,151,251 | 1,054,115 | 91.6% | 1,151,251 | 1,151,251 | 97,136 | 9.2% | 0 | 0.0% |
| XV. | 353,082 | 323,636 | 91.7% | 353,082 | 353,082 | 29,446 | 9.1% | 0 | 0.0% |
| Total General Church | 5,789,820 | 5,318,658 | 91.9% | 5,789,820 | 5,789,820 | 471,162 | 8.9% | 0 | 0.0% |
| XVI. | 56,000 | 48,360 | 86.4% | 56,000 | 48,360 | 0 | 0.0% | (7,640) | -13.6% |
| Grand Total | 17,999,522 | 15,599,873 | 86.7% | 17,099,834 | 16,408,099 | 808,226 | 5.2% | (691,735) | -4.0% |

1 **208.I. North Georgia Conference Council on Finance and Administration**

2
3 **HOW THE 2023 RECOMMENDED**
4 **CONFERENCE APPORTIONMENT BUDGET WAS DEVELOPED**
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208.m Council on Finance and Administration
Interpretation of the 2023 Recommended Conference
Apportionment Budget

1. The "General Church" sets priorities and develops programs at the General Conference Session for a four (4) year period (the quadrennium). Since there has been no General Conference since 2016, there is no approved General Budget for 2022 or 2023. The North Georgia Conference is basing its General Apportionments as detailed in CFA Recommendation Number Five (5).

The financial support for those worldwide ministries is apportioned to the Annual Conferences, which, in turn, apportions those amounts to the local churches. The 2023 General Church Apportionments included in the total Conference budget are \$5,789,820 or 35.3 % of the 2023 recommended Conference Budget.

The United Methodist Church is a worldwide, connectional denomination and every United Methodist church supports, via apportioned giving, the denomination's worldwide ministries.

2. Conference-based and Conference-subsidized programs, ministries, benefits, and administration requested funding based on their plans and priorities for the upcoming year. These plans are developed by program "conferencing" via staff as well as those serving on boards and committees, such as the Center for Congregational Excellence, the Board of Pension and Health Benefits, the Center for Clergy Excellence, the Georgia UM Commission on Higher Education et.al.

Representatives from several programs/ministries and their board chairpersons, if applicable, presented their requests to CFA via email and/or in person. CFA reviewed these requests on February 15, 2022.

Those requests were then put in the draft budget.

3. On March 22, 2022, CFA met to review the draft budget. During this meeting, CFA adjusted the draft budget based on several factors, including budget changes compared to change in local church expenditures; departmental fund balances; apportionment collection rates from prior years; feedback from the local churches, the Cabinet and other members of the Annual Conference; CFA decided to reduce the Conference portion of the budget. However, the percentage allocable to mission and ministry initiatives continues to remain at historic highs. The total recommended budget for 2023 is **\$16,408,099 a decrease of \$691,735 (-4.0%)** from the approved 2022 budget.

4. An interpretive video was prepared by Conference staff and posted on Conference website to brief delegates (members) to annual conference on highlights of the recommended budget, as well as other financial and administrative reports.

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5. During Annual Conference Session, the budget was presented to members of annual conference, who represent all local churches.

Conference staff will calculate the local church apportionments, which represent each church's "share" of the Conference and world-wide ministry and mission, using the apportionment calculation methodology described the "Budget Interpretation."

The apportionments will be provided to each District Superintendent, who may alter individual apportionments within their district, but not the total amount for the district. It is expected that the DS will have conversations with the affected churches about any changes in the calculated apportionments.

Final apportionments are distributed, by church, by the DS at their appointed District setup meeting in late summer/early fall.

The Conference Treasurer's Office will NOT communicate apportionments to any church, nor post the 2023 apportionments on the Conference website until after the 2022 District set up meetings are concluded! Once the set-up meetings have concluded, 2023 apportionments will be posted on the Conference website.

300. Center for Congregational Excellence

The Center for Congregational Excellence exists to support, resource, and equip United Methodist congregations and congregational leaders in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, beginning with their local communities. Our 2021-2022 missional objectives were four-fold: 1. Increase confidence and competence in multi-access ministry, 2. Build healthy networks of ministry practitioners, 3. Develop and deploy spiritually-maturing, adaptive leaders, and 4. Seek personal transformation in Christ.

The church has always had multiple access points to engagement. Prior to 2020, we understood the vast majority of those to be in person. Now, our understanding has shifted. We understand that authentic church and disciple-making can occur in multiple locations, iterations, styles, and languages. Digital space can become sacred space. Churches are even planting in virtual reality. We strive to equip The United Methodist Church in North Georgia for sustaining multi-access ministry so that as many as possible might find their place at Christ's Table.

Our entire team continues to increase our competence in conducting meetings, consultations, seminars and webinars online, and in person with online access points. This includes co-hosting seminars and webinars on Simplified Accountability Structure, in partnership with Allen Hoskyn and the Central East District. Further, CCE created digital access points to the four in-person installments of the Leading Edge Learning Series, hosted July through November 2021. NGUMC hosted Tod Bolsinger, Mark DeYmaz, Elizabeth Hagan and our own Robert King in four two-day learning experiences for NGUMC clergy and laity. The Bolsinger event was hosted by the 4 NGA churches currently participating in his Adaptive Leadership Cohort - Mount Pisgah (CN), Austell (CW), Cliftondale (CN) and St. Paul Summit Street (NE). The positive and affirming response from district superintendents and attendees to the event was confirmation of our plans to launch a second round of the cohort in Fall of 2022, based here in North Georgia, and serving a minimum of 15 of our congregations.

In total, LEL dinners and seminars garnered 161 attendees, representing 48 congregations. Dodd Sterling UMC leaders attended all 4 events. The digital content is available to the conference to view, share, and discuss in and between churches. These are now free, vital resources to any congregation focused on Adaptive and Resilient Leadership, Multi-Ethnic and/or Entrepreneurial Church Development, creating brave church spaces and Christian relationships, and reigniting our Holy Spirit-driven love for Christ and witness to our faith. The video content is available for download at www.ngumc.net/lel.

Under the leadership of Jessica Blackwood, CCE's Digital Ministry Specialist, we concluded the work of the Congregational Development Board in the Fall of 2021 by completing a third and final round of technology grants to local churches. Of the 36 grants distributed, 17 went to congregations pastored by licensed local pastors. She offered direct consults to 28 congregations, led seminars in Digital Ministry best practices for the Central West District, and will be a keynote speaker at 2022 Pastors School. She also consulted with the Black Church Development Committee to assist in the deployment of 25 Tech Kits to NGC Pastors of Color. Blackwood posts regular articles at <https://www.ngumc.org/blogs>.

Submitted by: Rev. Blair Boyd Zant
Director, Center for Congregational Excellence
blair.zant@ngumc.net

300.a. New Church Development and Fresh Expressions

“New Faith Opportunities and Communities” has been named as one of the 5 areas of focus for the North Georgia Conference. With boldness, the North Georgia Conference Academy for Leadership and Innovation was launched in September 2021 with eighteen clergy and four laity registered for this academy. We visited seven innovative church sites to learn from their clergy and lay leaders. The group attended the Exponential 2022 Conference in Orlando, an international gathering of church planters and innovators. Pastors in the group went through the Path 1 Assessment Process of the General Board of Discipleship. This assessment gauged readiness for leadership in starting new churches, worship services, Fresh Expressions, restarts, campus pastors and revitalization.

The Fresh Expressions of Church movement in North Georgia is growing! FX Vision Days were held in McDonough and Thomson, Ga. FX SPARK workshops which introduce churches to this work were held in Bremen and Gainesville. We gave grants to eight churches to start FX Dinner Churches and six grants to churches starting micro-sites in cafes, house church networks and other new expressions of church. Each church receiving a grant has been coached by laity or clergy in our FX Greenhouse under the leadership of our NGC FX Specialist, Heather Jallad. Since Spring of 2020, 76 congregations have engaged in FX training. 26 congregations participated in an in-person Vision Day in December 2021. Four Vision/Spark Days are slated for 2022.

Richard Hunter and Heather Jallad have developed a comprehensive list of existing Fresh Expressions currently active in our Conference, with 48 House Churches, Dinner Churches, Messy Churches, Lakefront Churches, and Brewery/Winery churches identified so far. They have also worked with IT Director Michael Murphy-McCarthy to incorporate FX into our Vital Statistics reporting. This allows FX leaders to track their engagements, and demonstrates conference affirmation of the validity of these creative and vital ministries. Just as importantly, it allows CCE staff to track the growth and effectiveness of our NGA FX movement in real time. Our vision is to add FX Cultivators in each district and a conference director for FX. We can see this annual conference starting 30-40 new FX sites in the next year!

We celebrate the bold faith of several congregations who this year have sought to redevelop their physical campus to better suit the missional needs of the community, and generate additional missional funding for such ministry. Wesley Community Development Center, an agency of the Western North Carolina Conference of the UMC, is one such organization to come alongside local churches and guide them in this work. Sandy Springs UMC will be the first NGC congregation to partner with Wesley CDC in this kind of work.

Finally, as we build “New Faith Opportunities and Communities,” we see great need and interest in assisting two or more churches to become ONE in ministry and mission. These processes include strategic and vital mergers, restarts, partnerships, and Cooperative Parishes. CCE will host **Better Together Conference** October 21-22, 2022, to train interested church leaders in hopeful and healthy ways to increase Kingdom effectiveness through shared ministry. The keynote speaker will be Jim Tomberlin, co-author of the book, *Better Together*.

Submitted by: Richard Hunter
Associate Director, Center for Congregational Excellence
richard.hunter@ngumc.net

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300.b. Retreats Ministry

Transformation in Christ: It is our United Methodist mission. It is also one of the five values of the North Georgia Annual Conference. The Center for Congregational Excellence views retreats as an essential means of experiencing transformation. We experience transformational discipleship in Christ when we gather together, make new friends, do things outside of our everyday routine, and have fun! Since our last Annual Conference gathering, in person retreats have included children and youth from 78 different congregations across the Conference. North Georgia Camping and Retreat Ministry and Camp Glisson continue to serve as both essential partners and hosts in this work. We are very grateful for our connection. Furthermore, we are grateful for the numerous volunteer leaders, musicians, chaperones, and local church childrens and youth pastors who make all of this possible. Of note, our *Fall & Spring Confirmation Retreats* were organized by a dedicated and creative leadership team directed by Kristen Crawford, Youth Director at Cannon UMC. The two fall *Rooted Retreat* weekends were led by a multi-conference team directed by Allison Sligh, CCE Experiential Discipleship Specialist and member at Due West UMC. Finally, the three *Spiritual Life Retreat* weekends in March 2022 were designed and led by a group of high school and college students coordinated by Hannah Stubblefield, Youth Director from Athens First UMC. Also in March of 2022, Children’s Ministry leaders from 8 different churches launched a pilot retreat experience for 4th and 5th graders called *Ambassador Road Trip*. The curriculum from this weekend will be available to all local churches to use in retreat or local church settings in June. The Fall 2022 NGUMC Retreat Calendar hosted at Camp Glisson includes: *Children’s Retreat*, September 16-18; *Fall Confirmation Retreat*, September 30-October 2; and *Rooted Retreats*, October 28-30 and November 4-6. Registration for all retreats is live at www.ngumc.org. Retreat planning for 2023 is underway for experiences for youth and children, and new offerings for all ages including families, grandparents, and young adults.

29 Submitted by: Allison Sligh
30 Experiential Discipleship and Retreats Consultant
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300.c. Children’s Ministry

34 The professional network of disciples serving the families and children of local churches
35 continues to adapt and grow around the tables of North Georgia. The Facebook Group of
36 Christian educators grew to almost 600 members sharing resources, ideation, and connections
37 online. Children’s ministry leaders met at multiple tables in each of the eight districts for the
38 Irrational Taco Tour to celebrate and learn from one another with more than 40 representing 25+
39 local churches. Nine churches gathered at Indian Springs State Park to lead more than 80+ 4th &
40 5th graders and leaders in retreat to grow in their faith and skills to be ambassadors for Christ at
41 the Ambassador Road Trip. “Hot Topic Table Chats”, held in both the Dunwoody and Augusta
42 areas, offered a table for discussion and problem-solving of some of the most urgent, hot topics
43 in ministry with families. Following a season of training conferences, we set the table for kidmin
44 leaders to share what they learned and glean from those who attended various trainings in the
45 winter at the Children’s Pastors Conference and Child Discipleship Summit. A faith field trip of
46 paddle boarding in Acworth, a Passover teaching in Alpharetta, and multiple Wonderfully Made:

1 Loved by God events are just a few of the shared events with children and their families in the
2 local churches of each district over the last year. We learn and grow #BetterTogether.

3
4 **Safe Sanctuary Report:**

5 This year thirty-four (34) churches in the North Georgia Conference have reached out to
6 the Safe Sanctuary Director regarding issues including (but not limited to) policy revision
7 questions, background check information, best practices for specific situations, how to handle a
8 convicted offender attending their church, and resources available for victims of abuse. This
9 contact has been in the form of multiple phone calls, emails, or in-person meetings.

10 Additionally, eight (8) churches and the North East District have held training sessions led by the
11 conference Safe Sanctuary Director. Hundreds of others have held trainings led by our
12 conference recommended trainers, as well as their own in-house trainers.

13 Work continues on creating a training video library for specific Safe Sanctuary modules,
14 including training for youth workers helping with VBS, Training the Trainer and off-site
15 chaperone responsibilities. Visit <https://www.ngumc.org/safesanctuaries> for more information.

16
17 Submitted by: DeDe Reilly, Children’s Ministry Network Consultant
18 Mimi Sanders, Safe Sanctuary Consultant

19
20 **300.d. Black Congregational Development**

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22 The Black Congregational Development Committee (BCD) has been purposeful in its
23 pursuit of our mission statement.

24 Despite the challenging circumstances of a global pandemic, Black Congregational
25 Development (BCD) started a new cohort of clergy and laity in the Fall of 2021. The kickoff for
26 our third cohort was October 5, 2021. These 15 promising individuals are being equipped for
27 leadership in the North Georgia Conference by participating in modules ranging from technology
28 to discipleship.

29 A study by Gammon Theological Seminary focused on the pandemic’s impact on Black
30 United Methodist churches and leaders concluded Black United Methodist congregations’
31 greatest need is for resources to help with digital discipleship, as well as youth and children’s
32 ministry. In direct response to this need, Black Congregational Development gifted 50 churches
33 with technology kits to help close the technology gap for churches in need of social media and
34 streaming assistance.

35 Additionally, Black Congregational Development has developed a pilot program in
36 partnership with the South West District that will equip select churches with two ministry
37 specialists that will assist local pastors with congregational care and youth and children ministry
38 development and enhancement.

39 A new program called Innovation Lab (I-LAB) will launch in 2022-2023 to expose
40 previous cohort members to innovative industry leaders in the business, non-profit, and church
41 sectors. I-LAB’s goal is to equip leaders to develop and enhance innovative practices within
42 their respective ministries while strengthening the North Georgia Conference as a whole.

43
44 Submitted by: Rev. Ralph L. Thompson, Jr.
45 Committee Chair, Black Church Development

1 **300.e. Hispanic Congregational Development**

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3 Everyone desires a place at the table. The Hispanic Congregational Development
4 Committee continued its focused work of supporting, resourcing, and equipping Hispanic
5 leaders, congregations, missions, and areas of advocacy to ensure that places are made for our
6 diverse, Hispanic neighbors. This year, our committee provided financial support for Latino
7 ministries, and hosted a refresher Fresh Expressions on Dinner Church with the participation of 9
8 churches. Under the direction of Melba Febus, we continued the work and service of
9 Latino/Latina Youth Ministry on the Conference level. Ms. Febus has also initiated a training
10 program for Latino young people and adults to get their high school diploma. So far, 47 people
11 have graduated from this program. As we focus on building “New Faith Opportunities and
12 Communities,” our committee sponsored two Latino pastors with scholarships to participate in
13 the Academy for Leadership and Innovation.

14 Education and *transformation through the renewing of the mind* (Romans 12:1) are top
15 priorities for our work. We continued our support of a pastor with a scholarship for his
16 bachelor’s degree, and provided a grant for four workshops on immigration. The first was held in
17 March, hosted by Trinity UMC in Dalton. We have plans to host three more in other districts in
18 the coming months. We continue to partner with United Theological Seminary to host online
19 training for the Hispanic Christian Academy for lay people of our conference. We had three
20 graduates from the Academy this year. The committee itself participated in a workshop on
21 Cultural Intelligence, led by Elaine Beattie and Claude Kayle. To strengthen “Scriptural Literacy
22 and Imagination,” we hosted workshops on “How to Study the Bible”, on empowering people to
23 be entrepreneurial, with Hilda de Leon, Lay Leader from McEachern UMC Hispanic Ministry, a
24 two-session workshop with Justo Gonzalez on the book of Revelation, and a workshop with him
25 on worship throughout history.

26
27 Submitted by: Rev. Joel Rodriguez
28 Committee Chair

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30 Rev. Dr. Juan Quintanilla
31 Consultant, Hispanic Ministries

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33 **300.f. Disaster Response**

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35 2021 was a historic year for both the scale and scope of disasters in the United States and
36 around the world. We are grateful for the reach and expertise of the UMCOR network, and glad
37 to be a partner as we add our prayers, giving, and serving in coordinated United Methodist
38 disaster relief efforts.

39 Of particular note, we had a number of significant tornado impacts in our conference this
40 year. The most devastating was the Newnan and surrounding area tornadoes on March 26, 2021.
41 We are grateful to local leadership, and the scores of teams from across North Georgia who’ve
42 responded in both early response and long-term recovery. Know that there is a continued need
43 for teams to assist with rebuilding, & we encourage our churches to send a construction team to
44 assist Newnan.

45 We received contact from Georgia Emergency Management Agency at 6am the morning
46 of the Newnan tornado. Our first call was to a local church leader who has been trained, and

1 often deployed leading Early Response Teams (ERT) to disasters across the southeast, as we
2 needed someone to help in the time of community need. Bill Pound, laity from Cornerstone
3 UMC & seasoned disaster response leader who received that early call, shares the gratitude of
4 the Newnan community as North Georgia giving and serving has been a significant help to so
5 many families in Coweta County devastated by that tornado impact.

6 We hope that your church is ready when your community or the conference calls upon
7 you!

8 We are grateful for those prepared before the disaster hits. We appreciate how many of our ERTs
9 are made up of several churches working together. In this way we serve the community as the
10 hands and feet of Christ, as an extension of UMCOR, and as representatives of our congregations
11 and our connectional Church when our neighbors most need us.

12 See <https://www.ngumc.org/disasterresponseministry> to learn how your church can be
13 prepared to be a community leader in a time of disaster.

14
15 Submitted by: Rev. Scott Parrish
16 Specialist, Mission and Disaster Response

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18 Rev. Dr. Thom Shores
19 North Georgia Conference Disaster Response Coordinator

20 21 **300.g. Churches of Excellence in Outreach**

22
23 The historic COVID-19 pandemic continued with a tremendous impact upon
24 congregational ministry through 2021. It has been inspiring to watch as congregations adapted to
25 this new environment which changed so much. This has been especially true in mission, as
26 community needs and opportunities to serve increased during this season, and churches were
27 forced to modify their plans to meet the new realities. Though every church had to make
28 adjustments, many congregations continued to engage in a broad range of connectional mission
29 support from local to international. While our style of mission and ministry had to reshape to the
30 current need it has been amazing to see congregations continue to express the mission of God in
31 such powerful ways. We applaud every church that continued in mission, and especially
32 spotlight these churches as models of excellence in outreach.

33 The following churches exemplify strategic, connectional mission and meeting the criteria
34 established for this award found at <https://www.ngumc.org/churchofexcellenceinoutreach> :
35 Acworth, Ben Hill, Carrollton, Cornerstone, Douglasville, East Cobb, Jackson, Mt Zion,
36 Northside, Oak Grove, & Vinings.

37 Congratulations to these exceptional congregations, focused on “Community
38 Engagement” for God’s mission!

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40 Submitted by: Scott Parrish
41 Specialist, Mission and Disaster Response

42 43 **300.h. Global Ministries**

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45 Our connectional UMC mission multiplies our prayers and our giving in transformational
46 ways all over the United States and world. Our support provides for missionary recruitment and

1 support, UMCOR disaster response in the US and globally, young adults in mission, and a
2 variety of mission projects through the Advance in over 60 countries. In 2021 your giving made
3 possible the work of 174 missionaries, including 12 that our conference directly supported! In
4 this past year we celebrate that our North Georgia Conference had almost 250 churches, as well
5 as Sunday School classes and individuals, give over \$800,000 to Global Ministries and
6 UMCOR!

7 Ellyn Dubberly is an example of one of our Global Ministries missionaries. Numerous
8 North Georgia churches and mission teams have worked with her in El Salvador as we support
9 the Methodist conference there. <https://umcmmission.org/missionary-bio/3021818/>

10 In addition to the possibilities of missionary or mission project support, many churches enjoy
11 establishing a covenant relationship with a missionary. Learn more at
12 <https://umcmmission.org/covenantrelationships/>

13 Our connectional mission network continues to have significant impact in sharing the
14 Good News of Jesus Christ in word and deed throughout the United States and the world. Thank
15 you for your participation and support of this dynamic expression of the Gospel through mission.
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17 Submitted by: Scott Parrish,
18 Specialist, Mission and Disaster Response
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20 Rev. Dr. AnnaKate Rawles,
21 Conference Secretary of Global Ministries
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301. Inclusion and Advocacy

It has been my absolute honor to serve as the first Director of Inclusion and Advocacy for the North Georgia Conference. Since July 1, 2021, I have had the pleasure of meeting with the numerous leaders and members of the boards and committees I have the honor to support. I am convinced that North Georgia has committed disciples of Jesus serving across the conference in ways that bring me great hope for our conference, for the communities we serve, and for the people who will come to be disciples of Jesus and help transform the world.

When I look at the conference, I see a lot of strengths going for us. We have a theology of inclusion. We have a large number of people who have the heart of inclusion. We have a more inclusive leadership (lay and clergy). With these strengths, I feel we can do a lot to make our actions, policies, practices, and behaviors to be reflective of who we say we are.

As I have shared with others, diversity is about counting the different groups of people present. Inclusion is about making those people count. In North Georgia, we want to do both and more. We want every demographic to be represented and we want every demographic to be included at the table. In short, my role is to support the conference in making this year's theme a reality. I have worked closely with the Extended Cabinet, the Barnes Evaluation and Administration Team, the Consolidated Board, the Common Table, the Nominations Committee, and several others as we build on the many years of good leadership and ministry done before my time here. Together we have been able to make meaningful recommendations that have resulted in a more inclusive conference even while seeing areas where we can improve.

Some of that labor in the past conference year has been working closely with the Conference Commission on Religion and Race (CCORR) as we built a Racial Justice and Healing Academy Pilot that has walked with 30 lay and clergy in North Georgia, including the chairs of several advocacy areas, as they learned new ways to engage in the ministry of racial justice and healing. Racial healing is not achieved with a single act. It's not a worship service, a sermon, a workshop, a conversation, or a prayer. It's not a written and signed letter. It's not hiring a position. It's a collection of intentional steps that gets us to a place of healing and results in beloved community. The Racial Justice and Healing Academy will launch later this year in districts with lay and clergy who feel called to heal the wounds of racism in churches and in the communities we serve. This academy has been funded by the generosity of disciples of Jesus who took seriously their baptism vows to accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.

Plans for the next conference year will build on the work started this year. Some of that work includes:

- Launching the Racial Justice and Healing Academy
- Developing a training curriculum for those who accept nominations to serve in the conference as members of boards and committees
- Supporting the Consolidated Board as we plan for the implementation of the areas of focus identified by the Common Table
- Facilitating workshops in local churches and in districts to support their efforts to be more inclusive and to be advocates for God's goodness
- Participating with community partners working to build the beloved community for all Georgians
- Exploring new pathways for faith communities for people underrepresented in the North Georgia Conference

1 I am grateful for the vision and leadership of Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson and
2 Conference Lay Leader Nate Abrams who have courageously led in ways and down paths in
3 need of the light that beams from the hearts of disciples of Jesus. Together North Georgia will be
4 a strong collection of disciples committed to an open table where everyone is included.

5
6 Rev. Brian Tillman
7 Director of Inclusion and Advocacy
8
9

10 **302. North Georgia Annual Conference Commission on Religion and Race (CCORR)**

11
12 CCORR works as a diverse, inclusive team from across the conference: Asian, Black, Latino,
13 White, US citizens, immigrants, lay persons, local pastors, provisional and full connection
14 deacons and elders, retired clergy, and a District Superintendent. This work includes:

- 15 ● Racial Justice and Healing Academy Pilot (RJHA) –Focuses on building spiritual leaders
16 that will be antiracist, not just more than tolerant and less biased. Feedback has been
17 good.
- 18 ● Inclusion Competency Inventory (ICI): 100% participation from CCORR members with
19 this tool is for evaluating inclusions competencies (racial, ethnic, generational, religious,
20 country, culture, gender identity, ability, socio-economic class, political mindset, etc).
- 21 ● Southern Christian Leadership Conference Women Civil Rights Heritage CCORR
22 continues partnering with the SCLC WOMEN on their annual Civil Rights Heritage
23 Tour. The tour includes stops at the 16th Street Baptist Church, Miles College, Coretta
24 Scott King’s birthplace, Zion (United) Methodist Church, Marion and Selma, ending by
25 marching across the historic Edmund Pettus Bridge, commemorating historic marches
26 that led to the Voting Rights Act.
- 27 ● Nominations: – CCORR seeks to help make the conference nominating process one with
28 diversity as a core component for spiritual leadership.

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31 Going Forward, CCORR:

- 32 ● Envisions serving to assist in ending marginalization for all NGUMC people groups
- 33 ● Seeks relationship with the General Church Inter-Ethnic Strategy and Development
34 Group to strengthen under-resourced and underrepresented groups in the conference.
- 35 ● Intends more RHAJ cohorts for 2022-23.
- 36 ● Offers to help conference teams, in unity and equity, anticipate denominational changes.
- 37 ● Prepares to lead diversity training for all conference spiritual leadership, clergy and laity.
- 38 ● Expects a 2023 trip to the Montgomery AL National Memorial for Peace and Justice
39 (Lynching memorial) in 2023
- 40 ● Sees creating more intercultural competency seminars for broad offerings in the
41 conference (¶ 643.3b).
- 42 ● Will continue Board of Ordained Ministry and District Committees of Ministry
43 partnership to assist in providing intercultural competency experience (¶ 643.3c).
- 44 ● Will partner with appropriate conference teams to assist the conference with its mandate
45 to prepare congregations for cross-racial/cross-cultural appointments (¶ 643.3e).

- Commits to meet annually, as mandated, in a joint session with the Executive Committee of the BOOM, Cabinet, and CCORR (§ 643.3f)

CCORR thanks Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson and the cabinet for their support in this work. We see a bright, inclusive and diverse future, modeling and heralding the Commonwealth of God.

Rev. Dr. Vance P. Ross, Chair

303. Conference Committee on Native American Ministries

The Conference Committee on Native American Ministries held its annual gathering on April 30, 2022 at Pine Log UMC Campground. This was the first gathering we have been able to hold since the pandemic began. The lack of financial support from the Special Sunday Offerings made it difficult to do this event. Our previous ministry budgets have been \$8,000 but in order to have these funds, the Conference must receive \$16,000 in the Special Sunday Offering because ½ of the Special Sunday Offering goes to the General Conference Native American Ministries and the other half stays in the conference for use by CONAM. Because of the pandemic the special offerings have been limited. We thank those churches who have been faithful in their giving to support this ministry.

This year CONAM had hoped to increase its ministry to include the Gathering, three (3) scholarships for North Georgia Native American college students, a display table at Conference in June, support for CONAM members representing the North Georgia Conference at the Southeastern Jurisdictional Native American Ministries Conference at Lake Junaluska, and a listening session for those who would like to learn about the history of Native Americans in Georgia. The proposed Conference ministry budget includes:

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Annual Gathering | \$ 2,000.00 |
| 3 College Scholarships | \$ 6,000.00 |
| 11 NGA Rep. to SEJANAM | \$ 3,500.00 |
| <u>Listening Session</u> | <u>\$ 200.00</u> |
| Total funds desired in 2022 | \$11,700.00 |

(Remember: in order for the Conference Committee on Native American Ministries to have this amount of money to work with, the offering must be at least \$ 23,400 because ½ of the Special Sunday offering goes to General Conference.)

This year CONAM has been working with several Georgia Native American tribal member in the area of social justice, and we are presenting two (2) resolutions that will require a vote from the Annual Conference. They may be included in the consent agenda or brought to the floor of Conference. We ask that members read and affirm them.

The Rev. Dr. Rebecca D. Jones, Chair
NGA Committee on Native American Ministries

1 **304. Consolidated Board of Congregational Development, Discipleship, and Advocacy**
2

3 Last year, the Conference approved the consolidation of the Board of Discipleship &
4 Advocacy and the Board of Congregational Development. The roles and functions of the prior
5 boards were combined so that collaborative and strategic ministry could take shape in a way that
6 allows for a holistic approach to ministry in the quickly changing demographic of Georgia and
7 that focuses on the needs of the communities of North Georgia.

8 Since that time, the Consolidated Board has met to begin visioning for how we will
9 support the mission, vision, and work of the Conference and its other boards and committees,
10 especially the work of the District Strategic Growth Teams (DSGT) and the Barnes Evaluation
11 and Administration Team (BEAT). We have begun to assess the needs of the conference and the
12 communities it disciples. One of the identified needs has been to evaluate grant applications from
13 conference related boards and committees prior to their submission to the BEAT. Another
14 identified need is to build a process for the Conference, districts, churches, laity, and clergy to be
15 advocates for good in churches and communities all over North Georgia that advances our
16 mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

17 In the next year, we are excited to lead the Conference in the implementation of the five
18 areas of focus identified in February by the Common Table. We are honored to have this role and
19 look forward to rolling out our plans in a way that is transparent, clear, and well-coordinated. We
20 aim to work in collaboration with BEAT and the DSGTs to ensure ongoing church development
21 through promoting, nurturing, supporting, and guiding existing and new faith communities as
22 they implement innovative ministries with and in the communities they serve. We will also work
23 in collaboration with the NGC staff to ensure that focused, strategic, and effective training,
24 consultation, leadership development, and other, human resources-driven support are provided to
25 NGC churches, laity, and clergy.

26 I am grateful for the opportunity to support the work of the conference in a way that
27 brings honor to God and that shows our love for God and our neighbors.

28
29 Rev. Joya Abrams

30 Co-Chair, Consolidated Board of Congregational Development, Discipleship, and Advocacy

1 **400. Aldersgate Homes / Camp Collinswood**

2
3 **OUR MISSION**

4 We help people with developmental disabilities lead meaningful and productive lives by
5 providing them with residential support and recreational opportunities.

6
7 **WELCOME HOME MINISTRY**

8 We support people with developmental disabilities to live independent lives by assisting
9 with rental deposits and providing furniture.

- 10 ● We have assisted individuals to live in the Atlanta area.
11 ● With the help of Snellville UMC and Burts UMC, we furnished the apartments.
12 Each church adopted a room and helped the individual feel welcomed to the
13 community.

14
15 **CAMP COLLINSWOOD**

16 Our beautiful Camp Collinswood on Lake Oconee offers a wonderful place for all of
17 our conference members to enjoy God's world. The camp, which is open to all, offers
18 comfortable cottages, a fully equipped dining/meeting hall, a spacious pavilion, a lake
19 front boathouse, a gazebo and dock. All of these facilities are fully accessible. We
20 hope you will consider this beautiful and serene facility for your next church retreat or
21 Emmaus Walk.

22 The pandemic limited the use of the facility in 2021 but North Metro Miracle League
23 was able to come in the summer and ESP has a respite group in December as well as a few
24 other groups. Wesley UMC came on multiple occasions and provided much needed repairs
25 and repainting of the facility. We are grateful for all that Wesley UMC did this year.

26
27 **MARIAN WILDER AWARD**

28 We are excited about our new award for the Aldersgate/Collinswood ministry. We
29 would like to help support churches that are interested in developing the ministry **85% of**
30 **families with a child with developmental disabilities are unchurched**; we can help your
31 church lower that number. We are piloting the program now, similar to the Church of
32 Excellence award. Let us know if you are interested.

33
34 **OUR REQUEST**

35 As United Methodists, we are asked to support the church by our prayers, our
36 presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. Aldersgate is asking for this support of the
37 ministry to individuals with developmental disabilities.

38
39 Anne Hansen Executive Director has years of experience working with older adults
40 and individuals with disabilities. She previously worked in the state system and has a vast
41 knowledge of resources for families. She serves as clergy in the South East District. Contact
42 us at **404-327-9491** or **www.aldersgatehomes.com** if you have any questions or need more
43 materials.

1 Augusta and in Metro Atlanta to offer immediate safety, love, and a home for young children
2 currently housed in hotels with DFCS. Through this program Murphy-Harpst will provide an
3 immediate home and essential services for many children who are currently underserved.

4 This year, our church partners and volunteers found creative ways to love our
5 children through Summer Fun Friday activities, monthly birthday celebrations, Prom, a
6 graduation celebration, Easter baskets, Christmas gifts and stockings, a Thanksgiving Turkey
7 Bowl, and more. We served 247 kids with 155 full and part time staff and 3,399 hours of
8 individual and group therapy. We placed 16 sibling groups in foster homes together and saw
9 23 adoptions and reunifications.

10 We are extremely grateful to all our church partners who have seen the need in their
11 local communities and have supported these initiatives to share Christ's love to Georgia's
12 most vulnerable children. It is our passion to provide healing and hope to those who need it
13 most. The expansion of our community-based initiatives will enable us to forge new and
14 effective programs to meet the current mental health crisis of our time. Thank you for
15 working with us in a ministry to welcome more children to a home and a place at the table.
16 Visit murphyharpst.org/churchpartners for more resources and information.

17 Murphy-Harpst would love to deepen its partnerships with churches for the next
18 century. We are eager to worship with you and strengthen our longstanding relationship with
19 you in mission! We are ready to see you on our campus sitting at the table with our staff and
20 our kids! Thank you, again, for your enduring friendship with Murphy-Harpst and the
21 children in our care. We could not do the vital work we do without your prayers and
22 presence.

23
24 Scott Merritt, President and CEO
25 Murphy-Harpst Children's Centers, Inc.

26 27 28 **403. North Georgia Camp and Retreat Ministries, Inc.**

29
30 "It's amazing how a little tomorrow can make up for a whole lot of yesterday."
31 - John Guare, from the play, "Landscape of the Body"
32

33 In 2021, our conference camp and retreat ministries, along with many of you, began
34 to experience "a little tomorrow" which has made up for "a whole lot of yesterday" that we
35 all experienced in 2020. While much of the world was struggling, and still struggles with the
36 pandemic, the availability of vaccines combined with improving and evolving science about
37 mitigating disease spread, allowed us to restart our summer camp and retreat ministries. We
38 are thankful!

39 Camp and Retreat Ministries is much stronger as spring of 2022 begins, but like many
40 ministries, we have not yet fully recovered. 2021 Retreat Income was 47% and 2021 summer
41 income was 74% of 2019 levels, a total of \$1,051,909 in lost income generation due to
42 operational pandemic restrictions (per preliminary 2021 year-end data) after almost no
43 income generated in 2020. Prudent conservative fiscal management and generous donor
44 support allowed us to finish 2021 in the black. A recovering rate of reservations for the 2022
45 winter retreat season was muted by the resurgence of Covid's omicron variant.

1 Even with those challenges there is much to celebrate. NGCRM served 3,185 summer
2 campers across the Glisson, Grow Day Camps, and Experiential Leadership Institute
3 programs. Our newly introduced “tiered pricing” program gave families the choice to pay the
4 true cost of camp rather than the cost that is made more accessible by conference
5 apportionment giving. Families of 795 campers chose to pay more than the price we charge
6 for camp, raising over \$130,000 in additional operational support. The fall spiritual life
7 retreats, Rooted, were able to be held at reduced capacity and Glisson served guests on most
8 fall retreat weekends in 2021.

9 In 2022 we continue our partnership with Black Methodists for Church Renewal.
10 Summer camp registrations are ahead of 2021 by over 500 at the writing of this report, with
11 over 100 on waitlists. This is despite significant camp fee increases precipitated by
12 inflationary pressures and pay increases designed to offset staffing challenges. Plans are
13 being proposed to enter another phase of Glisson’s master plan, managing guest and vehicle
14 traffic in ways that disrupt camp and retreat ministries less while also creating spaces that
15 invite guests into communion with God’s creation and one another more.

16 “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and
17 not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

18 It’s amazing how a little tomorrow can make up for a whole lot of yesterday. And we
19 are thankful for our partnership with congregations to form faith in children, youth, young
20 adults, and families.

21
22 Nancy Curtin Morris, Chairperson
23 C. Russell Davis, Executive Director – russell@ngcrm.org
24 North Georgia Camp and Retreat Ministries, Inc.
25
26

27 **404. Wellroot Family Services**

28
29 In the last year, Wellroot Family Services (formerly The United Methodist Children’s
30 Home) celebrated 150 years of faith-filled, loving service to children, youth, young adults,
31 and families in North Georgia. Churches of this Conference have been – and continue to be –
32 vital partners in this ministry. While much has changed since Wellroot’s earliest days, what
33 remains is an organization committed to creating “A Place at the Table” for every person we
34 encounter. With a focus on supporting youth from infancy through early adulthood, we help
35 people reach their God-given potential through the encouragement and love of a healthy
36 home.

37 Wellroot has spent most of the last two years in growth-mode. We undertook a
38 strategic planning process which highlighted the strength of our current programs – foster
39 care, transitional and independent living for young adults, and family housing. We also
40 identified areas needing expansion to ensure child abuse prevention and family preservation
41 whenever possible, resulting in a renewed focus on the whole family. Wellroot’s evidence-
42 based programs keep families together whenever possible, provide short-term foster families
43 when needed, and nurture and educate teens and young adults to break the cycle of trauma in
44 their lives.

1 Wellroot’s continuum of care for families includes three new programs. Healthy
2 Families America helps parents bring out the best in themselves through home visitation
3 programming to support comprehensive parenting, building secure attachment, health and
4 wellness, child development, family strengthening and stress reduction, and building
5 protective factors. Triple P – Positive Parenting Program – is a parenting and family support
6 system designed to work with children and teens who are struggling with behavioral and
7 emotional challenges, offering parents practical strategies to help build strong, healthy
8 relationships with their children. Functional Family Therapy serves families with youth aged
9 11-18 who are working through complex behavioral challenges, mental health episodes,
10 substance abuse, and traumatic events.

11 One of the most exciting developments for Wellroot this year is our partnership with
12 Resilient Georgia on a two-year initiative to provide information and community awareness
13 of the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), such as experiencing abuse or
14 neglect, witnessing violence, or living with household instability due to mental health
15 challenges or substance abuse. By having trainings on these issues – and more – across
16 public and private sectors, Wellroot is assisting communities in Georgia to reduce trauma,
17 build resiliency, and ensure better outcomes for all community members. Wellroot has
18 launched trainings in the North East District and encourages churches in that district to sign
19 up and participate. Trainings will be ongoing.

20 Many United Methodist churches (243 to be exact) in the North Georgia Conference
21 have given donations to Wellroot Family Services in the last year, and nearly 200 UM
22 churches and churches of other denominations have engaged in hands-on ministry with the
23 organization and the children, youth, young adults, and families we serve. Together we are
24 creating a more loving, compassionate, and nurturing world. There is more to be done, but
25 we are confident that we can do it together. We have increased individual and group
26 volunteer opportunities throughout our service area and continue to need families to open
27 their home to children in foster care. Is this not what Jesus has called us to? We encourage
28 you to visit our website at www.wellroot.org to learn more about how you as individuals and
29 as the Church collective can be the hands and feet of Jesus with those in your community.
30 Thank you for all you do!

31
32 Allison Ashe, President & CEO, Wellroot Family Services
33 Dan Beale, Chair of the Board of Directors, Wellroot Family Services
34 Rev. April McGlothlin-Eller, Director of Church & Community Engagement, Wellroot
35 Family Services

36 37 38 **405. Wesley Woods** 39

40 Jesus asked his disciple, Luke, to include all at the banquet table, especially those
41 who cannot readily repay the invitation, “The poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.”
42 (Luke 14:13). So, too, have we witnessed North Georgia United Methodists lovingly making
43 room for our most vulnerable population, older adults. You have provided hope, love and
44 support to the residents and staff of Wesley Woods and enabled us to deliver on our mission

1 *to create communities of connection, well-being and promise* in all 10 Wesley Woods
2 communities.

3 Financial assistance for housing and meals was made possible largely by the Mother's
4 Day Offering received from United Methodist Churches. This past year, more than \$885,000
5 in rent or meal assistance benefited residents who have outlived their resources or needed
6 support paying for higher levels of care. Your gifts enabled them to remain living in their
7 Wesley Woods home.

8 Wesley Woods chaplains, chiefly funded by your support, held the spiritual center for
9 residents over the past two years. No resident went without pastoral visits, prayer, comfort,
10 and the reassurance that God is with us through our most challenging times. Under the
11 leadership of the O. Wayne Rollins director of pastoral care, our seven chaplains were the
12 lifeline for residents, their families, and our staff. As a team, last year they provided 9,634
13 resident connections, 2,436 Bible studies and worship services, 762 family connections and
14 2,436 staff support connections.

15 Wellness nurses and programming are also funded with your gifts. Wesley Woods
16 residents thrive living in their community. To ensure they continue to do so, we provide
17 wellness nurses and programming, each designed to keep residents leading active, healthy
18 lives. Over the past year, we delivered 5,811 virtual and in-person fitness classes, 7,261
19 wellness nurse visits and 780 mental health visits to help residents keep their minds and
20 bodies strong.

21 Wesley Woods was established in 1954 by innovative leaders of the North Georgia
22 Conference of the United Methodist Church and continues to be in ministry to serve. Our
23 work is made possible by the generosity of supporters throughout our Annual Conference.
24 Thank you for making a place at the table for the awesome older adults at Wesley Woods.
25 For more information about Wesley Woods, please visit our website, www.wesleywoods.org.

26

27 Terry Barcroft
28 President & CEO

Diane Vaughan
President, Foundation of Wesley Woods

1 **500. Conference Board of Laity**

2
3 Greetings North Georgia Laity! I am grateful that, after two years of virtual conferencing,
4 we are once again able to gather together to worship and to do the business of the Annual
5 Conference in Athens. Simply put, it is good to see all of you!

6 Though the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to go online for two years, ministry in the
7 North Georgia Conference never stopped. We have prayed, adapted, and worked harder still to
8 meet the needs of our communities and to worship God. And through it all, God has shown
9 God’s grace.

10 Our Conference theme, “A Place for You at the Table,” underscores the work that the
11 laity have done over this past year and all throughout the pandemic. I have heard stories, and
12 seen firsthand, laity working to make space in their congregations and in their hearts for those
13 who have suffered most. I have seen laity going the extra mile to introduce new people to Christ
14 in new ways. I have witnessed the spirit moving to make the table bigger even as we grapple
15 with lower budgets and higher costs. God’s grace has truly been with us as we have worked to
16 serve the kingdom in North Georgia!

17 In the next few pages, the various ministries that the Conference Board of Laity supports
18 will highlight the work that they have done making places at the table for all of God’s children in
19 North Georgia.

20 I urge you to be in prayer for each of these ministries and for the ministries of which you
21 are apart. Look for how God is making the table more spacious that all may come to know and
22 love our Lord Jesus Christ. To God be the glory!

23
24 Nathaniel (Nate) Abrams, North Georgia Conference Lay Leader
25 nathaniel.h.abrams@gmail.com

26
27 **500.a. Lay Servant Ministries**

28
29 Laity involved in Lay Servant Ministries receive training which focuses on one of the
30 three ministry areas of our program: Leading, Caring, and Communicating. Some in the
31 program have a goal to take the required courses and go through the certification process to
32 achieve Lay Speaker to be able to fill in for clergy needing a Sunday off. Others wish to be Lay
33 Servants, who are leaders/ministry partners in their own churches and communities. All laity are
34 welcome to participate.

35 This past year has focused on expanding how classes are delivered to include classes on
36 Google Classroom, Zoom, and a hybrid format to go with our traditional in-person classes. Laity
37 are now able to take classes without leaving home but have the option of in-person if they prefer.
38 Since last June, 40 classes have been offered with over 330 registrations. All classes that are
39 offered are open to laity from across the conference, giving laity more options to fulfill their
40 training goals of at least one advanced course every three years. An added benefit of classes
41 having individuals from multiple districts is that it gives our laity a chance to share ideas and
42 solutions from a wide range of church settings.

43 Time was spent this past year training additional facilitators for our classes, including
44 how to use our new technology options. District Directors recommend individuals to become
45 facilitators. Once a Lay Servant completes the required training, they may teach any of the
46 classes that we offer.

1 Registration for all forms of classes is on the conference webpage under Lay Servant
2 Ministries. Class participants pay \$42 for each class. We really appreciate the support from our
3 Conference IT team and Conference Treasurer’s Office for working with us to make online a
4 reality. They are a joy to work with.

5 All districts have a District Director and at least one Associate District Director who
6 coordinate with the laity in their district. This amazing team is the heart of the North Georgia
7 Conference Lay Servant Ministries, serving laity in their districts by coordinating training,
8 reports, and the certification of Lay Speakers.

9 It is an honor to participate in this ministry and to lead this team of dedicated laity
10 leaders.

11
12 Mary Williams
13 Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries
14

15 **500.b. Leadership UMC and Advanced LUMC**

16
17 Leadership UMC and Advanced Leadership UMC began its opening session of the 2019 class in
18 November. LUMC completed two (2) workshops and Advanced LUMC completed three (3)
19 workshops before we were impacted by the pandemic just days before the scheduled March 2020
20 sessions. As with other mission/ministry projects and in-person training events, we have
21 continued to be challenged due to a number of factors (some unique to the LUMC/ALUMC
22 structure and participant interaction in each session). The size of the class, the overnight lodging,
23 meals provided and the faculty/facilitators as well as church venues where we conduct our
24 sessions have all weighed into the decision to continue to wait for a safe time to reschedule.

25 Because of the need for interaction, virtual sessions were not an option.

26 The LUMC Board is hopeful to make a final decision this fall and all participants will be notified
27 well in advance to “save the date” on their calendar. We appreciate the patience and
28 understanding shown during this time of waiting.

29 Only God knows what the future holds for both of these “second to none” outstanding programs
30 that have over 650 graduates. Many graduates have gone on to be local pastors, elders and
31 deacons while others have assumed leadership roles as laity throughout the denomination
32 including fourteen LUMC graduates who were elected to serve on the NGA delegation. We are
33 proud of each graduate and hope to be adding to that gifted list of graduates in the near future.

34
35 Jane Finley
36 Conference Director, LUMC/ALUMC
37 mjfarms100@aol.com
38

39 **500.c. The Bishop’s Emerging Leaders of North Georgia (BELONG)**

40
41 The Bishop’s Emerging Leaders of North Georgia (BELONG) began in 2020 as a new laity
42 leadership training program designed to educate and cultivate emerging lay leaders in the North
43 Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church. Laity were drawn from all over the
44 Conference to participate in experiential learning about what it means to be the church today, and
45 to envision what the church of the future may look like. The first BELONG cohort graduated in
46 November of 2020.

1 The goal of BELONG is to connect and equip laity for leadership, both in the work we
2 are already called to and that which we can't yet predict. As United Methodists, we know our
3 denomination is living with tension and facing an unknown horizon. How do we prepare
4 ourselves to show up, pay attention, and cooperate with God? How do we meet this moment with
5 compassion, competence, and insight about where we have already been?

6 Each BELONG cohort focuses on building an effective toolkit for leadership based in
7 spiritual practice and centered on knowledge of church history, theology, and polity; connection
8 with other lay people; engagement in justice and restorative practices; and spiritual formation
9 and leadership development.

10 Due to the restrictions of the global pandemic, the cohort was postponed for 2021. In the
11 spirit of BELONG, the planning team offered two unique opportunities for laity to gather
12 together in person (safely outside) to breathe deeply, reflect on where we've been in the past two
13 years, and consider our hopes and goals as we move on from the pandemic. The "Laity to Laity"
14 conversations were held at Dunwoody First UMC and Wesley UMC in Evans. These informal
15 gatherings were open to all NGUMC laity as well as BELONG alumni.

16 The next cohort is planned to begin in fall 2022 with a combination of one-day sessions
17 across North Georgia, as well as an overnight weekend session at Glisson Camp and Retreat
18 Center. More information about BELONG can be found at <https://www.ngumc.org/belong>

19
20 Kathryn Banks on behalf of the BELONG Planning Team
21
22

23 **501. North Georgia Conference United Methodist Men 2021 Annual Report**

24
25 This report gives an overview of the actions and activities which occurred during the
26 2021 calendar year:

27 Communication: President Odell Horne is at the forefront, trying to ensure that lines of
28 communication are kept open and that all actions and activities undertaken by the conference are
29 captured and are put on the website and on our other social media vehicles. In this regard, our
30 website continues to be updated by our Webmaster Ike Moore. In addition, our Social Media
31 accounts include Facebook, Flickr, Twitter, and YouTube. You don't need an account to log on.
32 The hope is that transparency is what the world sees when it comes to the North Georgia
33 Conference United Methodist Men (NGCUMM). Even with the advent of COVID-19, the
34 organization has maintained its commitment to reach out and serve, using virtual means. Odell
35 continues to keep the executive committee informed by providing emails on matters that relate to
36 our Conference, The United Methodist Church (UMC), social issues, or items that will make us
37 better leaders.

38 Conference Financial Status: At each of our monthly meetings, Cary Loesing, the
39 Conference Treasurer, provides a written report showing the revenue, expenses, and total assets
40 for the organization. The total assets as of December 31, 2021 are \$13,454.13.

41 Chartering Report: The leadership continues to encourage the local fellowships to charter their
42 units and become fully connected with the General Commission on United Methodist Men
43 (GCUMM). As of our last report, 184 units had been chartered according to the General
44 Commission.

45 The Scouting Ministry Kept Us Informed: Chris Karabinos kept the committee updated
46 on the BSA bankruptcy and the current lawsuit. He pointed out that much had gone on during the

1 quarter and that there had been a settlement plan with a total payout of \$2.1 Billion. He pointed
2 out that the plaintiffs want more. All churches who have ever chartered a Boy Scout unit have
3 received a packet from BSA. The UMC is a part of the lawsuit. The Judge is scheduled to make a
4 decision on the matter in February 2022. Chris and his team directed another successful Philmont
5 experience in New Mexico with about 50 people participating. <http://www.umcos-nga.org/>
6 Spiritual Development: Throughout the year, Jacque Williams shared information concerning
7 Radical Mentoring. Two churches, Northside and Dunwoody, are well established with Radical
8 Mentoring, and Peachtree Road has just started a program. The push for Small Group Sessions
9 continues. These can be bible studies or book studies. The NGCUMM completed a study in
10 October, using the book, “The Color of Compromise: The Truth About the American Church’s
11 Complicity in Racism.” And conducted another small group session, using the book,
12 “Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes.” It is the hope of the Committee to expand these
13 studies. Kevin Watson and Ted Campbell spoke to the NGCUMM on the Life and Theology of
14 John Wesley. While several other professors spoke to us on the Trinity Series.

15 Prison Ministry: John Heath continues with his enthusiastic work with the Prison
16 Ministry website. Although the pandemic has hampered his efforts, he kept the committee
17 informed of some of the initiatives he has in place. He gave the committee information on some
18 of the considerations he has planned as we move forward. Of course, this includes jobs, a place
19 to stay, and support from the community. The ministry will be working closely with the
20 Department of Corrections.

21 General Commission on United Methodist Men: During the December Committee
22 meeting, Greg Arnold, General Secretary of the GCUMM met with the Committee, via Zoom,
23 and gave a presentation. This was his introductory meeting. He thanked the Committee for the
24 invitation, committed himself for service, and asked for prayer. Odell Horne, Chris Karabinos,
25 Jerry Stillabower, and Louis Johnson attended the National Association of Conference Presidents
26 meeting virtually. Cary Loesing attended the meeting in person near the GCUMM in Nashville
27 in March.

28 The Annual Business Meeting: On 26 June 2021, the organization convened its annual
29 business meeting, using both in-person and Zoom. It was an event where chairpersons provided
30 updates in their ministry areas, and the attendees received two special presentations, one on
31 Radical Mentoring and the other on Table of Brotherhood.

32 Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Jurisdiction: The Southeastern Jurisdiction United
33 Methodist Men met for its Annual Meeting on 5-6 November 2021. Odell, Chris, Jerry, and
34 Louis met virtually. Cary attended the meeting in person. It should be noted that Leadership
35 Development Director Louis Johnson opened the meeting with a presentation on prayer. Odell
36 submitted a video on Radical Mentoring. In addition, Odell gave a report of one goal, successes,
37 and the challenges facing the NGCUMM. The NGCUMM participated in all meetings called by
38 the Southeastern Jurisdiction and has leadership at the table.

39 Annual Conference: Jerry Stillabower, Vice President for Conference Affairs and
40 Administration represented the NGCUMM on the Annual Conference Planning Committee.
41 Odell represented the NGCUMM at the Common Table.

42 Racial Reconciliation: Bridging the Gap is an initiative that has been developed as the
43 result of a partnership formed between Alpharetta First UMC and St. James UMC, Alpharetta to
44 address the subjects of racism and racial reconciliation. One church is predominantly African
45 American and the other is predominantly European American. The churches were joined by
46 Mount Pisgah UMC for a cookout and fellowship this summer at St. James. Additionally, for

1 Black History Month, the NGCUMM sponsored two programs that dealt with Christianity in
2 antiquity, and during the colonial period. The purposes of these programs were to correct the
3 narrative of how Christianity came to Africa, which has been falsely ascribed to American and
4 European missionaries.

5 Social Issues: During the year, Odell submitted several articles for publication to United
6 Methodist Insight on the topics of Critical Race Theory, Multiracial Churches, Schools of
7 Biblical Interpretation, as well as an article to Firebrand Magazine on Historical Criticism.

8
9 Prayerfully Submitted,
10 John C. Holley
11 Secretary, NGCUMM
12
13

14 502. Scouting Ministry

15
16 The mission of Scouting in The United Methodist Church is to spread seeds of Christ
17 onto the paths of boys, girls and their families through Scouting programs in our churches. This
18 includes Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Big Brothers Big Sisters programs at churches in the
19 conference. The UMCOS (United Methodist Committee on Scouting) does this by focusing on
20 two primary objectives: (1) starting and maintaining new Scout BSA Packs, Troops and Crews;
21 Girl Scout Troops, and Big Brother Big Sister programs at our churches, and (2) encouraging
22 churches and Scout leaders to include faith-based programs in their Scout programs, such as the
23 P.R.A.Y. Christian education program.

24 Churches and Scout programs in the North Georgia Conference had two major challenges
25 in 2021. First, was the ongoing impact of COVID-19 which has continued to dramatically
26 impact Scouting. There have been many Cub Scout packs and a few Boy Scout troops and Girl
27 Scout troops which have unfortunately folded over the past 2 years during Covid. And many
28 units that didn't fold suffered recruitment challenges since they couldn't meet in person in the
29 first year of the pandemic. The second major challenge of 2021 was the BSA Bankruptcy
30 process that emerged mid-year in full public view. The UMCOS continued promoting Boy
31 Scouts and Girl Scouts addressing both of these challenges head on.

32 Regarding the impact of COVID-19, we had several successes to share:
33 Scout leaders learned how to utilize Zoom for meetings, training and P.R.A.Y. courses in 2020.
34 Starting in early 2021, most Scout programs started meeting in person and going on campouts
35 again. Membership stabilized and started growing again in a lot of programs.

36 We conducted our 5th annual Scouters Religious Academy (SRA) on April 24th, 2021;
37 this was our second virtual Academy attracting over 300 Scout leaders and clergy from 40 states
38 and 6 countries for a 6-hour training conference on how to make their Scouting program a
39 ministry.

40 The North Georgia UMCOS continued to demonstrate leadership nationally as we led the
41 national United Methodist Scout training week at Philmont on July 11-17, 2021. We had 10
42 attendees from the North Georgia Conference leading all UM conferences and had 7 leaders on
43 staff, including Chris Karabinos (Course Director) and Scott Pickering (Course Chaplain).
44 Regarding the BSA Bankruptcy, the UMCOS worked closely with Bishop Sue, Terry Walton,
45 and Sybil Davidson in the conference office to keep on top of the rapidly changing situation,
46 coordinate messaging, and share key information with clergy and Scout leaders throughout the

1 fall and winter. We held multiple Zoom conferences, maintained a FAQ page on the conference
2 website, responded to hundreds of emails and phone calls, and participated in dozens of church
3 conference and district calls/ meetings and Boy Scout Roundtable/ Commissioner and other
4 calls/meetings. The UMCOS continues to work closely with the National Dept of Scouting
5 Ministries, the North Georgia Conference, and local Boy Scout councils as we transitioned into
6 2022. As of this writing in late March 2022, the bankruptcy judge is close to finishing its
7 hearing and is expected to render a decision on the BSA's bankruptcy plan. We are hopeful that
8 a plan will be approved soon and we can get back to growing the Scouting ministry in the
9 conference.

10
11 Yours in Christ,
12 Chris Karabinos
13 North Georgia Conference Scout Coordinator
14 The United Methodist Committee on Scouting (UMCOS)
15
16

17 **503. United Women in Faith of the North Georgia Conference**

18
19 Knitted together for God's Good Work was the 2021 Theme for the North Georgia
20 Conference United Methodist Women (NGCUMW). The Scripture: You are the body of Christ
21 and parts of each other. 1 Corinthians 12:27(CEB).

22 NGCUMW in collaboration with South Georgia Conference UMW and Georgia
23 Interfaith Power & Light received a \$5,000 grant from the National UMW office to help promote
24 "Just Energy for All" among United Methodist congregations in Georgia. As a result of the grant,
25 North Georgia partnered with the South Georgia Conference and Georgia Interfaith Power and
26 Light to develop a statewide campaign for sustainable energy. This collaboration was a first
27 between the two conferences and connected with United Methodist Women members across the
28 state through three 90-minute virtual workshops. The video recordings of the events have been
29 made available on our website to continue to promote Just Energy for all and our quadrennium
30 focus of Climate Justice.

31 Our Spiritual Growth/Social Action Event was held virtually May 1, 2021. The theme
32 was "For the Beauty of the Earth" and focused on climate justice. The event brought together
33 over 50 members virtually for an amazing program that included discussion. The speakers were
34 Jenny Phillips, Senior Technical Advisor, Environmental Sustainability at General Board of
35 Global Ministries, Hannah Shultz, Program Associate Georgia Interfaith Power and Light,
36 Pamela Perkins-Carn Co-Convener EMI GA Network and Member of Central UMC UMW,
37 Atlanta, and Millie Kim UMC Earth Keeper and Pastor of 2nd Ave UMC, Rome.

38 Due to the ongoing pandemic, the North Georgia Annual Conference for 2021 was held
39 virtually on June 3-5, 2021. Our traditional UMW breakfast was also held as a virtual breakfast
40 on June 5, Coffee and Conversation, Changing the Narrative: Breaking the Preschool to Prison
41 Pipeline. The event was very well attended, and we enjoyed the fellowship and explored how we
42 can help improve the outcomes for children of color in our schools today. The conversation was
43 led by Pamela Perkins-Carn, Co-convener of End Mass Incarceration Georgia Network. The
44 mission collection was for the North Georgia Disaster Response Warehouse by way of collecting
45 flood buckets and monetary donations.

1 2021 marked the 120th anniversary of the first mission study, which was published in
2 1901 by the Central Committee on United Study for Foreign Mission. The idea of mission
3 studies was born of an ecumenical missionary conference held in 1900, which included
4 participants of United Methodist Women predecessor organization. We remembered this as we
5 participated in Mission U, which, like many other activities in our lives, was moved online.
6 Mission U 2021 with the theme “There’s Far More Here Than Meets the Eye” 2 Corinthians
7 4:16-18, (MSG), examined anxiety, the culture of violence that impacts children in and out of
8 schools, and how we as God’s people can deepen our moral witness and respond faithfully. To
9 this end, five different adult sessions were offered on the topic Bearing Witness, which included
10 a Hispanic and Korean Language class, two adult class sessions on Push Out, and one session on
11 Finding Peace in an Anxious world. 236 persons attended the virtual sessions that were held
12 from June to September 2021.

13 A donation of \$1000.00 was given to the North Georgia Disaster Response Warehouse in
14 East Point coming from the offering and supplemented by the registrations collected.

15 We were finally able to meet in person for our July 17th, 2021, executive meeting which
16 was held at Murphy-Harpst, this facilitated a tour of Murphy-Harpst, one of our mission partners.

17 Unfortunately, the excitement of meeting in person ended abruptly as Covid cases rose
18 dramatically again with the Delta variant. This required that the 49th Annual Meeting to be held
19 virtually on October 2, 2021. Yvette Kim Richards, National President of United Methodist
20 Women 2012-2016, Women’s Division Board of Directors 2008 -2012, General Board of Global
21 Ministries 2011- 2016 was the speaker. Video greetings from Harriett J. Olsen, General
22 Secretary and CEO for United Methodist women were shared at the beginning of the meeting.
23 The highlights of the meeting included the recognition of Doris Paul recipients, installation of
24 the 2021-2022 officers, a memorial service for deceased members, recognition of Andrews
25 Chapel's UMW Retreat Quilt on Knitted Together for Climate Change and passage of the 2022
26 budget. There were 383 registered and 217 signed in. Financial support to Missions and UMCOR
27 in 2021 were Clark Atlanta University \$7,682.00, Murphy-Harpst Children’s Centers
28 \$15,552.49, New Bethlehem Community Center \$3,477.22, Paine College \$8,234.40, North
29 Georgia Disaster Warehouse \$11,266.74.

30 The conference supported The Legacy Endowment Fund, a national program that will
31 forever be a source of income for United Methodist Women. The endowment assures that United
32 Methodist Women can provide the life-affirming, compassionate care and support that heals,
33 restores, and empowers populations of women, children and youth in the years and decades to
34 come.

35 Despite the restrictions of 2021 and 2022 caused by Covid, districts, local units and
36 members continued to knit together as United Methodist Women for God’s good work. Five
37 districts held virtual Lenten Day Apart Events. New and ongoing mission opportunities have
38 been supported including the Liberia Street girls Project, Wellroot Family Services, Kindness in
39 Action, Battered Women’s shelter, Love Beyond Walls, Family Haven, Decatur Area
40 Emergency Assistance Ministry, Wellspring Living, The Place, Disaster relief in Texas and
41 Kentucky and many other missions.

42 As the Delta variant declined in Georgia our final executive meeting was held in person
43 on November 6 at Carrollton First UMC. Our 2022 NGCUMW theme, Building Together
44 Through Love in Action was decided. Hebrews 10: 24-25 (CEB) was chosen as the scripture to
45 accompany the theme.

1 To build upon that theme and to offer some soul care, the Faith, Fun & Everyone event
2 included laughter, dance, the written word, and a book discussion. We had over 200 women
3 registered, and the workshops were led by local United Methodist Women members.

4 Little did we know that 2022 would bring a name change. In early March of this year, our
5 name was changed to United Women in Faith. This name reflects a refreshment of our
6 organization and includes a new look, new feel, and new and improved programs designed to
7 better nurture current members and welcome new members.

8 Despite the restrictions of 2021 and 2022 caused by Covid, districts, local units and
9 members continued to be knitted together as United Methodist Women for God's good work.
10 Five districts held virtual Lenten Day Apart Events. New and ongoing mission opportunities
11 have been supported including the Liberia Street girls Project, Wellroot Family Services,
12 Kindness in Action, Battered Women's shelters, Love Beyond Walls, Family Haven, Decatur
13 Area Emergency Assistance Ministry, Wellspring Living, The Place, Disaster relief in Texas and
14 Kentucky and our national Mission Institutions; Paine College, Clark-Atlanta, Murphy-Harpst
15 and New Bethlehem Community Center.

16 We are excited about the possibility of meeting together personally as we strive to build
17 together through love in action in 2022.

18
19 Stephanie Dressler
20 United Women in Faith
21 Conference President

600. North Georgia Black Methodists for Church Renewal

The NGBMCR Black Church Summit has been on our Executive Committee agenda since June 11, 2020, to reaffirm our humanity and move forward connected as Black Methodists despite the forces that seek to dehumanize and separate us.

After two years of praying, preparing, planning, pandemics, postponing, and pouring rain on the first day, Black Methodists and NGBMCR members representing over 60 churches from seven districts across North Georgia came together for fellowship, communion, and discussion of issues that matter to us.

The event was called the Black Church Summit: From This Day Forward, Rooted in God, Grounded in Community. “From This Day Forward” is a quote from the Findings of Black Methodists for Church Renewal to honor our founders and persons who have labored to fulfill the mission of BMCR. mission. “Rooted in God” boldly declares we are the Church and our faith is in God. “Grounded in Community” reminds us that our efforts must be relevant and connected to meeting the needs of our community.

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson served as our convener and extended greetings via video for the historic gathering. Mollie Stewart, who has used her gifts and graces at all levels of the United Methodist Church, including Chairperson of the Commission on General Conference, joined us for three days. Mollie was walking wisdom and living history and spoke to us about the history and relevance of BMCR. Our venue was the National Center for Civil and Human Rights (NCCHR) in Atlanta. The building’s structure represents two hands cupped together, which highlights the importance of protecting the work and being protected while engaging in social justice work. As a continuation of our Covid-19 vaccination campaign to protect the vulnerable among us, we required attendees to register and show proof of vaccination. We were disgusted by the bomb threats to our Historically Black Colleges and Universities during January and continuing into Black History Month. We asked attendees to wear “culturally casual” attire to support our HBCUs and social justice advocacy.

The Summit’s highlight was the transformation of the NCCHR from a museum to a sanctuary. The communion table from Newnan Chapel UMC (est. 1843), our oldest Black Church of record, was intentionally set up in front of the iconic Atrium mural. After prayers and greetings, Tavares Stephens and friends graced us with a live version of his song “Sweet Communion.” Bishop Alfred Norris (retired) led us in Holy Communion, assisted by Deborah Holloway. He masterfully began by sharing his testimony of faith at the age of 12, then led us in singing “There is a Fountain Filled with Blood.” By the time we finished singing, there was such a sweet spirit in the place that NCCHR staff members had joined us in communion. Several individuals became emotional, realizing this was the first time they had attended in-person worship and received communion in two years. We concluded by singing “The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power.” It was indeed a sacred evangelistic moment that fulfilled our purpose. We were the church in the community. Person after person extended their appreciation. Saturday’s Executive Committee Meeting took place in the Hush Arbor, located in the Glenn Room. David Hooker was the facilitator, and our guests provided layers of diversity to our initial discussion of the “Findings.”

We have learned that misinformation exists even regarding UMC history. Neither Black Churches nor NGBMCR are or have ever been segregated entities. They rightly center around the needs of the community they serve. The Black Church Summit was no different. We are proud to have faithful members and affiliate (non-African American) members. Building a

1 community requires active participation from community members. Community members must
2 tend to one another if the community is to flourish. Coming together and loving one another is
3 healing for our souls and the mandate of every disciple. After the Holy Spirit fills a space,
4 anything is possible. We invite you to become a member or renew your membership by visiting
5 our website www.ngbmcrumc.org and visit the NGBMCR Sankofa Hush Arbor at Annual
6 Conference to pause, meditate and pray at the Ahmaud Arbery Memorial and Linnentown
7 display. Our next General Meeting was May 7, 2022.

8 We sincerely thank our Black Church Summit sponsors, North Georgia Conference of
9 The United Methodist Church, Butler Fund, Myrtle Black Mission Fund, and North Georgia
10 Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Inc.

11 Elected Officers: DuWanna Thomas, chairperson; M. Lavell Sanders, vice-chairperson;
12 Tina Stevenson, secretary; Joseph Crawford, Sr., treasurer emiratis; LaRita “Rita” Sprott,
13 communications; Monica Prothro, programs; Hatti Jackson/Keya Hillman, nominations; Sherrie
14 Wilson, finance; Carol Tucker-Burden, membership; Pamela Perkins Carn, constitution & by-
15 laws; Deborah Holloway, advocacy; Byron E. Thomas, past chairperson.

16
17 Submitted by
18 DuWanna Thomas
19
20

21 **601. North Georgia Conference Delegation Report to the 2022 Annual Conference**

22

23 History reminds us that there have been periods of difficulty through which people of
24 faith have been challenged to maintain adherence to the faith that God has given to them. This
25 has been no less true as it relates to the season that we have been in as a denomination, as the
26 North Georgia Annual Conference, and of course as the North Georgia Delegation elected to the
27 2020 General Conference. During this past year we have witnessed the beginning of the
28 splintering of The United Methodist Church as churches have begun to disaffiliate under the
29 provisions of paragraph 2553 of the 2016 Book of Discipline. This liminal season has been
30 extended by the decision of the Commission on the General Conference to postpone General
31 Conference until 2024.

32 In lieu of this development, the Southeastern Jurisdiction Committee on the Episcopacy
33 has recommended the election of three bishops and encouraged delegations to reconsider their
34 nominee for the episcopacy. Specifically, delegations were asked to “consider those persons
35 whom The United Methodist Church needs in episcopal leadership at this time.” By the time we
36 convene for Annual Conference the ruling of the Judicial Council related to this request would
37 have been made. If allowed the SEJ Conference is scheduled to meet November 2-4, 2022 at
38 Lake Junaluska. All of this points to the incredibly fluid and unpredictable nature of the season
39 we have been in since first elected as delegates.

40 It is my hope and prayer that while conversations around division have consumed an
41 immense amount of time and energy during this season, and in spite of the fact that the
42 splintering of the denomination has already begun, that we might find a way to begin to focus on
43 issues of mission and ministry. People are at war in Ukraine and other places around the globe.
44 Hunger and starvation both locally and globally provide opportunities for the church’s witness.
45 Racial tension, oppression and voter suppression still make it difficult for some to know justice.
46 Poverty, climate change, the response to disasters, the opportunity to love all our neighbors, and

1 so many other issues continue to present The United Methodist Church with opportunities to
2 witness to the redeeming and reconciling work of God in this world through Jesus Christ our
3 Lord.

4 It is my hope that we will be engaged in mission and ministry in the manner I believe the
5 writer of John’s gospel intended: “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have
6 peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” – John
7 16:33

8
9 Byron Thomas
10 Chair, North Georgia Delegation
11

12 13 **602. Professional Administrators of the United Methodist Connectional Structure** 14

15 The Professional Administrators of the United Methodist Connectional Structure was
16 established in 1982 under the direction of the General Council on Finance and Administration.
17 The purpose of the organization is to provide members a supportive base for unity and
18 fellowship and to promote individual growth, professional development, continuing education,
19 and spiritual enrichment. PAUMCS continues to fall under the authority of the General Council
20 on Finance and Administration (GCFA) of The United Methodist Church. We are a connectional
21 part of United Methodism. Book of Discipline (§807.19.)

22 PAUMCS members are actively involved in the life and ministry of United Methodist
23 organizations. We provide support in a variety of office environments...local churches, district
24 offices, extension ministries, agencies and Annual Conferences. We are open to secretaries,
25 administrative assistants, office managers, financial secretaries and any other administrative
26 professionals...employees, volunteers, or retired persons who maintain their PAUMCS
27 certification. GCFA offers an on-line certification class and an advanced certification class.
28 Certification requires continuing education credits to maintain, which are offered in a variety of
29 areas and avenues.

30 The Georgia Chapter of PAUMCS, which includes the North and South Georgia
31 Conferences, publishes an e-newsletter and has a networking “e-news” for questions and answers
32 to allow administrative professionals to stay connected. We also stay connected through social
33 media outlets, posting information on training in the North and South GA Conferences, other
34 trainings as related to our ministries, as well as employment opportunities within The United
35 Methodist Church. The Georgia Chapter holds a conference each year, rotating between North
36 and South Georgia, which allows members to recharge, network, and grow. We held a one day
37 conference, *Finding Joy in the Journey*, on Saturday, September 18, 2021 in Covington at Salem
38 United Methodist Church. Those who were able to attend were treated to engaging speakers and
39 participated in a spiritual/contemplative walk! Plans are being made for our 2022 Annual
40 Conference, SPA Weekend, to be held at Epworth-by-the-Sea, September 15–17. We look
41 forward to being together again, growing, learning, resting, and sharing! For more information,
42 visit our website at ga-paumcs.org.

43
44 LouAnn P. McLain
45 GA PAUMCS President
46

1 **603. Boston University School of Theology**

2
3 I am profoundly grateful for your partnership, prayers, and support in these challenging times.
4 A year like 2021 makes even more relevant BUSTH’s historic and ongoing commitments to
5 peace and justice in cultivating transformational leaders. We remain hopeful and vigilant in our
6 continued partnership with you.
7

8 **BREAKING NEWS:**

- 9 • Return to Campus: Faculty, administrators, and library returned to in-person instruction
10 and work in Fall 2021, with many events reaching hybrid audiences. Strict COVID-19
11 precautions continue to ensure the safety of students, faculty, and administrators.
- 12 • Students: Our Fall 2021 entering class was among our most diverse, with 108 new
13 students enrolling in September.
- 14 • Faculty: In September we celebrated the appointment of Cristian De La Rosa as
15 Associate Dean for Students and Community Life. Prof. Shelly Rambo leads the Lilly-
16 funded project on “Trauma-Responsive Congregations,” and two faculty members—
17 Profs. Dana Robert and Wesley Wildman—were each honored with festschrifts. Prof.
18 Jonathan Calvillo’s book *The Saints of Santa Ana* received the HTI Book Award, and
19 Prof. Choi Hee An published *A Postcolonial Leadership*. BUSTH is conducting two
20 faculty searches with anticipation of welcoming new faculty in the fall.
- 21 • Launch of a New Online Degree: BUSTH’s first fully online master’s degree—the
22 Master of Religion and Public Leadership (MARPL)—is currently enrolling students for
23 its first cohort in fall 2022. MARPL seeks students who wish to be prepared for
24 leadership roles that creatively engage the challenges of public life.
- 25 • Peale Foundation Grant: Prof. Steven Sandage and his research team were awarded a
26 \$2.19 million, five-year grant by the Norman Vincent Peale Foundation for a project
27 that fosters a network of communities for relational care and support to spiritual leaders
28 and therapists to offer resources to reduce trauma risk and vocational burnout and foster
29 flourishing.
- 30 • Scholarships: We continue to offer free tuition to UMC-registered candidates for
31 ordained ministry and leadership fellowships that support students in ethnic, gender, and
32 sexuality studies. New funds include the Sacred Worth Scholarship Fund and the Dean
33 Thurman & Bishop Easterling Fellowship Fund.
- 34 • Online Lifelong Learning: BUSTH offers online workshops for professional and
35 spiritual enrichment of religious leaders. Recent workshops include “Practices of Grief
36 in a Time of Pandemic” and “Reflecting with Howard Thurman.” To learn more, visit
37 bu.edu/sth/oll.
- 38 • Development: Recent accomplishments include endowing the Center for Global
39 Christianity and Mission upon its 20th anniversary and new funding for student
40 scholarships and academic programs.
41

42 **COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE and COMPASSION:**

- 43 • BUSTH’s Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion offers webinars on timely inclusion
44 efforts, such as “Increasing Participation of Students of Underrepresented
45 Backgrounds.”

- The 2021-22 Lowell Lectures are dedicated to cross-advocacy and intersectionality in racial justice efforts. This fall, Dr. Kwok Pui Lan advocated for broader understandings of political theology and greater awareness of anti-Asian sentiment and violence. A diverse panel response fostered rich conversation.
- Work continues to improve accessibility, sustainability, and responsible investing. BUSTH is the first certified Green School at BU and active in the Green Seminary Initiative.

With faith and gratitude,
G. Sujin Pak, Dean

604. Drew University Theological School

In spring and fall of 2021, Drew Theological School began returning to its Madison, New Jersey, campus for some classes, meetings, and worship. As with many churches, in-person events were held in spaces equipped for live-streaming or Zoom participation. The shift to remote learning during COVID-19 pandemic thus significantly expanded our online course offerings and accessible community events. Now, a number of students in Drew's masters programs will progress through their programs in U.S. and global locations far from New Jersey. This year, we welcomed 150 new students, again the largest class in a decade, and have a current enrollment of 376 students.

Drew cultivates pastors, preachers, deacons, activists, teachers, and thought leaders who are taking their place as the next generation of faith leaders and change agents. Diversity is a hallmark of our student body, including theological, vocational, age, and especially racial and national diversity both international--Asian, African, and South American and U.S.--black, white, Latinx, and Asian American--students. Our student body is truly global, with 35% of students from 21 different countries. For the first time in its history, Drew has an African student association, initiated by Drew Theological School students from 14 African countries, that is already contributing richly to the Drew community both on campus and online. We have welcomed new faculty in Latinx ministries and world Christianity. We have also seen an increase in United Methodist students particularly interested in the school's Gospel-inspired traditions of social justice advocacy and widely inclusive ministry. We are proud that many United Methodist Global Fellows have recently chosen to continue their journey in ministry at Drew. Our UMC graduates are serving in Greater New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, and New York conferences as well as conferences across the country.

The faculty is committed to continuing to develop the curriculum in ways that take seriously the wide range of lived experience and calls to ministry of the students that gather in our global classrooms. All degree programs at the Theological School include interdisciplinary courses that demand out-of-the-box thinking, apprenticeship training that addresses real-world issues, and modes of learning that promote adaptability and innovation. Our MDiv and MATM degrees include a required gateway year, vocational pathways, and experiential learning that develops and deepens adaptive leadership skills. The curriculum features a team-designed and taught interdisciplinary sequence of core courses reflecting the integration of the theological disciplines and practices characteristic of the life of faith. The faculty have also articulated shared values that are infused across the teaching and learning at Drew: a commitment to anti-

1 racism; gender and sexual-identity equality; eco-sustainability and environmental justice; and
2 interfaith understanding and cooperation.

3
4 Melanie Johnson-DeBaufre, Interim Dean
5
6

7 **605. Duke Divinity School**

8

9 Edgardo Colón-Emeric, the Irene and William McCutchen Associate Professor of
10 Theology and Reconciliation and director of the Center for Reconciliation, began his two-year
11 term as the dean of Duke Divinity School on July 1. Colón-Emeric earned both his M.Div. and
12 Ph.D. from Duke and has been a member of the faculty since 2008. He has served as the director
13 for the Hispanic House of Studies and as the director for the Center for Reconciliation (CFR). An
14 ordained elder in the North Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, he
15 directs the Central American Methodist Course of Study and the Peru Theological Initiative and
16 serves on the United Methodist Committee on Faith and Order and on both national and
17 international Methodist-Catholic dialogues. Recognizing that he is entering the dean's office at a
18 pivotal time for the school, Colón-Emeric stated his commitment to keep the Divinity School
19 heading in a life-giving direction: "The world needs the church, and the church needs the
20 theologically grounded, intellectually vibrant, and socially innovative pastors and leaders that we
21 train. From the heart of Duke University, we cultivate wisdom that is joyfully orthodox, Christ-
22 centered, Spirit-led, and irrevocably anti-racist for the sake of the church in its mission for the
23 life of the world." He is the first Latino dean of the school.

24 A new partnership with North Carolina Wesleyan College will enable qualified
25 undergraduates to take master's level courses at Duke Divinity School beginning in 2022. The
26 Duke Accelerated Pastoral Formation Program offers select juniors and seniors the option to
27 begin coursework toward Duke's Hybrid Master of Divinity (M.Div.) or Master of Arts in
28 Christian Practice (M.A.) degree programs while completing their baccalaureate degree. Funded
29 by the support of the Kern Family Foundation, the Accelerated Program will help students lower
30 educational debt incurred in the preparation for ministry process and accelerate their timeline to
31 engaging the field of ministry. In the spring the school launched the Asian House of Studies, a
32 formational community that will support Asian and Asian-American students; build a network of
33 Asian and Asian-American students, alumni, and church leaders; and provide resources for Asian
34 theological studies. Asian House of Studies is under the leadership of Sangwoo Kim, a
35 consulting professor and senior director of the Methodist House of Studies, and Jung Choi, a
36 consulting professor and senior director of Wesleyan Formation Initiatives.

37 Three new certificates were approved this year, and all can be earned as part of the
38 residential M.Div., Hybrid M.Div., M.T.S., and M.A. degree programs. The Certificate in
39 Methodist/Wesleyan Studies is aimed at pan-Methodist/Wesleyan students who want to engage
40 in robust and intentional training in Wesleyan theology and spiritual practice in preparation for
41 leadership positions in Methodist and Wesleyan organizations and churches, such as the United
42 Methodist Church, AME Church, AME Zion Church, and Korean Methodist Church. In the
43 Certificate in Latinx Studies, students will practice and hone skills for ministry while becoming
44 part of a learning community that is committed to Hispanic/Latinx communities and seeks to
45 learn from Hispanic/Latinx traditions and cultures. The Certificate in Worship is designed to
46 prepare Duke Divinity students to engage in practical formation and theoretical reflection on the

1 worship of God in Christian congregations. The new certificate is one of several measures being
2 introduced by the school in response to listening sessions on racial justice and cultural
3 competency that revealed a desire and need for both formation and expression that would
4 welcome, support, enhance, and celebrate worship from diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural
5 backgrounds.

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

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

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

22 This academic year Duke Divinity School welcomed the largest incoming class in the
23 school’s history, with 259 new students from 31 different states and five other countries.
24 Enrollment in the flagship M.Div. degree program jumped to 133 students, up from
25 approximately 110 students during each of the previous four years. The growth was heavily
26 driven by the first cohort of 52 Hybrid M.Div. students. There were 27 denominations
27 represented in the M.Div. entering class, with 38 percent affiliated with the United Methodist
28 Church (up from 30 percent in 2020). Anglican-Episcopal students made up 13 percent of the
29 new M.Div. students (up from nine percent the prior year); non-denominational students, 11
30 percent; and Baptists, 10 percent. The Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) welcomed 36 students, the
31 Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.) gained 33, and the M.A. saw 17 new students. The
32 Master of Theology (Th.M.) enrolled 12 students, and the Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) enrolled
33 seven new students. The Certificate in Theology and Health Care welcomed five residential
34 students to campus and a large first cohort of 14 students in the hybrid version of the program.
35 Across all degree programs at the Divinity School, 32 percent of the incoming class identified as
36 a race or ethnicity other than white. Black students made up 18 percent of all students; Latinx
37 students, six percent; Asian students, two percent; and American Indian students, two percent.
38 Women made up 47 percent of incoming students across all programs.

39 Three new faculty members joined the faculty in 2021. Polly Ha is an Associate
40 Professor of the History of Christianity whose work focuses on the history of Christianity and the
41 construction of diverse confessional and ecclesiastical traditions in the Reformation and post-
42 Reformation world. Ronald K. Rittgers is the Duke Divinity School Chair in Lutheran Studies
43 and Professor of the History of Christianity, and his research interests include the religious,
44 intellectual, social, and cultural history of medieval and early modern/Reformation Europe,
45 focusing especially on the history of theology and devotion. Daniel Castelo, William Kellon
46 Quick Professor of Theology and Methodist Studies, taught intensive Wesleyan theology courses

1 in Mexico, Honduras, and Brazil, and then took a teaching post at a Mexican seminary for three
2 years. He has been an active participant in the Central American Methodist Course of Study
3 program and recently has served as a doctoral mentor for the Hispanic Theological Initiative.

4
5 Respectfully submitted by Edgardo Colón-Emeric
6 Dean of Duke Divinity School
7

8 9 **606. Saint Paul School of Theology**

10
11 Educating tomorrow's leaders by offering on-campus, online, and hybrid learning courses
12 at a flexible schedule, Saint Paul School of Theology is a seminary of the United Methodist
13 Church committed to the formation of people for innovative, creative ministry. Grounded in the
14 academic study of faith and ministry, theology is practiced in a traditional classroom and a
15 contextual curriculum.

16 As the global pandemic continues to bring challenges to our daily lives, Saint Paul
17 School of Theology began the 2021-2022 academic year, again offering students an option to
18 attend courses via Zoom or on-campus while maintaining safety protocols. Our weekly chapel
19 service continues to be available online, allowing staff and students to come together as one
20 institution where all are invited to create a sacred atmosphere from wherever they are. In
21 addition to faculty and staff serving as chapel speakers, we were blessed to have alumni and
22 special guest speakers Winter Hamilton of Manchester UMC, Delesslyn Kennebrew, Carol Cook
23 Moore, and more. Chapel recordings are available on the Saint Paul YouTube channel for those
24 who cannot join live.

25 Saint Paul staff and faculty continue to contribute to the academy, church, and society.
26 This year, we have had many faculty and staff changes. After many years of tremendous service
27 to students and the Seminary, James Brandt and Hal Knight announced retirement plans effective
28 at the end of the 2021-2022 academic year. In addition, Jeanne Hoeft will step down from her
29 role as Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean at the end of the academic year but will
30 continue as faculty. New additions to the Seminary family include Joshua Bartholomew,
31 Assistant Professor of Ethics, Church and Society; Tiffany Nagel Monroe, Executive Director of
32 the Oklahoma Campus; and Michael Zedek, Rabbi-in-Residence.

33 The faculty of Saint Paul School of Theology maintains high standards of scholarship,
34 research, publication, and engagement. Over the past year, their many activities and publications
35 have been so numerous that space permits only the sharing of selected highlights.

36 Nancy Howell, Professor of Theology and Philosophy of Religion and Oubri A. Poppele
37 Professor of Health and Welfare Ministries, was re-elected to a second term on the Executive
38 Committee of the International Society for Science and Religion. She also had an article
39 published in a South African journal. With more than a decade of service, she serves on the
40 Broader Social Impacts Committee of the National Museum of Natural History at the
41 Smithsonian.

42 Casey Sigmon, Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship and Director of Contextual
43 Education, was invited to be a writer for "Lent Another Way," an e-course, with The Plural Guild
44 and The Many, and she offered the convocation address for Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity
45 School in Fall 2021. She also applied for and received a grant from the Wabash Center for

1 Teaching to support my project entitled: "Resisting the Plagiarized Pulpit: Helping Students and
2 the Professor to Find trust their voice through Artistic Instructional Design."

3 This January, Joshua Bartholomew, Assistant Professor of Ethics, Church and Society,
4 was the guest speaker at a Kansas City event, "Black Theology and the Black Panthers: A
5 Conversation with Joshua Bartholomew." In addition, he was recently interviewed by Climate
6 Central for the article " 'A moral imperative': Monastic sisters in rural Midwest make faith-based
7 case for climate action."

8 Saint Paul welcomed 45 new students for the 2021-2022 academic year. New student
9 enrollment for the Fall semester increased by 44% (34 new students), with an overall increase for
10 the year of 73%. With the COVID-19 pandemic still in our midst, prospective students
11 previewed the Saint Paul community and curriculum via online visits. Students joined in
12 community worship, attended classes, and participated in online discussions with current
13 students to discern if Saint Paul was indeed their choice for theological education. Enrollment
14 remained strong for the Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree program with promising growth in our
15 newly designed Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS) and Master of Arts in Christian
16 Ministry (MACM) programs.

17 In September, Saint Paul held the 2021 Harrington Lecture online featuring Eboo Patel.
18 His lecture, "We Need to Build: Field Notes for Diverse Democracy," expanded knowledge and
19 built skills, helping people become the kind of leaders our diverse democracy needs. In the
20 Spring Semester, Saint Paul Evangelical Society, led by Hal Knight, hosted a forum given by
21 Amos Yong, Professor of Theology and Mission, and Dean of the School of Mission and
22 Theology at Fuller Theological Seminary, on "The Holy Spirit and People of other Faiths:
23 Relational Christian Witness in the 2020s." Later in the semester, the Evangelical Society hosted
24 a lecture featuring Joy Moore, Professor of Biblical Preaching and Vice-President for Academic
25 Affairs and Academic Dean at Luther Seminary. And for the first time, on May 13, Saint Paul
26 held a hybrid commencement celebration via Zoom, allowing graduates to come together from
27 both the Kansas and Oklahoma Campuses with attendees viewing from around the country. We
28 honored the 2022 Distinguished Graduate Award Winner and Commencement Speaker Stan
29 Copeland during the ceremony.

30 For the 2021-2022 fiscal year, Saint Paul Course of Study (COS) School educated 228
31 individual students, 49 of which were new students, with approximately 550 registrations and
32 offering a total of 50 courses. Serving 32 Conferences, including 94 Districts, 121 Full Time and
33 106 Part-Time Licensed Local Pastors comprised these registrations. Saint Paul Course of Study
34 School welcomed new Regional Director Lucas Endicott. Lucas Endicott has been serving as
35 Associate Director for the Office of Mission, Service, and Justice at the Missouri Annual
36 Conference and lecturing at Central Methodist University. Due to the continuing pandemic, the
37 school has continued its course offerings in both asynchronous and synchronous online formats.
38 Utilizing this online format, we reached students in 24 states. Plans include an increase in the
39 number of hybrid course offerings. This fiscal year has also ushered in the new ability of online
40 registration completed by the student and access to their student account through Populi as used
41 by Seminary students. All our students share the same benefits by integrating Course of Study
42 School into Populi, making them a more integrated part of the Saint Paul experience.

43 Saint Paul Board of Trustees added two new members to their ranks: Debra "Debbie"
44 Buzard, Director of Outreach Ministry at First United Methodist Church of Kearney; and Martin
45 "Tino" Herrera, Congregational Care Pastor at UM Church of the Resurrection. Through a
46 Board initiative related to diversity and inclusion, the Saint Paul Board of Trustees has devoted a

1 significant portion of the last year's meetings to church leaders with experience and expertise in
2 creating more diverse and inclusive communities and organizations. Aiding Saint Paul's trustees
3 in better understanding these issues, the Board hosted Benjamin Boswell in April 2021. Boswell,
4 Senior Pastor of Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, described the anti-
5 racism work he has led in that community. The City of Charlotte awarded Boswell its Martin
6 Luther King, Jr. Medallion for his work. In July 2021, Emanuel Cleaver II of Kansas City
7 shared his perspective on the racial and social justice issues confronting our nation and the
8 efforts he and his colleagues in the House of Representatives hope to undertake in response.
9 With the Board's assistance, led by Board Chair Tex Sample, the seminary focuses on its
10 mission. Our trustees continuously enhance and evaluate the strategic plans to guide us into the
11 future.

12 As we have happily reported in years past, Saint Paul is financially sound and operates
13 with a balanced budget. These last years' changes have established a solid financial foundation
14 for years of sustainability. As always, we continue to be grateful for donations from the
15 community that provide technology, scholarships, and evolving academic programs to students.
16 Our significant investments in technology have allowed us to maintain a hybrid educational
17 delivery model providing a safe learning environment during the continuing pandemic.

18 Our aim has always been to utilize technology as a conduit to bring faculty and students
19 together regardless of whether they are on-campus or joining remotely through Zoom. We took
20 a hard look at the distance learning landscape during the pandemic to see how we could
21 substantially enhance the classroom experience. After significant testing, we opted to replace
22 our distance-learning classroom technology with Neat's offerings, including technology still in
23 development. All our classrooms began upgrades in Fall 2021 with offerings from Neat. Each
24 smaller classroom added a 65" neat.board, a self-contained screen that functions as a full Zoom
25 room, as well as an electronic whiteboard. Anything written or drawn on these boards is
26 transmitted through Zoom to the screens in the classroom and remote Zoom participants. This
27 content can also be saved and emailed to all participants. We implemented neat.bars in other
28 classrooms that connect to our classrooms' existing screens. We are currently implementing
29 neat.bar pros, just released at the end of 2021, in each of our large classrooms. At Saint Paul
30 School of Theology, we have always tried to be pioneers with distance-learning technologies.
31 We are very early in the life cycle of this stimulating and groundbreaking technology. We are
32 thrilled to partner with Neat and Zoom in revolutionizing the classroom experience.

33 Saint Paul School of Theology is blessed to be your partner in ministry and help those
34 seeking to discover more and answer the call. We are grateful for your support of our students
35 and our seminary. May we continue to live into the call of Jesus Christ to be faithful witnesses
36 for healing in these unsettled times and for generations to come.

37
38 President Neil Blair, Saint Paul trustees, faculty, staff, alumni, and students thank you for your
39 prayers and support.

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607. United Theological Seminary

For the past 150 years, United Theological Seminary has educated men and women for Christian ministry within the historic traditions of the United Brethren, Evangelical United Brethren and United Methodist churches. On October 11, 1871, United Theological Seminary, then Union Biblical Seminary, held its first classes in Dayton, Ohio. From a starting class of 11 students, the seminary has grown to 488 students in its most recent academic year (2021-2022), representing 39 denominations, 11 countries, and 39 states. Today's seminary serves a diverse student body that is 53% African American (according to student responses).

On October 10, 2021, the seminary celebrated its 150th anniversary and burned the mortgage on its current campus facilities, freeing up \$400,000 annually to support student scholarships.

In 2021, United received a grant of \$1 million from Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative to expand the seminary's Houses of Study, which offer specialized master's tracks to equip students for the unique ministry needs of the communities, movements and denominations they serve. The seminary has introduced six Houses of Study, currently enrolling for 2022-23:

- Fresh Expressions, directed by Michael Beck;
- Mosaix, in partnership with Mosaix Global Network and directed by Chip Freed;
- Hispanic, 100% in Spanish for Spanish-speaking leaders, directed by Jorge Ochoa;
- Black United Methodist, directed by Vance Ross;
- Global Pentecostal, directed by Mark Chironna;
- and Global Wesleyan, directed by Gregory Stover.

Because United believes so passionately in this initiative, the seminary has dedicated additional resources to offer half-tuition scholarships for inaugural students in its Houses of Study programs.

United also introduced the Academic Dean's Scholarship, which provides 50% tuition for the duration of a master's degree program, and the Presidential Scholarship, awarding up to \$5,000 per year to new students.

In honor of United's 150th anniversary year, a generous donor gave \$2 million to help graduating students reduce their educational debt. Each graduate in the 2021-22 academic year will receive up to \$20,000 toward student debt from theological and previous academic studies.

As United looks forward to the next 150 years with gratitude and anticipation, the seminary remains committed to the preparation of faithful and fruitful Christian leaders to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Dr. Kent Millard, President

700. Guidelines for Submitting Resolutions to Annual Conference

The Committee on Resolutions (the committee) processes all resolutions presented to the annual conference that are not submitted through programmatic committees through dialogue with the submitter and all agencies of the annual conference affected by the resolution. The committee's job is to ensure that resolutions presented are in compliance with the *Book of Discipline* and the standing rules of the annual conference and are properly before the annual conference for a vote as part of the committee's report.

- A. The committee may take the following actions on resolutions:
 1. Accept the resolutions as presented with no changes;
 2. Accept the resolutions after amending it to comply with the Standing Rules or *Book of Discipline*;
 3. Refer the resolution to another annual conference committee for inclusion in that committee's report. (If the committee to which a resolution is referred does not choose to include it in their report, then that resolution is included in the Resolution Committee's report).
- B. The following persons may submit a resolution before the North Georgia Annual Conference:
 1. Any clergy member (full connection, provisional, or local pastor including retired pastors) of the conference;
 2. Any lay member of the conference;
 3. Any layperson who is a member of a local church within the conference and whose church council (or similar governing body) has endorsed their resolution.
- C. To submit a resolution for consideration by the 2023 annual conference, please send properly formatted resolutions to chair, resolutions committee using the following guidelines:
 1. Each resolution must address only one issue if the Discipline is not affected; if the Discipline is affected, each resolution must address only one paragraph of the Discipline, except that, if two or more paragraphs in the Discipline are so closely related that a change in one affects the others, the petition may call for the amendment of those paragraphs also to make them consistent with one another (§507.2. *The Book of Discipline*).
 2. The resolution is to be written in the following format: "whereas, whereas, whereas ... therefore be it resolved" structure and submitted in 12 point, Times New Roman font, single spaced, with the following margins: top 1.25"; bottom 1"; left 1"; right 1.25".
 3. The name, title phone number, and email address of the author/originator must be included with the resolution.
 4. Resolutions which require implementation will include:
 - a. the financial impact to the conference;
 - b. name of the implementing organization or persons;
 - c. if communication or referral is required, will designate the person or persons responsible for the communication or referral.
 5. If the committee on resolutions determines a resolution involves the potential legal rights or obligations of the conference or its agencies, the committee on resolutions will request an opinion or comment from the conference chancellor. Before the debate of any such

1 resolutions, the conference chancellor, or his/her designate, will speak before the
2 conference and share his/her legal opinions concerning the resolution(s).

- 3 6. If the committee on resolutions determines a resolution involves the work of a conference
4 agency, the committee on resolutions will request an opinion or comment from the
5 respective agency or agencies. Before the debate of any such resolutions, the respective
6 agency will be entitled to speak before the conference and share its opinions and
7 comments concerning the resolution(s).

8
9 The deadline for submitting resolutions to appear in the annual conference handbook is
10 February 1. A resolution may be submitted after the February 1 deadline only if the issue of the
11 resolution arose after the deadline. If the committee on resolutions decides the resolution was
12 properly submitted after the deadline, then, upon notification by the committee, the resolution
13 will be copied by the author (3,000 copies paid for by the submitter) and delivered to the
14 secretary of the annual conference for inclusion in the delegate packets prior to annual
15 conference. Resolutions submitted after the deadline for assembly of delegate packets can be
16 received no later than 48 hours prior to the scheduled report of the resolutions committee during
17 annual conference. Resolutions approved by the resolutions committee to be submitted after the
18 deadline will be copied by the author and delivered to the annual conference secretary, to be
19 properly distributed to members of the annual conference at least 24 hours before the resolution
20 committee report.

21 Resolutions adopted by the annual conference will be valid for the lesser of: one year or
22 until they are specifically rescinded, amended or superseded by action of subsequent sessions of
23 annual conference. If the intent of the resolution is to be binding upon the annual conference for
24 more than one year, then the resolution must be referred to the standing rules committee.

25 The committee on resolutions will determine the order in which resolutions are debated
26 before the annual conference.

1 **701. Resolution providing for a special called session of annual conference in**
2 **the event a General Conference is not held in 2022 (Financial Impact)**

3
4 WHEREAS, ¶ 603.5 of The Book of Discipline provides that a “special session of
5 the annual conference may be held at such time and at such place as shall have
6 been determined by the annual conference after consultation with the bishop,” and
7 the special session “shall have only such powers as are stated in the call,” and
8

9 WHEREAS, ¶ 2553 of The Book of Discipline provides a procedure for local
10 churches to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church, same requiring the
11 vote of the Annual Conference; and
12

13 WHEREAS, an alternative avenue for disaffiliation through the Protocol of Grace
14 and Reconciliation through Separation legislation has been delayed in passing due
15 to postponement of General Conference from the COVID pandemic, and
16

17 WHEREAS, a significant number of local churches have refrained from acting
18 under ¶ 2553 of The Book of Discipline prior to the February 15, 2022 deadline
19 set by the Annual Conference in order for Annual Conference 2022 to consider
20 options for disaffiliation pursuant to proper stewardship of local church resources;
21 and
22

23 WHEREAS, in the event General Conference is not held in 2022 the deadline for
24 any local church to disaffiliate through ¶ 2553 may expire before legislation
25 regarding the Protocol of Grace and Reconciliation through Separation will come
26 before General Conference, thereby leaving ¶ 2553 as the only current viable
27 avenue for disaffiliation in North Georgia, and
28

29 WHEREAS, a significant number of local churches may elect to seek
30 disaffiliation through ¶ 2553 should General Conference be delayed, and
31

32 WHEREAS, proper financial stewardship of local church resources and
33 considerations of justice and fairness support giving local churches the maximum
34 time to complete the requirements of disaffiliation and to have the Annual
35 Conference vote on their negotiated disaffiliation agreement with the Conference
36 Board of Trustees, and
37

38 WHEREAS, the holding of a special called session of annual conference in the
39 Fall or Winter of 2022, but not later than December of 2022 would benefit this
40 Annual Conference, churches, and clergy allowing each to act accordingly,
41

42 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in the event a General Conference
43 is not held in 2022, the Annual Conference hereby calls for a special session of
44 annual conference to be held in the Fall or Winter of 2022, but not later than
45 December of 2022. The purpose of the special annual conference shall be to
46 engage in all business necessitated for churches to comply with a ¶ 2553

1 disaffiliation. The Annual Conference requests the Bishop set the date and
2 location of said special annual conference as provided above.

3
4 Financial Impact: A called special session of annual conference was held many
5 years ago at Norcross First UMC and most recently at the Classic Center in 2014.
6 CFA will have specific information on the costs of same. The call for this special
7 session is narrow and would likely only take a part of a day. Although the special
8 session could be held virtually, this estimation of impact is for an in-person
9 meeting and therefore a high estimate. There would not be the need to reimburse
10 travel or lodging expenses due to the brevity of the session even if in-person.

11 Estimated costs are as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 12 Video, communications, etc. | \$20,000.00 |
| 13 Contingency for unseen expenses | <u>\$10,000.00</u> |
| 14 Total estimated financial impact | \$30,000.00 |

- 15
16 Rev. Herzen Andone, Clergy Member North West District
17 Jane Finley, Lay Member North East District
18 Sarah Foster, Lay Member Central East District
19 Tina Kirkland, Lay Member North West District
20 Rev. Dr. Steve Schofield, Clergy Member North East District

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1 **702. Resolution in support of fair and unambiguous process for disaffiliation as provided in**
2 **Paragraph 2553**
3

4 WHEREAS, paragraph 2553.1 allows churches to disaffiliate for reasons of conscience
5 regarding a change in the requirements and provisions of the *Book of Discipline* related to
6 homosexuality or the ordination or marriage of homosexual people or the actions or inactions of
7 their annual conference related to these issues;
8

9 WHEREAS, at the 2021 North Georgia Annual Conference, the Conference Board of Trustees
10 (CBOT) presented a process for disaffiliation that was established by the 2019 General
11 Conference of The United Methodist Church, and Paragraph 2553 of the *Book of Discipline*
12 identifies and charges the CBOT with oversight of terms and conditions of disaffiliation from
13 The United Methodist Church;
14

15 WHEREAS, both this process and the CBOT approved disaffiliation agreement follow
16 Paragraph 2553 of the 2016 *Book of Discipline* as amended. The documents are complementary
17 explanations of the process and the order in which the process shall proceed. The steps are
18 presented in chronological order and include instructions of how to proceed;
19

20 WHEREAS, Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson issued two Rulings of Law submitted at the 2021
21 North Georgia Annual Conference session on July 8, 2021. Bishop Hauptert-Johnson indicated
22 that she and the Board of Trustees understand the sensitivity and expedience of this process by
23 stating that if the church conferences are held “fairly and in conformance with the BOD” the
24 local church’s reasons for disaffiliation will not be questioned, and
25

26 WHEREAS, the Trustees in their September 30, 2021 update to instructions for disaffiliation
27 added the following sentence which is not in the *Book Of Discipline* or the North Georgia
28 Conference Disaffiliation Agreement: “A local church must be in good standing as a United
29 Methodist Church in order to disaffiliate with The United Methodist Church.”
30

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2022 Annual Conference requests the CBOT
32 to delete the sentence “A local church must be in good standing as a United Methodist Church in
33 order to disaffiliate with The United Methodist Church.” from the Annual conference process for
34 disaffiliation using paragraph 2553.
35

36 RATIONALE:

37 The irreconcilable differences in The United Methodist Church are undermining the health and
38 vitality of the local churches. The United Methodist Church and the North Georgia Annual
39 Conference have recognized the immediacy and destructiveness this situation is causing by
40 writing legislation that is allowing disaffiliation for matters of conscience by local churches.
41 Adding additional undefined terms (“good standing”) or ambiguous hurdles to the process only
42 defeats the purpose of fair process.
43

44 Rev. Herzen Andone, Clergy Member North West District, Jane Finley, Lay Member North East
45 District, Sarah Foster, Lay Member Central East District, Tina Kirkland, Lay Member North
46 West District, Rev. Dr. Steve Schofield, Clergy Member North East District

1 **703. Resolution for 2022 North Georgia Annual Conference Session Re: Fair Share**
2 **Allocations for Unfunded Pension Liabilities**
3

4 **WHEREAS**, the North Georgia Annual Conference has for several years approved
5 recommendations from the bishop and cabinet to close numerous local churches as provided in
6 ¶2549 of the Book of Discipline, and the Conference Board of Trustees and conference staff are
7 doing commendable work in carrying out the sale of those properties, and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, the conference and staff have worked diligently since 1980 to comply with General
10 Conference actions by reducing the significant under funding of the conference’s defined benefit
11 pension plans, and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits, after having worked
14 effectively since 1982 to reduce unfunded pension benefits for our clergy, did fairly and
15 appropriately deposit \$23 million with Wespath during 2021 using additional reserve funds (as
16 provided by its authority to accumulate said funds), designated to be applied against the current
17 and any future unfunded defined benefit plan liabilities, and
18

19 **WHEREAS**, the conference fairly and appropriately allocated part of local church property sales
20 proceeds to satisfy any unpaid monthly pension cost invoices to satisfy that liability to the
21 conference; however, a mechanism for determining any unfunded future pension benefit liability
22 was not in place until Wespath began calculating that underfunded amount on January 1, 2021,
23 which was at that time calculated by Wespath and fairly proportioned to each church by the
24 Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits to be 7.487 times the local church’s annual
25 apportionments, and
26

27 **WHEREAS**, currently the proceeds from sales to date of closed local church properties in the
28 amount of that church’s fair portion of the unfunded pension liability at the time the local church
29 was closed, have not been applied to the current unfunded pension liability but have been
30 deposited into the Barnes Fund under current rules, and,
31

32 **WHEREAS**, the Barnes Fund currently has reserve funds and significant expectations for
33 income from future sales of closed church properties, and
34

35 **WHEREAS**, the January 1, 2022 unfunded defined benefit liability as calculated by Wespath
36 was approximately \$28 million after taking into account the timely deposit of the above
37 mentioned \$23 million by the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits,
38

39 **NOW BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Barnes Fund, the Conference Board of Trustees and the
40 Conference Treasurer are hereby authorized and directed to allocate and transfer from the Barnes
41 Fund to Wespath as soon as possible after the adjournment of this 2022 Annual Conference
42 Session in appropriate and convenient ways, an amount equivalent to six times the average of the
43 last five years apportionments before each church was closed during the last five years to reduce
44 the January 1, 2022 unfunded defined benefit liability as determined by Wespath, and
45

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the above-mentioned parties are hereby authorized and
2 directed to allocate to Wespath from future sales of closed local church property an amount
3 equivalent to the closed church's portion of any conference unfunded pension benefits allocated
4 to that church at the time that church is closed.

5
6 **RATIONALE:** It has been the North Georgia Conference stated and beneficial objective for 40
7 years to eliminate the under-funded defined benefits of clergy pension plans. The Conference
8 Board of Pensions and Health Benefits and conference staff have done magnificent work to
9 accomplish this in the various benefit plans. In the future a small portion of the proceeds from
10 the sales of discontinued local church properties would be fairly allocated to cover that church's
11 portions of any unfunded pension benefits that have been promised to clergy serving North
12 Georgia over the years.

13
14 Eliminating unfunded pension liability proportionately benefits all local churches whether
15 through reductions in future pension costs calculated by Wespath to be paid annually by local
16 churches or fairly reducing any pension liability buy outs. Most importantly this is the fair,
17 equitable and just way for all churches that have benefited over the years being served by
18 devoted pastors to fund their fair share of our pension plan costs. It honors the church and its
19 members for their responsibilities and obligations to be handled and the remaining assets of
20 closed churches used to start new churches and strengthen future outreach through the Barnes
21 Fund.

22
23 Resolution submitted by: Joe M. Whittemore, Lay Member of 2022 Annual Conference Session
24 Delegate of Hartwell First UMC, Hartwell, Georgia

1 **704. Resolution for 2022 North Georgia Annual Conference**
2 **Re: Scheduling General Conference during non-U.S. Presidential Election Years**

3
4 Amend ¶14 as follows:

5
6 ¶ 14. Article II.—The General Conference shall meet once in four years, ~~at such time and in~~
7 ~~such place as~~ The time and location of General Conference shall be determined by the General
8 Conference or by its duly authorized committees and must be scheduled to take place during
9 years that do not coincide with an American presidential election. The change in the preceding
10 sentence shall become effective at the close of General Conference in 2016. The General
11 Conference shall meet in regular session in 2026 to ensure that the session of 2026 and all
12 subsequent regular sessions will be held in years in which there is no election to be held for
13 President of the United States of America.

14 A special session of the General Conference, possessing the authority and exercising all
15 the powers of the General Conference, may be called by the Council of Bishops, or in such
16 other manner as the General Conference may from time to time prescribe, to meet at such time
17 and in such place as may be stated in the call. Such special session of the General Conference
18 shall be composed of the delegates to the preceding General Conference or their lawful
19 successors, except that when a particular annual conference or missionary conference¹⁶ shall
20 prefer to have a new election it may do so. The purpose of such special session shall be stated in
21 the call, and only such business shall be transacted as is in harmony with the purpose stated in
22 such call unless the General Conference by a two-thirds vote shall determine that other business
23 may be transacted. Special sessions must be scheduled to take place in odd numbered years to
24 ensure that special sessions do not take place during the American Presidential Election year, or
25 mid-term election years.

26
27 RATIONALE:

28
29 While The United Methodist Church is a global church, and not simply a church of North
30 America, it is true that the U.S. is home to nearly half of United Methodists worldwide. Due to
31 the profound and ever-increasing polarization within the U.S. along political lines, it is believed
32 that American election years create a tainted environment for making decisions on behalf of our
33 global church. By ensuring that the conference delegation is focused entirely on God’s will and
34 not on political ideology, we can further embody the universal love of Jesus Christ, who calls
35 upon all people, nations, cultures, and ethnicities to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

36
37 Date: January 24, 2022

38
39 Identification of Petitioner

40 Name: Zack Townsend

41 Affiliation: Clergy - North Georgia Conference

42 EMAIL: zack.townsend@ngumc.net

1 **705. Resolution for Action by the General Board of Church and Society**

2
3 Whereas, the General Board of Church and Society is tasked with identifying legislation which
4 impacts American Indians, and develop communications advocating for the obligation of the
5 United States on its treaties with American Indians,

6 And whereas the Social Principles, ¶ 162A, Adopted 2016 affirms the sacredness of American
7 Indian people, their languages, cultures, and gifts to the church and the world.

8 And whereas the Social Principles, ¶ 162A, Adopted 2016 affirms that Government and religious
9 institutions intentionally destroyed many of our traditional cultures and belief systems, and the
10 Doctrine of Discovery facilitated a climate of hostility and genocide. Genocide became a tool of
11 greed and a response to fear. While attempting to erase Native people from existence, traditional
12 cultures, rituals, and languages also fell prey to acts of genocide.

13 And whereas treaties are regarded as binding, sacred, and enduring texts by American Indians
14 and Alaska Natives, comparable to the US Constitution and Bill of Rights, we acknowledge it is
15 disturbing that the US government ignored its trust responsibilities by violating treaties and other
16 promises.

17 And whereas, The United Methodist Church must act on its affirmation that American Indian
18 sovereignty:

- 19 • is a historical fact, is significant, and cannot be disregarded in favor of political
- 20 expediency;
- 21 • American Indians have a right to self-govern;
- 22 • preserves culture, land, religious expression, and sacred spaces; and
- 23 • ensures survival of Native People.

24 And whereas, if The United Methodist Church desires to move forward on a journey of
25 repentance, reconciliation, and healing with all Native Peoples, we must acknowledge the
26 rightful descendants of the original inhabitants of the area known as the state of Georgia,

27 And whereas, we call upon the General Board of Church and Society to support legislation that
28 will provide for a legal course of action when sacred sites are affected by governmental action,

29 And whereas, the state recognized tribal members are forbidden by federal law to produce
30 artistic works and crafts as made by Native Americans,

31 And whereas, without federal recognition tribal members are prohibited from reclaiming human
32 remains and ritual objects rightfully belonging to the state recognized tribes. The tribes cannot
33 care for graves of their ancestors without special permission from the land owners and/or county
34 and state governments. This is a call to commit to Restorative Justice for tribes in the state of
35 Georgia.

36 Therefore, we call upon the General Board of Church and Society to communicate with the
37 Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, declaring that the position of the North Georgia Conference
38 of The United Methodist Church is to support federal recognition of the Georgia Tribe of Eastern
39 Cherokee and other state of Georgia recognized tribes with pending applications.

40 The Rev. Dr. Rebecca D. Jones, CONAM Chair

41 becki.jones@ngumc.net

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3 **706. Resolution to Support Native American Sovereignty**
4

5 Whereas the government and the Christian Church have historically participated in the cultural
6 genocide of the original inhabitants of this land,
7

8 And whereas, in 2009, President Obama pledged to Native people the United States' support of the
9 "Declaration of Indigenous Peoples."

10 And whereas, treaties are regarded as binding, sacred, and enduring texts by American Indians and
11 Alaska Natives, comparable to the US Constitution and Bill of Rights and it is disturbing that the US
12 government ignored its trust responsibilities by violating treaties and other promises,

13 And whereas, nearly two centuries have passed since the infamous Trail of Tears attempted to
14 force removal of these indigenous peoples to a land west of the Mississippi River,
15

16 And whereas, the State of Georgia and the Federal Government have been complicit in denying
17 the existence of the descendants remaining within the borders of this state,
18

19 And whereas, there are 42,316 Native Americans living in the state of Georgia which is .4% of
20 the total population and 32nd highest among all states,
21

22 And whereas, since the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement and the establishment of the
23 American Indian Movement (which advocated for sovereignty and rights for all Native Americans),
24 the State of Georgia has made some progress in the treatment of these peoples by recognizing the
25 descendants of those who managed to stay behind, likely by hiding or intermarrying with white
26 settlers, by the establishment of three recognized state tribes. They include the Cherokee Indians
27 of Georgia, the Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokee, and the Lower Muscogee Creek Tribe,
28

29 And whereas, we affirm that American Indian sovereignty: 1. is a historical fact, is significant, and
30 cannot be disregarded in favor of political expediency; 2. American Indians have a right to self-govern;
31 3. preserves culture, land, religious expression, and sacred spaces; and 4. ensures survival of Native
32 People,
33

34 And whereas, The United Methodist Church reaffirms its support for tribal sovereignty and commends
35 the following guidance that acknowledges and affirms American Indian sovereignty as a significant fact
36 that cannot be ignored or disregarded. American Indians have a right to self-governance,

37 And whereas, one of the Georgia State Recognized Tribes, the Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokee,
38 applied for Federal Recognition in 1993 but through technicalities in the Bureau of Indian Affairs and
39 federal government, a favorable ruling is still being withheld,
40

41 Therefore, be it resolved the North Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church declare its
42 commitment to social justice for all ethnic groups including Native Americans by authorizing Bishop
43 Sue Hauptert-Johnson and North Georgia Conference to send a letter of support for and urging the
44 approval of the petition for federal recognition for the Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokee to President
45 Joe Biden and Cabinet Secretary and head of the Interior Department Deb Haaland, and that this be done
46 immediately following the close of the 2022 Annual Conference session.
47

48 The Rev. Dr. Rebecca D. Jones
49 Chair, CONAM
50

1 **707. Resolutions Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired, Disabled,**
2 **or Former Clergypersons of the North Georgia Annual Conference**
3

4 The North Georgia Annual Conference (the “conference”) adopts the following resolutions
5 relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, terminated, or disabled clergypersons of
6 the conference:
7

8 WHEREAS, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the “Church”),
9 of which this Conference is a part, has in the past functioned and continues to function through
10 ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or
11 are duly ordained, commissioned or licensed ministers of the Church (“clergypersons”);
12

13 WHEREAS, the practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active
14 clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross
15 compensation;
16

17 WHEREAS, pensions or other amounts paid to active, retired, terminated, and disabled
18 clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired,
19 terminated, and disabled clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and
20

21 WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as
22 an appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for clergypersons who are or
23 were members of this conference and are eligible to receive such deferred compensation;
24

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

26 *****See NOTE** below for IRS limitations
27

28 **THAT** an amount equal to 100% of the pension, severance, or disability payments received from
29 plans authorized under *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (the
30 “*Discipline*”), which includes all such payments from Wespeth Benefits & Investments
31 (“Wespeth”), during the period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 by each active,
32 retired, terminated, or disabled clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its
33 predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such
34 clergyperson; and
35

36 **THAT** the pension, severance, or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance
37 designation applies will be any pension, severance, or disability payments from plans, annuities,
38 or funds authorized under the *Discipline*, including such payments from Wespeth and from a
39 commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a
40 Wespeth plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the *Discipline*, that result from any service a
41 clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that an active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled
42 clergyperson of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conference of the Church,
43 general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a
44 part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the clergyperson to perform services
45 related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions
46 to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such an active, a retired, a

1 terminated, or a disabled clergy person's pension, severance, or disability plan benefit as part of
2 his or her gross compensation.

3

4 *****NOTE:** The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a clergy person's gross
5 income in any year for federal (and, in most cases, state) income tax purposes is limited under
6 Internal Revenue Code section 107(2), and regulations thereunder, to the least of: (a) the amount
7 of the rental/housing allowance designated by the clergy person's employer or other appropriate
8 body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (b) the
9 amount actually expended by the clergy person to rent or provide a home in such year; or (c) the
10 fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus
11 the cost of utilities in such year. Each clergy person or former clergy person is urged to consult
12 with his or her own tax advisor to determine what deferred compensation is eligible to be
13 claimed as a housing allowance exclusion.

1 **800. 2021 Standing Rules (as corrected from 2021 Journal)**

2
3 **A. Introduction**

4
5 “The annual conference, for its own government, may adopt rules and regulations not in
6 conflict with the Discipline of The United Methodist Church” (§ 604.1.) The standing rules
7 of the conference expand and clarify these structures and their modes of operation. (All
8 references to the 2016 *The Book of Discipline* hereafter shall be designated by the paragraph
9 number.)

10 **A. 1. Rules** - *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern parliamentary procedures of the annual
11 conference, subject to the rules of the preceding general conference and the 2016 *The Book of*
12 *Discipline*.

13 **A. 2. Amendments** - These standing rules may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the
14 conference no fewer than twenty-four (24) hours following their presentation to the
15 conference; provided, a written copy of the proposed amendment(s) shall be submitted to the
16 conference secretary before being read to the conference. Amendments shall take effect upon
17 passage.

18
19 **B. Standing Committees of the Annual Conference**

20
21 The primary function of standing committees is to provide support that enables the session of
22 the North Georgia Annual Conference to operate efficiently. These on-going committees do
23 not have programmatic responsibilities throughout the year other than preparing for the
24 annual conference session.

25 **B. 1.** There shall be a committee on standing rules composed of up to ten (10) with no less
26 than five (5) persons, nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations, plus
27 the conference chancellor and conference secretary. The committee on standing rules is
28 charged with the annual task of addressing the submission of new rules and maintaining the
29 standing rules of the annual conference in the following ways: to receive requests for
30 amendments, assure rules maintain internal consistency, make editorial changes as needed,
31 present changes to the conference and review revised standing rules for publication in the
32 conference journal. The committee is also charged with the quadrennial task of examining
33 the rules of the annual conference for consistency with the latest *The Book of Discipline* and
34 to recommend any editorial changes to bring about that consistency.

35 **B. 2.** There shall be a committee on registration and assistance composed of up to ten (10)
36 with no less than five (5) persons, nominated by the annual conference committee on
37 nominations. The primary functions of the committee on registration & assistance are to
38 conduct registration, along with the host committee; certify delegates; and to issue badges
39 accordingly. Using guidelines to verify eligibility, the committee helps retired pastors receive
40 financial assistance, and during the week of annual conference, the committee maintains a
41 table to assist visitors with badges and other needs. The registration and assistance committee
42 is responsible for working with the host committee to organize and recruit volunteers.

43 **B. 3.** There shall be a committee on daily proceedings composed of up to ten (10) with no
44 less than five (5) persons, nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations.

1 The daily proceedings committee is responsible for certifying the written record of the annual
2 conference and reporting to the annual conference on the committee's review of the material.

3 The committee on daily proceedings works with the editor of the conference journal/
4 conference secretary as needed to ensure compliance with Disciplinary standards in ¶ 606.3
5 and for clarification of the written record of the annual conference session.

6 **B. 4.** There shall be a committee on resolutions composed of up to ten (10) with no less than
7 five (5) persons, nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations. The charge
8 of the resolution committee is to process all resolutions presented to the annual conference
9 that are not submitted to the programmatic committees through dialogue with the submitter
10 and all agencies of the annual conference affected by the resolution. This committee makes
11 sure that, with occasional exceptions, resolutions submitted by the deadline of February 1 of
12 the Annual Conference year are included in the handbook.

13 The resolutions committee is responsible for reviewing each resolution to determine
14 if it can properly come before the annual conference, making revisions as needed in
15 consultation with the submitter of the resolution, ensuring consistency with *The Book of*
16 *Discipline* and North Georgia Standing Rules/Guidelines, submitting to the conference
17 secretary by the deadline for the conference handbook, and presenting resolutions to the
18 conference.

19 20 **C. Annual Conference Session and Related Committees**

21
22 **C. 1. Annual Conference Committee on Nominations** - There shall be an annual
23 conference committee on nominations whose duty shall be to nominate all lay and clergy
24 members of the boards, councils, teams, commissions, committees, and other agencies of the
25 north Georgia conference. The committee shall be composed of the bishop, who shall be the
26 chairperson; the district superintendents and extended cabinet; the conference lay leader and
27 associate conference lay leaders; the district lay leaders; the commission on religion and race
28 representative; the conference presidents of United Methodist Men and of United Women in
29 Faith; the chairpersons of the conference young adult organization and the council on youth
30 ministry; and not more than five (5) members-at-large who shall be named by the bishop for
31 inclusiveness. The committee shall make its nominations not later than the second morning
32 of the annual conference.

33 The executive committee of the annual conference committee on nominations,
34 composed of the bishop, the conference lay leader, the director of connectional ministries or
35 designated person, three (3) other members of the annual conference committee on
36 nominations named by the bishop, will coordinate the comprehensive nominations process of
37 identification, recruitment, training, selection and evaluation for the annual conference.
38 Where vacancies in essential elected positions occur between annual conference sessions, the
39 executive committee may fill the positions until the next annual conference elects. Task
40 forces may be used in keeping with the directions stated in standing rule H.1.

41 **C. 2. District Committee on Nominations** - There shall be a district committee on
42 nominations, composed of five (5) clergy and six (6) lay members. One (1) clergy member
43 shall be the district superintendent, who shall serve as the chairperson. One (1) of the six (6)
44 lay members shall be the district lay leader. The district committee on nominations shall

1 assist in identifying, recruiting and recommending potential leaders to the conference
2 committee on nominations.

3 **C. 3. Quadrennial Boards, Teams, Councils, Commissions, Committees** - The
4 membership of quadrennial boards, councils, teams, commissions, committees, and other
5 agencies shall be limited to twenty-seven (27) persons plus ex-officio members. This rule
6 shall not apply to standing committees or to any board, council, team, commission,
7 committee, or other agency whose membership is otherwise determined by the conference or
8 by *The Book of Discipline*.

9 All committees, boards, teams, councils, commissions and agencies of the annual
10 conference shall be composed of equal numbers of clergy and laity unless *The Book of*
11 *Discipline* provides otherwise.

12 No person shall be eligible for election to membership on the same board, council,
13 team, commission or committee or agency for more than eight (8) consecutive years and after
14 serving eight (8) years may not be later elected to the same board, commission, team,
15 council, committee or agency for more than eight (8) years except as allowed by *The Book of*
16 *Discipline*, for a lifetime total of sixteen (16) years maximum on the same board, council,
17 team, commission, committee or agency. The Board of Ordained Ministry shall be one of
18 those exempted from this standing rule. ¶ 635.1.a. of *The Book of Discipline* states that the
19 membership of the Board of Ordained Ministry shall be as follows: “An elected board
20 member may serve a maximum of three (3) consecutive four (4) year terms.” No person shall
21 be nominated to serve concurrently on more than one (1) quadrennial board, council, team,
22 commission or committee, except as an ex-officio member. However, one (1) exemption may
23 be allowed for those serving on the board of laity, episcopal committee, congregational
24 development, nominations, the standing committees of the annual conference session
25 (registration and assistance, daily proceedings, resolutions, and standing rules) and the Board
26 of Ordained Ministry. No district superintendent may be nominated as an elective member of
27 any program agency or team of the conference. Persons nominated shall have agreed in
28 advance to serve if elected.

29 When quadrennial boards, councils, teams, commissions and committees are elected,
30 they shall receive training, information and support for their responsibilities within sixty (60)
31 days following the annual conference session, except in a year of episcopal transition when
32 the window will be one hundred twenty (120) days. Chairpersons shall be nominated by the
33 annual conference committee on nominations and elected by the annual conference. Under
34 the direction of their respective chairpersons, each board, council, commission and
35 committee shall elect a vice-chairperson and secretary. All team officers shall be nominated
36 by the committee on nominations.

37 All district committees and conference boards, councils, teams, commissions and
38 committees shall include members which ensure balance, continuity, expertise and
39 inclusiveness in keeping with the spirit and guidelines of *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 140.

40 **C. 3. a. For Persons Holding Chairs:**

41 **C. 3. a. 1)** Chairpersons are expected to maintain a yearly calendar of
42 scheduled and announced meetings for planning, budgeting, and evaluation.

43 **C. 3. a. 2)** Chairpersons are expected to plan meetings at such times and
44 locations that encourage and allow for maximum attendance of the elected

1 membership, giving particular mind to the academic schedules of youth and young
2 adults.

3 **C. 3. a. 3)** Chairpersons are to submit proper budgets with supporting
4 rationale and any other requested reports in a proper and timely manner.

5 **C. 3. a. 4)** Chairpersons are expected to provide consistent communication
6 with members of their committee or board regarding agendas, time/date/locations,
7 and related information that impact a member's ability to serve well.

8 **C. 3. a. 5)** Chairpersons are expected to attend all called meetings of the
9 committee or board for which he or she is responsible. Missing two (2) consecutive
10 called meetings of his or her committee or board with no excuse, or missing three (3)
11 consecutive called meetings of his or her committee or board with good excuse, shall
12 be the minimum guidelines for attendance.

13 **C. 3. a. 6)** Inability to meet the minimum guidelines of attendance will prompt
14 a letter from the conference nominations executive committee, releasing the
15 individual from his or her position (this will not negatively impact subsequent
16 nominations or committee service) so the conference nominations executive
17 committee can immediately fill the vacated position.

18 **C. 3. b. For Committee and Board Members:**

19 **C. 3. b. 1)** Elected members are expected to attend all called meetings of the
20 committee or board on which they are serving. Missing three (3) consecutive properly
21 called meetings of his or her committee or board with no excuse, or missing four (4)
22 consecutive properly called meetings of his or her committee or board with good
23 excuse, shall be the minimum guidelines for attendance.

24 **C. 3. b. 2)** Inability to meet the minimum guidelines of attendance will prompt
25 a letter of notification from the conference nominations executive committee,
26 releasing the individual from his or her position (this will not negatively impact
27 subsequent nominations or committee service) so the conference nominations
28 executive committee can immediately fill the vacated position.

29 **C. 4. Annual Conference Planning Committee** - There shall be an annual conference
30 planning committee responsible for setting the agenda for sessions of the annual conference,
31 recommending the site of the conference annually, and overall coordination of annual
32 conference. Applications to host the conference shall be for a period of four consecutive
33 years in one site. The application shall be submitted to the bishop not less than two and one-
34 half years before the proposed invitation date and must include adequate data to satisfy the
35 planning committee of the suitability of the proposed site, with special attention to housing,
36 food service, seating, congregating areas, parking and all standard public services necessary
37 to accommodate large numbers of people. All facilities must meet ADA Accessibility
38 Guidelines. All applications to host the conference must include an itemized account of
39 anticipated expenses. The site must provide seating for all members of the conference, both
40 clergy and lay, and for visitors and guests.

41 The annual conference planning committee shall select one site for four years and
42 must reconfirm the site selected for each of the four years of the approved application. When
43 for unforeseen circumstances related to finances, logistics or other compelling reasons the
44 annual conference is not able to hold annual conference at the agreed upon site, the annual

1 conference planning committee is authorized to work with the conference council on finance
2 and administration to secure an appropriate alternate site.

3 The annual conference planning committee shall consist of the following persons: the
4 bishop; the annual conference lay leader; the associate conference lay leader(s); the
5 conference secretary; the dean of the cabinet; the conference presidents of United Women in
6 Faith, United Methodist Men, conference youth organization, conference young adult
7 organization and the conference young adult committee representative; the chairpersons of
8 the conference committee on registration and assistance and the board of ordained ministry;
9 the director of connectional ministries or designated person; the director of center for clergy
10 excellence, executive assistant to the bishop, the chairperson of the conference council on
11 finance and administration; the conference treasurer; and other persons selected by the bishop
12 to assure proper representation of persons related to the work of the committee, such as the
13 host district superintendent and the host pastor. The bishop or his/her designee shall be the
14 chairperson of the annual conference planning committee.

15 **C. 5. Conference Handbook & Information Packets** - Material for publication in the
16 conference handbook shall be submitted annually to the conference secretary not less than
17 ninety (90) days prior to the opening date of the annual conference. Other material may be
18 distributed to the members of the conference, at the discretion of the conference secretary, in
19 a packet of supplementary materials. All printed materials requiring action by the annual
20 conference shall be available in large print. The default format of the handbook shall be PDF
21 posted on the conference website for members to download or print.

22 **C. 6. Pre-Conference Briefings** - Not more than twenty-five (25) days prior to the opening
23 session of the annual conference, each district superintendent, in consultation with the district
24 lay leader, shall convene, at such time and place as the two (2) of them together shall
25 determine, the conference members residing in the district, both clergy and lay, for the
26 purpose of examining the published reports and recommendations of the boards, councils,
27 teams, commissions, committees and other agencies of the conference.

28 **C. 7. Consent Agenda** - In order to expedite the business of the conference, the consent
29 agenda committee, composed of the conference secretary, the chairperson of the committee
30 on standing rules, the director of connectional ministries or designated person, and the
31 conference lay leader or his/her designee, in consultation with agencies or individuals
32 presenting reports, recommendations or resolutions, may present in the conference handbook
33 a written list of items which shall be known as the consent agenda. Items on the consent
34 agenda shall be considered as adopted by consent of the annual conference unless they are
35 removed from this list at a time set aside for this purpose on the second day of conference.
36 Individual items may be removed from the consent agenda to be placed on the regular agenda
37 by a motion to remove supported by a second from two (2) voting members of the annual
38 conference. When an item has been removed from the consent agenda, it shall be placed on
39 the regular agenda at an appropriate time as determined by the conference secretary.

40 **C. 8. Reports** - Reports shall be in writing, and an original, signed copy of the same shall be
41 in the hands of the conference secretary before being read on the floor of the conference.
42 When twenty-five (25) percent or more of the membership of a board, council, team,
43 commission, committee or other agency shall request the privilege of presenting a minority
44 report to the annual conference, the chairperson of said board or other agency shall appoint a

1 committee to draft a minority report and shall submit the said minority report along with the
2 majority report to the conference.

3 **C. 9. Committee on Resolutions** - There shall be a committee on resolutions, nominated and
4 elected under the provisions of the standing rules (B.4). Any resolution coming to the floor of
5 the annual conference which has not been before an official board, commission or agency of
6 the annual conference, or a resolution not previously printed in the conference handbook,
7 shall be referred to the committee on resolutions for study before the resolution is considered
8 by the annual conference.

9 **C.10. Virtual Conference** - In the event that the Annual Conference Planning Committee
10 determines that circumstances require that any annual or special session of the Conference
11 should be held by virtual or electronic meeting in lieu of physical meeting, such
12 determination shall be communicated to all delegates to the annual conference with a notice
13 of the date and time for such virtual or electronic meeting. The notice shall be delivered in
14 writing or by electronic communication at least ten days prior to the date specified for the
15 virtual or electronic meeting. The notice shall provide the methodology necessary for each
16 delegate to participate in the virtual or electronic meeting.

17 For any action to be taken by the delegates at the virtual or electronic meeting, a
18 ballot shall be provided to the delegates by electronic transmission that shall set forth each
19 proposed action and provide an opportunity for each delegate to vote for or against each
20 proposed action.

21 Approval by electronic ballot shall be valid only when the number of votes cast by
22 such ballot equals or exceeds the quorum required to be present at a meeting authorizing the
23 action, and the number of approvals equals or exceeds the number of votes that would be
24 required to approve the matter at a meeting at which the total number of votes cast was the
25 same as the number of votes cast by ballot. Prior to or simultaneously with the delivery of
26 any electronic ballot, the Conference Secretary shall notify by electronic communication (1)
27 the number of responses needed to meet the quorum requirements, (2) the percentage of
28 approvals necessary to approve each matter, and the time by which a ballot must be received
29 by the Conference Secretary or any designated teller(s) in order to be counted. Once
30 submitted by any delegate, an electronic ballot may not be modified or revoked.

31 32 **D. Administrative Procedures of the Annual Conference**

33
34 **D. 1. Publication of Names and Addresses of Lay Members** - The names and email
35 addresses of lay members of the annual conference, arranged by districts and by charges,
36 shall be published in the conference journal, and they shall be compiled and made available
37 to members of the conference, both lay and clergy, as early as feasible following their
38 election.

39 **D. 2. Lay Member Equalization Plan** - The lay membership of the annual conference shall
40 be equal in number to its clergy membership. Lay members shall be elected by each charge
41 conference as directed by *The Book of Discipline*, ¶ 32. The following are designated by *The*
42 *Book of Discipline* (loc. cit.) to be members of the annual conference: the diaconal ministers,
43 the active deaconesses, and home missionaries under Episcopal appointment within the bounds
44 of the annual conference, the conference president of the United Methodist Women, the
45 conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference lay leader, district lay leaders,

1 the conference director of lay servant ministries, conference secretary of global ministries (if
2 lay), the president or equivalent officer of the conference young adult organization, the
3 president of the conference youth organization, the chair of the annual conference college
4 student organization, and one young person between the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen
5 (17) and one young person between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) from each
6 district to be selected in such a manner as may be determined by the annual conference.

7 If the lay membership shall number less than the clergy membership, the following
8 lay persons shall also be members of the annual conference: the associate conference lay
9 leaders, the district directors of lay servant ministries, the district presidents of United
10 Women in Faith and United Methodist Men, and the district presidents or equivalent officers
11 of the district young adult organization and the district youth organization, six (6) young
12 persons 18 years and under and eight (8) young adult persons eighteen (18) years of age to
13 thirty five (35) years of age.

14 Additional members shall be elected from each district by the district board of laity to
15 achieve equalization of the number of lay and clergy members of the annual conference.

16 The conference secretary shall advise the district superintendents annually, not later
17 than November 1, of the number of additional lay members required to achieve equalization.
18 The district superintendents shall assist the district board of laity to elect the necessary
19 persons, to notify them of their election, and to forward their names and addresses to the
20 conference secretary by January 1 of each year.

21 **D. 3. Pastoral Transition and Expenses**

22 The last Sunday for pastors leaving a church will be the last Sunday of June. Move Day will
23 be on the Tuesday following the last Sunday in June, and pastors shall vacate parsonages no
24 later than 1:00 p.m. on this date. The first Sunday in July will be transitional leave for
25 moving pastors. The incoming pastor's first day in the office will be the first business day
26 after July 4. The incoming pastor's first day in the pulpit will be the second Sunday of July.
27 If unusual circumstances prevail, the cabinet may change these dates to more suitable ones;
28 provided, further, the secretary of the cabinet shall have notice of the change published on
29 the North Georgia Conference website not fewer than ninety (90) days prior to the convening
30 of annual conference. Churches receiving new pastors shall pay the moving expenses of the
31 clergy, not to exceed \$6,000. The amount paid shall be reported in accordance with IRS
32 code.

33 **D. 4. Care of Parsonages** - Clergy shall use care to maintain cleanliness and good
34 housekeeping of the parsonages in which they reside. In addition to the annual inspection of
35 the parsonage (§ 2533.4), at a time of change in pastoral appointment, there shall be an
36 inspection of the parsonage by the pastor and the pastor/parish relations committee to
37 determine the condition of the parsonage.

38 Responsibilities and additional information regarding parsonages can be found in the
39 report from the Commission on Equitable Compensation in the Guidelines and Reports
40 sections.

41 **D. 5. Number of Districts** - There shall be eight (8) districts in the North Georgia
42 Conference.

43 **D. 6. Service Year** - The conference service year shall be July 1 through June 30.
44

1 **D. 7. Local Church Reports** - Pastors shall submit their annual reports as directed by the
2 conference statistician. The conference statistician shall reconcile the financial reports with
3 the records of the conference treasurer.

4 **D. 8. Archives** - The depository for archival records of the North Georgia Conference shall
5 be the Candler School of Theology of Emory University through its Pitts Theology Library.

6 7 **E. Finance and Property** 8

9 **E. 1. Budget Development** - All requests for appropriations shall be submitted to the
10 conference council on finance and administration, in writing, not less than ninety (90) days
11 prior to the opening session of the annual conference. Requests shall include a detailed
12 financial statement. Any persons or group presenting a proposal to the annual conference for
13 a program or activity which is not included in the conference budget shall at the same time,
14 present a financial analysis including estimated cost and plans for funding. Before final
15 action by the annual conference, the conference council on finance and administration shall
16 review the financial aspects of the proposal and make its recommendation to the conference
17 regarding the proposal. Budgets submitted to the conference for approval shall include
18 itemized comparative figures for the previous year, except in the case of new programs.

19 **E. 2. Fiscal Regulations** - The conference fiscal year shall be January 1 through December
20 31. All monies for conference and district items shall be remitted by December 31. The
21 books of the conference treasurer and the district treasurers shall be closed at the end of
22 business on the fifth (5th) working day following January 1. The conference treasurer shall
23 make final settlement and disburse all funds to the annual conference boards, councils,
24 commissions or other agencies within fifteen (15) days following the end of the fiscal year.
25 The conference treasurer shall report by districts and by charges all payments for equitable
26 compensation, mission appropriations and the temporary general aid fund. The conference
27 treasurer shall report monthly to the district superintendents all conference askings paid by
28 each local church in the district.

29 **E. 3. District Superintendents and District Office Financial Support**

30 The *Conference* apportionments will fund the following expenses: (1) district superintendent
31 salaries, pensions, insurance (subject to the same insurance rules for other clergy); (2) district
32 superintendent business expenses, including all travel and all business expenses; (3) salaries,
33 pensions and insurance for the conference-employed administrative assistants assigned to the
34 district offices (subject to the same rules for other conference lay staff); (4) district
35 superintendent housing allowance (\$32,749 per annum in 2020-2021) or parsonage and
36 utilities (\$5,000 in 2020-2021); (5) District Office overhead/support expenses such as
37 rent/mortgage, utilities, property and liability insurance, supplies, equipment rental, etc.

38 **E. 4. Church Property** - Each district superintendent shall furnish the conference secretary
39 annually, no later than February 1 of each year, for publication in the Conference Journal, a
40 list of the real property situated within the district, belonging to but not currently in use by
41 The United Methodist Church. Each district superintendent shall supplement said list in the
42 event the district superintendent shall determine that the action of a charge conference in its
43 district prior to the end of Annual Conference will result in the closing of a local church and
44 the need to dispose of that local church's property. In the event of an ad interim procedure, as
45 set out in ¶ 2549.3, the Conference Board of Trustees shall supplement the list with that

1 information. The compilation of those lists shall be transmitted by the Conference Secretary
2 to the Annual Conference Board of Trustees no later than February 15 of each year and
3 supplemented as herein set out. The Conference Board of Trustees shall review said list and
4 add or subtract properties based on its knowledge of the current status of properties not in
5 use. The Conference Board of Trustees shall report the most current information regarding
6 unused property, including properties to be discontinued, along with recommendations to the
7 Annual Conference with recommendations for disposition. To assist it in managing and
8 disposing of unused properties, the Conference Board of Trustees may employ professional
9 management personnel or entities. Funding for such assistance shall be retained from the sale
10 or rental of any properties within the authority of the Conference Board of Trustees.

11 **E. 5. Salary Supplements** - All supplementation of pastoral salaries from whatever source
12 shall be administered by the commission on equitable compensation in accordance with
13 guidelines developed by the commission and approved by the annual conference, except that
14 the conference board of congregational development shall be authorized to administer salary
15 supplementation for pastors of new and redeveloping congregations, in keeping with
16 guidelines developed by the committee and approved by the annual conference.

17 **E. 6. Charters** - Charters authorized by the North Georgia Conference shall be reviewed by
18 the conference chancellor before being filed with the Georgia Secretary of State.

19 **E. 7. Annual Conference Registration Fee** – A registration fee of \$30.00 shall be assessed
20 for each lay and active clergy delegate to the North Georgia Annual Conference. Retired
21 clergy and youth members are exempt from the assessment.

22 23 **F. Conference Common Table (CCT)** 24

25 **F. 1.** There shall be a Conference Common Table with responsibility to focus and guide the
26 mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church within the boundaries of the North
27 Georgia Annual Conference. It shall give leadership and guidance in setting the vision and
28 priorities of the annual conference and in conducting an on-going process of refining and
29 revising that vision.

30 **F. 2.** The director of connectional ministries or designated person, in consultation with the
31 resident bishop, shall chair the Common Table, which shall be composed of the following
32 persons: resident bishop, director of connectional ministries or designated person, district
33 superintendents, director of center for clergy excellence, executive assistant to the bishop,
34 director of congregational excellence, chairperson of the board of congregational
35 development, conference treasurer, chairperson of the council on finance and administration,
36 chairperson of the board of ordained ministry, secretary of the annual conference, conference
37 chancellor, conference lay leader, the four associate conference lay leaders, conference
38 president of United Women in Faith, conference president of United Methodist Men,
39 president of the conference youth organization, the co-presidents of the conference young
40 adult organization, chairperson of the board of discipleship and advocacy, vice-chair of the
41 board of discipleship and advocacy, conference staff person assigned to missions,
42 chairperson of the order of deacons, chairperson of the order of elders, chairperson of the
43 fellowship of local pastors and associate members, the heads of the most recently elected lay
44 and clergy delegations to general conference, and such at-large members as the bishop shall
45 nominate to provide for diversity and inclusiveness as regards race/ethnicity/national origin,

1 age, and gender. The Common Table’s membership shall be limited to fifty persons. The
2 eligibility limitations of standing rule C.3. shall not apply to the Common Table.

3 **F. 3.** There shall be an executive committee of the Common Table composed of the bishop,
4 the director of connectional ministries or designated person, the conference lay leader, the
5 dean of the cabinet, the chairperson of the board of discipleship and advocacy, and the
6 chairperson of the council on finance and administration.

7 **F. 4.** The Common Table could be called into session at such time as the chair, in
8 consultation with the bishop, deems it necessary for the benefit of the conference’s work, and
9 may report each year to the annual conference regarding stewardship of the conference’s
10 vision and its commitment to the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church.

11 12 **G. Connectional Ministries**

13
14 **G. 1.** There shall be a director of connectional ministries or designated person who, in
15 partnership with the bishop and cabinet, shall have the following primary responsibilities: to
16 serve as steward of the vision of the annual conference, including the development,
17 clarification, interpretation, and embodiment of the conference’s vision; to serve as leader of
18 the continuous process of transformation and renewal necessary for the annual conference to
19 be faithful to our Christian identity in a changing world; to ensure alignment of the total
20 resources of the conference to its vision; and to ensure the connections among the local,
21 district, annual conference, and general church ministries for the purpose of networking,
22 resourcing, and communicating their shared ministry.

23 **G. 2.** The director of connectional ministries or designated person shall serve as an officer of
24 the annual conference and shall sit with the cabinet when the cabinet considers matters
25 relating to coordination, implementation, or administration of the conference program, and
26 other matters as the cabinet and director may determine.

27 **G. 3.** The director of connectional ministries or designated person shall coordinate the
28 recruitment and training of conference program leaders, provide oversight and leadership in
29 the conference’s program and ministry, and serve as chair of the Common Table and as
30 executive officer of the board of discipleship and advocacy.

31 32 **H. Board of Discipleship, Advocacy, and Congregational Development**

33
34 **H.1.** There shall be a board of discipleship, advocacy, and congregational development. The
35 work and ministry of this board is aimed at strengthening the local church and the annual
36 conference through discipleship and support of the North Georgia Conference churches, laity
37 and clergy, and through the prophetic voice of advocacy that calls us all to be better; to lead
38 and assist congregations, districts and the conference in efforts to communicate and celebrate
39 the redeeming and reconciling love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ to persons of every
40 age, ethnic background, and social condition; to invite persons to commit their lives to Christ
41 and to Christ’s church; and to enable persons to live as Christian disciples in the world. In
42 carrying out this work and ministry, the board shall be responsible for leading the North
43 Georgia Conference ministries stipulated in ¶ 630 of *The Book of Discipline*, including as
44 central to its role and ministries:

- 1 • working in collaboration with the Barnes Evaluation and Administration Team and the
2 eight (8) District Strategic Growth Teams to ensure ongoing congregational
3 development through promoting, nurturing, supporting, and guiding existing and new
4 faith communities as they implement innovative ministries with and in the communities
5 they serve
- 6 • working in collaboration with the North Georgia Conference staff to ensure focused,
7 strategic, and effective training, consultation, leadership development, and other,
8 human resources-driven support are provided to the North Georgia Conference churches,
9 laity, and clergy for both new and existing ministries
- 10 • working in collaboration with all the North Georgia Conference churches, laity, clergy,
11 and other groups to ensure our call to Christian advocacy is heard and responded to in
12 effective and meaningful ways across our North Georgia Conference, and as stipulated in
13 *The Book of Discipline*
- 14 • working collaboratively, as one board, to ensure the board’s ministries of church
15 development, human resources-driven support, and conference-wide advocacy are
16 carried out in a transparent, clear, and coordinated way that advances our mission to
17 make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world

18
19 **H.2.** Members of the board of discipleship, advocacy, and congregational development shall
20 be nominated by the committee on nominations, elected by the annual conference, and serve
21 per guidelines stipulated in Standing Rule C.3. Membership shall include:

- 22 • co-chairs, one who shall be a lay-person and one who shall be a clergyperson
- 23 • secretary
- 24 • four at-large lay-persons
- 25 • four at-large clergy persons
- 26 • chairpersons of the committees on
 - 27 • Latino congregational development
 - 28 • Korean/Asian congregational development
 - 29 • Black congregational development
- 30 • North Georgia Conference lead persons for the discipleship and advocacy areas of:
 - 31 • Children’s Ministries / Safe Sanctuaries
 - 32 • Small Membership Church
 - 33 • Older Adult Ministries
 - 34 • Young Adult Ministries
 - 35 • Youth Ministries
 - 36 • Spiritual Formation
 - 37 • Higher Education & Campus Ministries
 - 38 • Adult & Family Ministries
 - 39 • Camp & Retreat Ministries
 - 40 • Evangelism
 - 41 • Christian Unity & Inter-religious Relationships
 - 42 • Church and Society
 - 43 • Status and Role of Women
 - 44 • Religion and Race
 - 45 • Creation and Care

- 1 • Criminal Justice and Mercy
- 2 • Disability Concerns
- 3 • Disaster Response
- 4 • Ethnic Local Church Concerns
- 5 • Global Ministries
- 6 • Health, Welfare & Wellness
- 7 • Missions
- 8 • Native American Ministries
- 9 • Peace with Justice
- 10 • Persons in Poverty
- 11 • Refugee Resettlement
- 12 • Multi-Cultural Advocate

13 Ex-Officio members of the board shall include:

- 14 • Cabinet representative selected by the Cabinet
- 15 • Conference Lay Leader
- 16 • Associate Conference Lay Leaders
- 17 • Conference United Women in Faith President
- 18 • Conference United Methodist Men President
- 19 • Conference Youth President
- 20 • Conference Youth Secretary
- 21 • General Commission on Religion and Race Representative
- 22 • Council of Finance and Administration Representative selected by the Chair of the
- 23 Council of Finance and Administration

24

25 **H.3.** Staffing and supporting the board shall be the responsibility of:

- 26 • Director, Connectional Ministries
- 27 • Director, Center for Congregational Excellence
- 28 • other Conference staff as needed/assigned

29

30 **H.4.** The board of discipleship, advocacy and congregational development shall have
 31 authority to form committees as *The Book of Discipline* may require or as deemed necessary
 32 by the board in carrying out its responsibilities. The board of discipleship, advocacy, and
 33 congregational development may enlist additional persons to assist in its work and may also
 34 form time-limited task forces to address particular issues or emphases.

35

36 Standing committees of the board shall include committees on:

- 37 • Latino congregational development
- 38 • Korean/Asian congregational development
- 39 • Black congregational development

40 Working in collaboration with the Commission on Religion and Race, the 8 District Strategic
 41 Growth teams, and other North Georgia Conference boards and committees as needed, these
 42 standing committees shall make recommendations to the board and other appropriate North
 43 Georgia Conference groups with regard to supporting the development of new Latino,
 44 Korean/Asian and Black congregations and strengthening existing Latino, Korean/Asian and
 45 Black congregations. They shall also be responsible for the development and deployment of

1 training they deem important from a cultural perspective in planting new, and supporting
2 existing, Latino, Korean/Asian, and Black churches. Each committee shall request funds
3 necessary for this training be included in the board of discipleship, advocacy, and
4 congregational development budget. These committees shall meet at least quarterly. Each
5 committee shall elect a vice-chair and secretary. Ex-officio members of each committee
6 shall include a Cabinet Representative assigned by the Cabinet, and a Conference staff
7 representative, assigned by the Director, Center for Congregational Excellence.

8 **H.5.** The co-chairs of the board of discipleship, advocacy, and congregational development
9 shall on an annual basis, no later than January 31st of each year, and in consultation with
10 board members:

- 11 • determine the boards and the board's standing committee's personnel/membership
12 needs for the coming conference year
- 13 • submit their request for personnel/membership nominations to the Administrative
14 Assistant, Center of Congregational Excellence/Connectional Ministries. The request
15 shall include:
 - 16 • the number of persons needed
 - 17 • number of lay persons
 - 18 • number of clergypersons
 - 19 • specific board or committee role for each person needed
 - 20 • the board's perspective on the gifts and graces needed for each opening
 - 21 • an estimate of the time-commitment associated with each opening

22
23 **H.6.** The budget for the board of discipleship, advocacy, and congregational development,
24 and all of its associated committees, shall be included in the budget for the Center for
25 Congregational Excellence/Connectional Ministries.

26
27 **H.7.** There shall be an executive committee of the board, composed of the co-chairs,
28 secretary, conference lay leader, cabinet representative, and other members as determined
29 and elected by the full board.

30
31 **H.8.** The full board shall meet at least semi-annually; but may meet more often as needed or
32 determined by the board's executive committee.

33 34 35 **I. Ministry of the Laity**

36
37 **I. 1. Conference Board of Laity** - There shall be a conference board of laity which shall
38 provide for the ministry of the laity related to the objectives of the General Board of
39 Discipleship as set forth in ¶¶ 1101-1126. The purpose of the conference board of laity shall
40 be as outlined in ¶ 631.2. Funding for the board shall be provided through the conference
41 budget.

42 **I. 2. Membership of Conference Board of Laity** - The following shall comprise the
43 membership of the board: the conference lay leader, associate conference lay leaders, the
44 district lay leaders, the conference director of lay servant ministries, the presidents and two
45 representatives elected by each of the conference organizations of United Methodist Men and

1 United Women in Faith, the presidents of the conference young adult organization and the
2 conference youth organization; and in addition, the conference scouting coordinator, the lay
3 chair or lay vice-chair of the general conference delegation and up to four at-large members
4 elected by the board, in consultation with the annual conference committee on nominations
5 as needed from time to time for inclusiveness and/or operations; and as ex-officio, a district
6 superintendent designated by the cabinet, the director of connectional ministries or
7 designated person and the presiding bishop. Task forces may be utilized in keeping with the
8 directives stated in Standing Rule H.1.

9 **I. 3. Election of Conference Lay Leader and Associate Conference Lay Leaders** – The
10 conference lay leader and no more than four (4) associate conference lay leaders shall be
11 elected quadrennially by the annual conference on nomination of the conference committee
12 on nominations after consultation with the board of laity. The conference lay leader shall
13 serve as chair of the conference board of laity. No person may serve as the conference lay
14 leader for more than eight (8) consecutive years. No person may serve as the associate
15 conference lay leader for more than eight (8) consecutive years. The conference lay leader
16 and the associate conference lay leaders shall be members of the board of laity by virtue of
17 their election to the offices they hold. Years of service as an associate conference lay leader
18 shall not be considered in determining the eligibility of a person to serve as conference lay
19 leader.

20 **I. 4. Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries** – There shall be a conference
21 committee on lay servant ministries, which shall relate to the conference board of laity as
22 specifically provided for in ¶ 631.6. The committee shall be structured by the conference
23 board of laity and shall include as a minimum the conference director of lay servant
24 ministries, the district directors of lay servant ministries, the conference lay leader, and one
25 or more associate conference lay leaders. Up to four (4) at-large members may be elected by
26 the conference board of laity as needed for inclusiveness and/or operations from time to time.
27 The conference director of lay servant ministries shall be elected for a four-year term by the
28 conference board of laity after consultation with the conference committee on nominations.
29 No person may serve as the conference director of lay servant ministries for more than eight
30 (8) consecutive years.

31 32 33 **J. Administrative Agencies of the Annual Conference**

34
35 **J. 1.** There shall be a board of ordained ministry composed of up to seventy-five (75)
36 persons nominated by the bishop as outlined in ¶ 635.1, including those who serve by virtue
37 of their offices.

38 **J.1.a.** Purpose. There shall be a committee on clergy effectiveness which shall be a
39 resource to the bishop and cabinet to assist clergy who are having significant difficulty with
40 effectiveness in ministry. To assist the bishop in carrying out the responsibilities of ¶ 334.3
41 and ¶ 359.1b, the committee will meet with the referred clergy person to identify concerns
42 and design collaboratively a corrective plan of action for a return to more effective ministry.

43 **J.1.b.** Membership. There shall be eight (8) members who shall be appointed by the
44 executive committee of the board of ordained ministry. The members of the committee shall
45 not be members of the conference board of ordained ministry. The majority of the committee

1 shall be clergy, and at least one member shall be a layperson. In addition, the director of the
2 center for clergy excellence and a district superintendent appointed by the bishop shall be ex-
3 officio members without vote. In the event the district superintendent of the referred clergy
4 person is an ex-officio member of the committee, that district superintendent shall recuse
5 himself or herself, and the bishop shall appoint another district superintendent to sit on the
6 committee for that case only. In the event any member of the committee is appointed to or
7 attends the same local church as the referred clergy person, that member of the committee
8 shall recuse himself or herself, and the bishop shall appoint another clergy person or
9 layperson to sit on the committee for that case only.

10 **J.1.c.** Terms of Service. The committee membership shall be divided into two classes
11 of four years each. To promote continuity, four of the initial members shall be elected for two
12 year terms and four of the initial members shall be elected to four year terms.
13 Notwithstanding conference rules of longevity regarding total length of service in an elected
14 position, members may not be appointed to serve two consecutive terms on the committee.

15 **J.1.d.** Officers. The committee shall elect a chair and a secretary from its members
16 every two years.

17 **J.1.e.** Referrals. The Bishop and the cabinet shall refer to the committee those clergy
18 who are experiencing a pattern of diminished effectiveness in their ministry. The committee
19 shall meet with the referred clergy person and his/her district superintendent and shall
20 develop a plan to enable and support the restoration of effectiveness. The committee shall
21 continue to meet with the referred clergy person until such time as he or she has established a
22 pattern of effectiveness or, in the opinion of the majority of the members of the committee,
23 until the committee determines that the referred clergy person is not making sufficient
24 progress. The committee shall report its conclusions to the Bishop and Cabinet.

25 **J.1.f.** Method. The committee, the referred clergy person, and his/her district
26 superintendent together shall develop a plan for the attainment of agreed upon goals that will
27 demonstrate renewed effectiveness for ministry. The work of the committee may include
28 psychological testing, health screening, random or directed drug testing, retreats, counseling,
29 mentoring, educational opportunities, or other programs as needed to assist the clergy person
30 in attaining effectiveness in ministry. A letter detailing the agreed upon goals and plan of
31 work shall be sent to the referred clergy person from the Center for Clergy Excellence
32 immediately following the meeting in which the plan is developed. Progress shall be
33 demonstrated and documented at each meeting.

34 **J.1.g.** Meetings. The committee shall meet at least two times per year and the chair
35 shall give reasonable notice of the meeting dates to all members as well as to the Bishop and
36 cabinet.

37 **J.1.h.** Financial Support. The committee shall determine its financial needs in order
38 to be effective and shall submit any request for funding to the center for clergy excellence to
39 be included in its budget.

40 **J. 2.** There shall be a commission on equitable compensation as provided by ¶ 625.1,
41 composed of twenty (20) persons with one (1) representative from each district. Members
42 shall be nominated by the annual conference committee on nominations.

43 **J. 3.** There shall be a board of pensions and health benefits as provided by ¶ 639.1 composed
44 of twenty-four (24) persons arranged in classes and serving a term of eight (8) years to

1 include representatives of both lay and clergy, nominated by the annual conference
2 committee on nominations.

3 **J. 4.** There shall be a board of trustees of the annual conference, elected as indicated in ¶¶
4 640 and 2512.1, composed of twelve (12) persons, nominated by the annual conference
5 committee on nominations, serving in four (4) year terms, except for the first board. It is
6 recommended that it be composed of one-third (1/3) clergy, one-third (1/3) lay women, and
7 one-third (1/3) lay men.

8 **J. 5.** There shall be a council on finance and administration as provided by ¶¶ 611-618,
9 composed of five to twenty-one (5-21) persons, with one (1) lay person more than clergy
10 included on the council. The council shall designate an audit committee comprised of one lay
11 council on finance and administration member, one clergy council on finance and
12 administration member and a Certified Public Accountant who is not a member of the
13 council on finance and administration. The council shall designate a personnel committee,
14 whose responsibilities will include those defined in ¶ 613.13. The personnel committee shall
15 be comprised of two (2) clergy council on finance and administration members, one lay
16 council on finance and administration member, two lay human resources professionals who
17 are not members of the council on finance and administration, and the conference lay leader.
18 Personnel committee members with voice and no vote are the conference treasurer and the
19 cabinet representative. The council will, on those extremely rare occasions when the
20 Conference may be asked to guarantee a local church loan, function as the committee to
21 evaluate said request. This function will eliminate the need for a seating of the “Loan
22 Guarantee Committee.”

23 The council on finance and administration members shall be nominated by the annual
24 conference committee on nominations.

25 **J. 6.** There shall be a committee on episcopacy as provided by ¶ 637.1, composed of fifteen
26 (15) persons. It is recommended that it be composed of one-third (1/3) clergy, one-third (1/3)
27 lay women, and one-third (1/3) lay men, provided that one (1) lay person be the conference
28 lay leader. One-fifth (1/5) of the membership shall be appointed by the bishop. The lay and
29 clergy members of the jurisdictional committee on episcopacy shall be ex-officio members.

30 **J. 7.** There shall be an episcopal residency committee as provided by ¶ 638.1.

31 **J. 8.** There shall be a committee on investigation consisting of four (4) clergy in full
32 connection, three (3) professing members, and six (6) alternate members, three of whom shall
33 be clergy in full connection and three of whom shall be professing members. The committee
34 shall be nominated by the presiding bishop in consultation with the board of ordained
35 ministry (for clergy members) and the conference board of laity (for lay persons) and elected
36 quadrennially by the annual conference. If additional members or alternates are needed, the
37 annual conference may elect members to serve for the remainder of the quadrennium.
38 Committee members shall be in good standing and should be deemed of good character. The
39 committee should reflect racial, ethnic, and gender diversity ¶ 2703.

40 **J. 9.** There shall be a North Georgia Loan Guarantee Committee, comprised of two (2)
41 members of the cabinet, the chair of the board of congregational development and the
42 director of congregational excellence, two (2) members of the council on finance and
43 administration, one (1) lay and one (1) clergy and two (2) members representing areas of
44 expertise appointed by the bishop in consultation with the chancellor, the conference lay
45 leader; and the chairperson of the council on finance and administration.

1 **J. 10.** There shall be a diaconal committee on investigation as provided by ¶ 2703.2.

2 **J. 11.** There shall be an administrative review committee as provided by ¶ 636.

3 **J. 12.** There shall be a North Georgia United Methodist housing and homeless council which
4 shall be composed of no more than 36 persons nominated by the conference committee on
5 nominations and elected by the annual conference. Each district shall be represented by no
6 fewer than two members, one of whom shall be a clergy member in that district and one of
7 whom shall be a lay person who shall be a member of one of the churches in the district that
8 they represent. In addition, the following other persons shall be members: a district
9 superintendent designated by the cabinet; a member of the congregational excellence staff
10 designated by the director of connectional ministries or designated person; the director of the
11 council, who shall be a non-voting member; and representatives of Persons Living in Poverty
12 and Refugee Resettlement.

13 **K. Districts**

14 **K. 1. District Conference Membership** – The membership of the district conference shall
15 consist of (a) all active and retired clergy and diaconal ministers serving appointments or
16 holding charge conference membership within the district and (b) all local church elected, at-
17 large, and ex-officio lay members of the annual conference from the district.

18 **K. 2. District Board of Laity** – There shall be in each district of the annual conference a
19 district board of laity composed of the district lay leader who shall serve as chair, the
20 associate district lay leaders, the district superintendent, the chair of district connectional
21 ministries or designated person, the district presidents of United Women in Faith and United
22 Methodist Men, one (1) youth and one (1) young adult named by the youth and young adult
23 groups respectively, the district director of lay speaking, and such other persons as the district
24 lay leader and the district superintendent together may select. The district board of laity shall
25 elect annual conference at-large delegates from the districts.

26 **K. 3. Election of District Lay Leader and Lay Leadership** – The district lay leader, the
27 district associate lay leaders and the district director of lay servant ministries shall be elected
28 annually, on nomination of the district nominating committee, after consultation with the
29 district board of laity, by the membership of the district conference at the district orientation
30 meeting before the annual conference session. It is recommended these officers will serve
31 quadrennially and will be elected for their first term at the district orientation meeting
32 immediately preceding the start of the new quadrennium. Replacements for these positions
33 shall be elected at the annual district orientation meeting as needed.

34 **L. Conference Related Agencies**

35
36 **L. 1.** There shall be a Georgia United Methodist Foundation, Inc., board of trustees,
37 nominated by the Foundation to be confirmed or denied confirmation by the annual
38 conference.

39 **L. 2.** There shall be a Methodist Foundation for Retired Ministers Board of Trustees,
40 nominated in accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws, to be confirmed or denied
41 confirmation by the annual conference.
42
43

1 **L. 3.** There shall be an Aldersgate Homes board of directors, nominated in accordance with
2 its Constitution and By-Laws, to be confirmed or denied confirmation by the annual
3 conference.

4 **L 4.** There shall be a United Methodist Children's Home now doing business as Wellroot
5 Family Services board of directors, nominated in accordance with its Constitution and By-
6 Laws, to be confirmed or denied confirmation by the annual conference.

7 **L. 5.** There shall be a Wesley Woods, Senior Living, Inc., board of trustees, nominated in
8 accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws, to be confirmed or denied confirmation by the
9 annual conference.

10 **L 6.** There shall be a board of North Georgia Camp and Retreat Ministries, nominated in
11 accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws, to be confirmed or denied confirmation by the
12 annual conference. North Georgia Camp and Retreat Ministries, Inc. is the entity through
13 which camping ministry for children and youth shall be carried out.

14 15 **M. Joint Ministries of North and South Georgia Conferences**

16
17 **M. 1.** There shall be a Georgia United Methodist Commission on Higher Education and
18 Collegiate Ministry. The commission shall have twenty-three (23) voting members, ten (10)
19 elected by the North Georgia Conference and eight (8) elected by the South Georgia
20 Conference. Proposed members shall be nominated by the Committees on Nominations from
21 the two annual conferences after receiving input from the commission regarding possible
22 nominees. At least half of the elected members from each annual conference shall be
23 laypersons. The presiding bishop of each annual conference shall designate one district
24 superintendent from that annual conference to be a voting member of the commission. The
25 director of connectional ministries or designated person of each annual conference shall
26 designate one staff member from each annual conference to be a voting member of the
27 commission. The executive director of the commission shall be a voting member of the
28 commission.

29 Leadership positions of the commission shall be held by members from both annual
30 conferences.

31 **M. 2.** There shall be a Georgia United Methodist Pastors' School board of managers,
32 composed of persons by virtue of office and at-large members named by the annual
33 conference committee on nominations. The purpose of the Georgia United Methodist
34 Pastors' School shall be to provide an annual school for continuing education for United
35 Methodist clergy of the North and South Georgia annual conferences, while modeling and
36 promoting a spirit of cooperation and goodwill between the two annual conferences and
37 members thereof. The Georgia Pastors' School shall be governed by a board of managers
38 composed of thirty (30) clergy from both annual conferences. The members shall be named
39 to the board of managers according to nominating guidelines established by each annual
40 conference. The officers are nominated and elected from the board of managers. The
41 chairperson and dean of the pastors' school shall rotate between the two annual conferences
42 from quadrennium to quadrennium.

43 44 **N. United Methodist Related Institutions of Higher Education**

1 N. 1. There shall be boards of trustees of United Methodist related schools, nominated in
2 accordance with their Constitution and By-Laws, to be confirmed or denied confirmation by
3 the annual conference.

4 N. 2. There shall be boards of directors of Wesley Foundations, nominated in accordance
5 with their Constitution and By-Laws, to be confirmed or denied confirmation by the annual
6 conference.

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1 **801. Proposed Barnes Evaluation and Administration Team Standing Rule**

2 **J.13. There shall be a Barnes Evaluation and Administrative Team that oversees and**
3 **administers ministry grants made from the Barnes Fund. The Barnes Evaluation and**
4 **Administrative Team shall establish a spending plan to protect the corpus of the Barnes**
5 **Fund and endeavor to increase the funds potential for ministry grants in perpetuity.**
6 **The Barnes Evaluation and Administrative Team shall partner with District**
7 **Superintendents and District Strategic Growth Teams to ensure that all ~~eight~~ districts**
8 **are given equitable opportunities to apply for and employ grant funding for their**
9 **district-specific, missional needs. The Barnes Evaluation and Administrative Team**
10 **shall partner with Annual Conference Standing Boards and Agencies to ensure that**
11 **conference priorities for ministry are given equitable opportunity to apply for and**
12 **employ grant funding for the greater good of the conference.**

13 **JI3. 2. Members of the Barnes Evaluation and Administrative Team shall be nominated**
14 **by the committee on nominations, elected by the Annual Conference, and serve per**
15 **guidelines stipulated in Standing Rule C.3. The Barnes Evaluation and Administrative**
16 **Team shall consist of 20-30 members and shall include, but not be limited to:**

- 17 • **co-chairs, one who shall be a lay-person and one who shall be a clergy-person**
- 18 • **four to eight at-large lay-persons**
- 19 • **four to eight at-large clergy-persons**
- 20 • **Executive Assistant to the Bishop**
- 21 • **two Cabinet representatives selected by the Cabinet**
- 22 • **Council of Finance and Administration Representative selected by the Chair of**
23 **the Council of Finance and Administration**
- 24 • **Board of Trustees Representative selected by the Chair of Board of Trustees**
- 25 • **Conference Lay Leader**
- 26 • **chair(s) of the Consolidated Board**
- 27 • **Director, Connectional Ministries**
- 28 • **Director, Center for Congregational Excellence**
- 29 • **Conference Treasurer**

30 **Rationale: Per the vote of the 2020 North Georgia Annual Conference, resources were**
31 **consolidated into the Barnes Fund for the purpose of mission and innovation grants across**
32 **the conference. Funds from the sale of all closed church properties shall also be placed into**
33 **the Barnes Fund for the distribution of vital ministry grants that make disciples of Jesus**
34 **Christ for the transformation of the world.**

1 **802. Proposed Amendments to Standing Rule H**

2
3 **H. Board of Discipleship, Advocacy, and Congregational Development Connectional**
4 **Ministries Team**

5
6 **H.1.** There shall be a board of discipleship, advocacy, and congregational development
7 **Connectional Ministries Team.** The work and ministry of this board is aimed at strengthening
8 the local church and the annual conference through discipleship and support of the North
9 Georgia Conference churches, laity and clergy, and through the prophetic voice of advocacy that
10 calls us all to be better; to lead and assist congregations, districts and the conference in efforts to
11 communicate and celebrate the redeeming and reconciling love of God as revealed in Jesus
12 Christ to persons of every age, ethnic background, and social condition; to invite persons to
13 commit their lives to Christ and to Christ's church; and to enable persons to live as Christian
14 disciples in the world. In carrying out this work and ministry, the board **Connectional**
15 **Ministries Team** shall be responsible for leading the North Georgia Conference ministries
16 stipulated in ¶ 630 of *The Book of Discipline*, including as central to its role and ministries:

- 17 • **shall have authority to form committees as *The Book of Discipline* may require or for**
18 **carrying out its responsibilities;**
- 19 • working in collaboration with the Barnes Evaluation and Administration Team and the
20 District Strategic Growth Teams to ensure ongoing congregational development through
21 promoting, nurturing, supporting, and guiding existing and new faith communities as they
22 implement innovative ministries with and in the communities they serve
- 23 • working in collaboration with the North Georgia Conference staff to ensure focused,
24 strategic, and effective training, consultation, leadership development, and other, human
25 resources-driven support are provided to the North Georgia Conference churches, laity, and
26 clergy for both new and existing ministries
- 27 • working in collaboration with all the North Georgia Conference churches, laity, clergy, and
28 other groups to ensure our call to Christian advocacy is heard and responded to in effective
29 and meaningful ways across our North Georgia Conference, and as stipulated in *The Book*
30 *of Discipline*
- 31 • working collaboratively, as one board, to ensure the board's ministries of church
32 development, human resources-driven support, and conference-wide advocacy are carried
33 out in a transparent, clear, and coordinated way that advances our mission to make
34 disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world

35
36 **H.2.** Members of the board of discipleship, advocacy, and congregational development
37 **Connectional Ministries Team** shall be nominated by the committee on nominations, elected by
38 the annual conference, and serve per guidelines stipulated in Standing Rule C.3. Membership
39 shall include:

- 40 • co-chairs, one who shall be a lay-person **designated by the conference lay leader** and one
41 who shall be a clergyperson **nominated by the director of the center for congregational**
42 **excellence**
- 43 • ~~secretary~~
- 44 • four at-large lay-persons
- 45 • four at-large clergy persons
- 46 • chairpersons of the committees on

- 1 • Latino congregational development
- 2 • ~~Korean/Asian~~ **Pan Asian** congregational development
- 3 • Black congregational development
- 4 • North Georgia Conference lead persons for the discipleship and advocacy areas of:
 - 5 • Children’s Ministries / Safe Sanctuaries
 - 6 • Small Membership Church
 - 7 • Older Adult Ministries
 - 8 • Young Adult Ministries
 - 9 • Youth Ministries
 - 10 • Spiritual Formation
 - 11 • Higher Education & Campus Ministries
 - 12 • Adult & Family Ministries
 - 13 • Camp & Retreat Ministries
 - 14 • Evangelism
 - 15 • Christian Unity & Inter-religious Relationships
 - 16 • Church and Society
 - 17 • Status and Role of Women
 - 18 • Religion and Race
 - 19 • Creation and Care
 - 20 • Criminal Justice and Mercy
 - 21 • Disability Concerns
 - 22 • Disaster Response
 - 23 • Ethnic Local Church Concerns
 - 24 • Global Ministries
 - 25 • Health, Welfare & Wellness
 - 26 • Missions
 - 27 • Native American Ministries
 - 28 • Peace with Justice
 - 29 • Persons in Poverty
 - 30 • Refugee Resettlement
 - 31 • Multi-Cultural Advocate

32 Ex-Officio members of the board shall include:

- 33 • Cabinet representative ~~selected by the Cabinet~~ **appointed by the bishop**
- 34 • Conference Lay Leader
- 35 • Associate Conference Lay Leaders
- 36 • Conference United Women in Faith President
- 37 • Conference United Methodist Men President
- 38 • Conference Youth President
- 39 • Conference Youth Secretary
- 40 • General Commission on Religion and Race Representative
- 41 • Council of Finance and Administration Representative selected by the Chair of the
- 42 Council of Finance and Administration
- 43 • **Conference Board of Trustee representative**

44
45 **H.3.** Staffing and supporting the board shall be the responsibility of:

- 46 • ~~Director, Connectional Ministries~~

- 1 • **Director of Inclusion and Advocacy**
- 2 • Director, Center for Congregational Excellence
- 3 • **Conference Treasurer**
- 4 • **Associate Directors of Congregational Excellence**
- 5 • other Conference staff as needed/assigned

6
 7 **H.4.** The ~~board of discipleship, advocacy and congregational~~ **Connectional Ministries Team**
 8 development shall have authority to form committees as *The Book of Discipline* may require or
 9 as deemed necessary by the board in carrying out its responsibilities. The ~~board of discipleship,~~
 10 ~~advocacy, and congregational development~~ **Connectional Ministries Team** may enlist
 11 additional persons to assist in its work and may also form time-limited task forces to address
 12 particular issues or emphases.

13
 14 Standing committees of the board shall include committees on:

- 15 • Latino congregational development
- 16 • ~~Korean/Asian~~ **Pan Asian** congregational development
- 17 • Black congregational development

18 Working in collaboration with the Commission on Religion and Race, the District Strategic
 19 Growth teams, and other North Georgia Conference boards and committees as needed, these
 20 standing committees shall make recommendations to the board and other appropriate North
 21 Georgia Conference groups with regard to supporting the development of Latino, ~~Korean/Asian~~
 22 **Pan Asian** and Black congregations and strengthening existing Latino, ~~Korean/Asian~~ **Pan Asian**
 23 and Black congregations. They shall also be responsible for the development and deployment of
 24 training they deem important from a cultural perspective in planting new, and supporting
 25 existing, Latino, ~~Korean/Asian~~ **Pan Asian**, and Black churches. Each committee shall request
 26 funds necessary for this training be included in the ~~board of discipleship, advocacy, and~~
 27 ~~congregational~~ **Connectional Ministries Team** development budget. These committees shall
 28 meet at least quarterly and **may meet more often at the request of the director of inclusion**
 29 **and advocacy, director or congregational excellence or the co-chairs of the Connectional**
 30 **Ministry Team.** Each committee shall elect a vice-chair and secretary. Ex-officio members of
 31 each committee shall include a Cabinet Representative assigned by the Cabinet, and a
 32 Conference staff representative, assigned by the Director, Center for Congregational Excellence.

33
 34 **H.5.** The co-chairs of the ~~board of discipleship, advocacy, and congregational development~~
 35 **Connectional Ministries Team** shall on an annual basis, no later than January 31st of each year,
 36 and in consultation with board members:

- 37 • determine the boards and the board's standing committee's personnel/membership needs
 38 for the coming conference year
- 39 • submit their request for personnel/membership nominations to the Administrative
 40 Assistant, Center of Congregational Excellence/~~Connectional Ministries~~. The request shall
 41 include:
 - 42 • the number of persons needed
 - 43 • number of lay persons
 - 44 • number of clergypersons
 - 45 • specific board or committee role for each person needed
 - 46 • the board's perspective on the gifts and graces needed for each opening

- an estimate of the time-commitment associated with each opening

H.6. The budget for the ~~board of discipleship, advocacy, and congregational development,~~
Connectional Ministries Team and all of its associated committees, shall be included in the
budget for the Center for Congregational Excellence/~~Connectional Ministries~~.

H.7. There shall be an executive committee of the ~~board~~ **Connectional Ministries Team**,
composed of the co-chairs, secretary, conference lay leader, cabinet representative, and other
members as determined and elected by the full board.

H.8. The full board shall meet at least semi-annually; but may meet more often as needed or
determined by the board's executive committee.

2022 North Georgia Conference Nominations Report



For editorial corrections,
Please email: mbrown@ngumc.org

1 **900. 2022 Conference Nomination Report**

2
3 **Standing Committees of the Annual Conference**

4
5 **Committee on Standing Rules**

6 Jasmine Smothers (21)-Vice-Chair jasmine.smothers@ngumc.net
7 Jodi Kasten (21) centralwest@ngumc.net
8 Nelson Furtado (21) nelson.furtado@ngumc.net
9 Leon Folsom (21) leon.folsom@prodigy.net
10 Allyson Pitts (21) apittslaw1@bellsouth.net
11 Hugh Hendrickson (16) hugh.hendrickson@ngumc.net
12 Kathy Morris (16) – Secretary kathy.morris@ngumc.net
13 Bill Martin (16) wgmartin@mindspring.com
14 Catherine Boothe Olson (17) – Chair catherine.boothe@ngumc.net
15 Darren Hensley (18) darren.hensley@ngumc.net
16 *Conference Secretary – Max Vincent max.vincent@ngumc.net*
17 *Conference Chancellor – Jim Thornton jim@tglawfirm.com*

18
19 **Committee on Registration & Assistance**

20 Karen Fullerton (21) khfullerton@gmail.com
21 Lenora Tanner (21) msmingler@yahoo.com
22 Meg Morrison (16) – Chair meg.morrison@ngumc.net
23 Lora Dunton (16) jackson_lora@yahoo.com
24 Sandy Skinner (16) sandra.skinner@ngumc.net
25 Elvira Rogers (16) elvira.rogers@ngumc.net
26 Kay Haugen (16) khaugen@windstream.net
27 Alan Brown (17) alanbr59@bellsouth.net
28 *Conference Secretary – Max Vincent*
29 *max.vincent@ngumc.net*

30
31 **Committee on Daily Proceedings**

32 Veronica Apecena (21) roniapecena@gmail.com
33 Dianne Spencer (21) ds2687@bellsouth.net
34 Tara Paul (16) tara.paul@ngumc.net
35 Nena Jones (16) nena.jones@ngumc.net
36 Jay Horton (17) horton.jay96@gmail.com
37 Mike Broome (17) michael.broome@ngumc.net
38 Eloise Sykes (18) eksykes181@gmail.com
39 Ginnie Highsmith (18) ginniehighsmith@gmail.com
40 *Conference Secretary – Max Vincent*
41 *max.vincent@ngumc.net*

42
43 **Committee on Resolutions**

44 Geoff Murphy (21) geoff.grubbs@ngumc.net
45 Carol Allums (21) theallums5@gmail.com

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|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Tonya Lawrence Miles (21) – Chair | tonya.lawrence@ngumc.net |
| 2 | Wendell Love (21) | wendell.love@gmail.com |
| 3 | Ariel Murphy (15) | ariel.murphy156@gmail.com |
| 4 | Marquis Ratliff (16) | marquis.ratliff@ngcum.org |
| 5 | Jeff Jernigan (16) | jsjernigan@aol.com |
| 6 | Dianne Traynham (16) | dtraynham@etcm.com |
| 7 | Jack Kerdasha (16) | jkerdasha@gmail.com |
| 8 | Pete Fleming (16) | lfleming3832@att.net |
| 9 | <i>Cabinet Rep – Beth Sanders</i> | <i>beth.sanders@ngumc.net</i> |

| |
|---|
| Annual Conference Session and Related Committees |
|---|

Committee on Nominations

| | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 14 | <i>Bishop – Sue Hauptert-Johnson</i> | <i>bishop@ngumc.org</i> |
|----|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|

Cabinet

| | | |
|----|---|------------------------------------|
| 17 | <i>Central West – Jessica Terrell</i> | <i>jessica.terrell@ngumc.net</i> |
| 18 | <i>Central North – Michael McQueen</i> | <i>michael.mcqueen@ngumc.net</i> |
| 19 | <i>Central East – Rodrigo Cruz</i> | <i>rodrigo.cruz@ngumc.net</i> |
| 20 | <i>Central South – Byron Thomas</i> | <i>byron.thomas@ngumc.net</i> |
| 21 | <i>North West – Beth Sanders</i> | <i>beth.sanders@ngumc.net</i> |
| 22 | <i>North East – Doug Gilreath</i> | <i>doug.gilreath@ngumc.net</i> |
| 23 | <i>South East – Greg Porterfield</i> | <i>greg.porterfield@ngumc.net</i> |
| 24 | <i>South West – Susan Landry</i> | <i>susan.gary.landry@ngumc.net</i> |
| 25 | <i>Assistant to the Bishop – Terry Walton</i> | <i>terry.walton@ngumc.net</i> |

Extended Cabinet Members

| | | |
|----|---|-------------------------------------|
| 28 | <i>Conference Lay Leader – Nate Abrams</i> | <i>nathaniel.h.abrams@gmail.com</i> |
| 29 | <i>Conference Secretary – Max Vincent</i> | <i>max.vincent@ngumc.net</i> |
| 30 | <i>Conference Treasurer – TBD</i> | |
| 31 | <i>Clergy Excellence Director – Alice Rogers</i> | <i>alice.rogers@ngumc.net</i> |
| 33 | <i>Conference Communications Director – Sybil Davidson</i> | <i>sdavidson@ngumc.org</i> |
| 34 | <i>Congregational Excellence Director – Blair Zant</i> | <i>blair.zant@ngumc.net</i> |
| 35 | <i>Director of Inclusion and Advocacy – Brian Tillman</i> | <i>brian.tillman@ngumc.net</i> |
| 36 | <i>Director of Community Discipleship and Development –</i> | |
| 37 | <i>Bernice Kirkland</i> | <i>bernice.kirkland@ngumc.net</i> |
| 38 | <i>President/CEO Georgia UM Foundation – Mathew Pinson</i> | <i>mpinson@gumf.org</i> |

Associate Conference Lay Leaders

| | | |
|----|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 41 | <i>Denise VanLanduyt</i> | <i>denise@vanlanduytlaw.com</i> |
| 42 | <i>Jonathan Holmes</i> | <i>jonathan@m8th.com</i> |
| 43 | <i>Anna Diaz-Caballero</i> | <i>alqdancer@aol.com</i> |
| 44 | <i>Gloria Parker</i> | <i>gloriaparker3790@comcast.net</i> |

| | | |
|----|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | <u>District Lay Leaders</u> | |
| 2 | <i>Central West-Randy Hardy</i> | <i>rhardy@mcelroyspecialty.com</i> |
| 3 | <i>Central North – Dyanne Cunningham</i> | <i>ladydy@bellsouth.net</i> |
| 4 | <i>Central East– Jeffery Fuller</i> | <i>jefferyfuller61@comcast.net</i> |
| 5 | <i>Central South– Dianne Spencer</i> | <i>ds2687@bellsouth.net</i> |
| 6 | <i>North West – Bill Traynham</i> | <i>traynham@etcmail.com</i> |
| 7 | <i>North East – Kim Powell</i> | <i>kwpowell5@gmail.com</i> |
| 8 | <i>South East – Jennifer Byrd</i> | <i>birdie21234@aol.com</i> |
| 9 | <i>South West – Graylin Ward</i> | <i>gward@numail.com</i> |
| 10 | | |
| 11 | <u>Other Conference Leaders</u> | |
| 12 | <i>UWF President – Stephanie Dressler</i> | <i>stephdressler@bellsouth.net</i> |
| 13 | <i>UMM President – Earnest Perry</i> | <i>perr937@bellsouth.net</i> |
| 14 | <i>Young Adult President – Elissa Marks</i> | <i>elissa.aem@gmail.com</i> |
| 15 | <i>Youth President – TBD</i> | |
| 16 | <i>CORR Rep-Vance Ross</i> | <i>vance.ross@ngumc.net</i> |
| 17 | | |
| 18 | <u>At Large Members</u> | |
| 19 | Kathryn Schroeder (22) | kathryn.schroeder@gmail.com |
| 20 | <i>Carolyn Stephens (19)</i> | <i>carolyn.stephens@ngumc.net</i> |
| 21 | <i>Ingrid Thomas (15)</i> | <i>ingrid_imbert@yahoo.com</i> |
| 22 | <i>Susannah Benjamin (15)</i> | <i>susannahbenjamin20@gmail.com</i> |
| 23 | <i>Lee Highsmith (16)</i> | <i>Highsmith7@gmail.com</i> |
| 24 | | |
| 25 | <u>Committee on Nominations Executive Committee</u> | |
| 26 | <i>Bishop – Sue Hauptert-Johnson</i> | <i>bishop@ngumc.org</i> |
| 27 | <i>Conference Lay Leader – Nate Abrams</i> | <i>nathaniel.h.abrams@gmail.com</i> |
| 28 | <i>Director of Inclusion and Advocacy-Brian Tillman</i> | <i>brian.tillman@ngumc.net</i> |
| 29 | | |
| 30 | <u>At Large Members</u> | |
| 31 | Kathryn Schroeder (22) | kathryn.schroeder@gmail.com |
| 32 | <i>Carolyn Stephens (19)</i> | <i>carolyn.stephens@ngumc.net</i> |
| 33 | <i>Lee Highsmith (16)</i> | <i>highsmith7@gmail.com</i> |
| 34 | | |
| 35 | <u>Annual Conference Planning Committee</u> | |
| 36 | <i>Bishop – Sue Hauptert-Johnson</i> | <i>bishop@ngumc.org</i> |
| 37 | <i>Clergy Excellence Director – Alice Rogers</i> | <i>alice.rogers@ngumc.net</i> |
| 38 | <i>Assistant to the Bishop – Terry Walton</i> | <i>terry.walton@ngumc.net</i> |
| 39 | <i>Conference Lay Leader – Nate Abrams</i> | <i>nathaniel.h.abrams@gmail.com</i> |
| 40 | <i>Assoc. Conference Lay Leader-Denise VanLanduyt</i> | <i>denise@vanlanduytlaw.com</i> |
| 41 | | |
| 42 | <i>Assoc. Conference Lay Leader – Jonathan Holmes</i> | <i>jonathan@m8th.com</i> |
| 43 | <i>Assoc. Conference Lay Leader – Anna Diaz-Caballero</i> | <i>alqdancer@aol.com</i> |
| 44 | <i>Assoc. Conference Lay Leader – Gloria Parker</i> | <i>gloriaparker3790@comcast.net</i> |
| 45 | <i>Conference Secretary – Max Vincent</i> | <i>max.vincent@ngumc.net</i> |

| | | |
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| 1 | <i>UWF President – Stephanie Dressler</i> | <i>stephdressler@bellsouth.net</i> |
| 2 | <i>UMM President – Earnest Perry</i> | <i>perr937@bellsouth.net</i> |
| 3 | <i>Youth President – TBD</i> | |
| 4 | <i>Young Adult President – Elissa Marks</i> | <i>elissa.aem@gmail.com</i> |
| 5 | <i>Committee on Registration & Assistance – Meg Morrison</i> | <i>meg.morrison@ngumc.net</i> |
| 6 | <i>Board of Ordained Ministry Chair – Julie Boone</i> | <i>julie.boone@ngumc.net</i> |
| 7 | <i>Director of Inclusion and Advocacy-Brian Tillman</i> | <i>brian.tillman@ngumc.net</i> |
| 8 | <i>Director of Congregational Excellence-Blair Zant</i> | <i>blair.zant@ngumc.net</i> |
| 9 | <i>Council on Finance & Administration Chair – Jeff Adams</i> | <i>jeffreypadams@bellsouth.net</i> |
| 10 | <i>Conference Treasurer –</i> | |
| 11 | <i>Host District Superintendent – Rodrigo Cruz</i> | <i>rodrigo.cruz@ngumc.net</i> |
| 12 | <i>Host Pastor – Chuck Hodges</i> | <i>chuck.hodges@ngumc.net</i> |

| |
|--------------------------------------|
| Conference Common Table (CCT) |
|--------------------------------------|

| | | |
|----|---|--------------------------------|
| 16 | <i>Bishop – Sue Hauptert-Johnson</i> | <i>bishop@ngumc.org</i> |
| 17 | <i>Director of Inclusion and Advocacy-Brian Tillman</i> | <i>brian.tillman@ngumc.net</i> |
| 18 | <i>Director of Congregational Excellence-Blair Zant</i> | |
| 19 | <i>blair.zant@ngumc.net</i> | |

21 District Superintendents/Appointive Cabinet

| | | |
|----|--|------------------------------------|
| 22 | <i>Central West– Jessica Terrell</i> | <i>jessica.terrell@ngumc.net</i> |
| 23 | <i>Central North – Michael McQueen</i> | <i>michael.mcqueen@ngumc.net</i> |
| 24 | <i>Central East – Rodrigo Cruz</i> | <i>rodrigo.cruz@ngumc.net</i> |
| 25 | <i>Central South– Byron Thomas</i> | <i>byron.thomas@ngumc.net</i> |
| 26 | <i>North West – Beth Sanders</i> | <i>beth.sanders@ngumc.net</i> |
| 27 | <i>North East – Doug Gilreath</i> | <i>doug.gilreath@ngumc.net</i> |
| 28 | <i>South East – Greg Porterfield</i> | <i>greg.porterfield@ngumc.net</i> |
| 29 | <i>South West – Susan Landry</i> | <i>susan.gary.landry@ngumc.net</i> |

31 Extended Cabinet Members

| | | |
|----|---|-------------------------------------|
| 32 | <i>Conference Lay Leader – Nate Abrams</i> | <i>nathaniel.h.abrams@gmail.com</i> |
| 33 | <i>Conference Secretary – Max Vincent</i> | <i>max.vincent@ngumc.net</i> |
| 34 | <i>Conference Treasurer – TBD</i> | |
| 35 | <i>Clergy Excellence Director – Alice Rogers</i> | <i>alice.rogers@ngumc.net</i> |
| 36 | <i>Conference Communications Director – Sybil Davidson</i> | <i>sdavidson@ngumc.org</i> |
| 37 | <i>Congregational Excellence Director – Blair Zant</i> | <i>blair.zant@ngumc.net</i> |
| 38 | <i>Director of Inclusion and Advocacy-Brian Tillman</i> | <i>brian.tillman@ngumc.net</i> |
| 39 | <i>Director of Community Discipleship and Development –</i> | |
| 40 | <i>Bernice Kirkland</i> | <i>bernice.kirkland@ngumc.net</i> |
| 41 | <i>President/CEO Georgia UM Foundation – Mathew Pinson</i> | <i>mpinson@gumf.org</i> |

43 Conference Leaders

| | | |
|----|---|------------------------------------|
| 44 | <i>Council on Finance & Administration Chair – Jeff Adams</i> | <i>jeffreypadams@bellsouth.net</i> |
| 45 | <i>Board of Ordained Ministry Chair – Julie Boone</i> | <i>julie.boone@ngumc.net</i> |

| | | |
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| 1 | <i>Conference Chancellor – Jim Thornton</i> | <i>jim@tglawfirm.com</i> |
| 2 | <i>Assoc. Conference Lay Leader-Denise VanLanduyt</i> | <i>denise@vanlanduytlaw.com</i> |
| 3 | <i>Assoc. Conference Lay Leader – Jonathan Holmes</i> | <i>jonathan@m8th.com</i> |
| 4 | <i>Assoc. Conference Lay Leader – Anna Diaz-Caballero</i> | <i>alqdancer@aol.com</i> |
| 5 | <i>Assoc. Conference Lay Leader – Gloria Parker</i> | <i>gloriaparker3790@comcast.net</i> |
| 6 | <i>UWF President – Stephanie Dressler</i> | <i>stephdressler@bellsouth.net</i> |
| 7 | <i>UMM President – Ernest Perry</i> | <i>perr937@bellsouth.net</i> |
| 8 | <i>Young Adult President – Elissa Marks</i> | <i>elissa.aem@gmail.com</i> |
| 9 | <i>Barnes Evaluation and Administration Team-Co-Chair</i> | |
| 10 | <i>-Steven Usry (21)</i> | <i>steven.usry@ngumc.net</i> |
| 11 | <i>Barnes Evaluation and Administration Team-Co-Chair</i> | |
| 12 | <i>-Nate Abrams (21)</i> | <i>nathaniel.h.abrams@gmail.com</i> |
| 13 | <i>Connectional Ministries Team Co-Chair– Joya Abrams</i> | <i>joya.abrams@ngumc.net</i> |
| 14 | <i>Connectional Ministries Team Co-Chair-Denise Van Landuyt</i> | |
| 15 | <i>denise@vanlanduytlaw.com</i> | |
| 16 | <i>Global Ministries Rep – Amy Valdez-Barker</i> | <i>amy.barker@ngumc.net</i> |
| 17 | <i>CORR Rep –Vance Ross</i> | |
| 18 | <i>vance.ross@ngumc.net</i> | |
| 19 | <i>Director of Inclusion and Advocacy- Brian Tillman</i> | <i>brian.tillman@ngumc.net</i> |
| 20 | <i>Small Membership Church Rep – Mike Devine</i> | <i>mike.devine@ngumc.net</i> |
| 21 | <i>Order of Deacons Chair – Lindsay Geist</i> | <i>lindsay.geist@ngumc.net</i> |
| 22 | <i>Order of Elders Chair – Leon Matthews</i> | <i>leon.matthews@ngumc.net</i> |
| 23 | <i>Fellowship of Local Pastors & Assoc. Members</i> | |
| 24 | <i>-Yolanda Jones-Colton (18)</i> | <i>yolanda.jones-colton@ngumc.net</i> |
| 25 | <i>Chair of Lay Delegation to GC 2020 – Jane Finley</i> | <i>mjfarm100@aol.com</i> |
| 26 | <i>Chair of Clergy Delegation to GC 2020 – Byron Thomas</i> | <i>byron.thomas@ngumc.net</i> |
| 27 | | |
| 28 | <u>At Large Members</u> | |
| 29 | Jeff Fuller (22) | <i>jeffre Fuller61@comcast.net</i> |
| 30 | Jay Horton (22) | <i>jay.alexander.horton@ngumc.net</i> |
| 31 | Lee Highsmith (22) | <i>highsmith7@gmail.com</i> |
| 32 | Blake Trent (22) | <i>blake.trent@ngumc.net</i> |
| 33 | <i>Cassie Rapko (21)</i> | <i>cassie.rapko@ngumc.net</i> |
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14 **Council on Finance and Administration**

15 Laity

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30 **Episcopal Residence Committee**

31 Ex-Officio

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36 **Committee on Investigation**

37 4 Clergy

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43 3 Laity

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| 27 | <u>Georgia UM Commission on Higher Education and Collegiate Ministry</u> | |
| 28 | Chair: Beau Seagraves (NGC) | |
| 29 | Vice Chair: J. Michael Culbreth (SGC) | |
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| 32 | <u>Class of 2024</u> : Christy Robinson; David Walters; Mark Westmoreland | |
| 33 | <u>Class of 2023</u> : Nora Colmenares, Ruth Knox, Perry Rountree, Beau Seagraves | |
| 34 | South Georgia (8): | |
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| 36 | <u>Class of 2024</u> : J. Michael Culbreth; Caren Dilts; Scott Tucker | |
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5 **Georgia United Methodist Foundation, Inc. Board of Trustees**

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19 Karen Webster Parks; The Rev. Robert Beckum; The Rev. Dr. Bert Neal; Ms. Georgia G.
20 Slagle; The Rev. Elaine Wilder

21
22 Ex-Officio:

- 23 ● R. Lawson Bryan, Resident Bishop of the South Georgia Episcopal Area of the
- 24 United Methodist Church
- 25 ● Sue Hauptert-Johnson, Resident Bishop of the North Georgia Episcopal Area of the
- 26 United Methodist Church
- 27 ● North Georgia Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services-TBD
- 28 ● Derek W. McAleer, Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services

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22

23

United Methodist Colleges and Universities

24

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27 Steve Whatley

28 Class of 2023: Kay Aderhold; Allison Daniels; Bert Gregory; Gene Kemp; Michelle Lee;
29 Suzanne Nieman; Larry Price; Eric Ragan; Richard Taylor; Rob Williams

30 Class of 2024: Shirley Cargill; Vicki Molnar; Maceo Rogers; Kimberly Weckwert; Ernie
31 Wright

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33

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40 Williams; Carolyn M. Young

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8 Laurel Davis Hanna; Jan Love; Sam Martinez; Ellen Purdum; Jonathan Strom; Khalia
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13 Scott Hawkins; William Hodges; William McRae, Jr.; Sue Waddell; Greg Wright
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33 Emeritus Member: Max Austin, Jr.; Ellen Bailey; Anne Bigelow; Albert Clarke; William T.
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39 George Zorn
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44
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2 Charles Larke; Johnny Nimes; Willie Wiley; Jerry Woodfork, Sr.
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13

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16 Cline; Raymon Cox; Richard Dixon; Jeffrey Dobson; Jerome Dobson; L. Austin Flint; James
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22 Nancy Simms
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24 John Pinson; Mark A Roberts; Stacey Williams
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28 Wilds M. Ogie; Lynda Brinks Pfeiffer; Elizabeth Pickett; Amy Rauls; Cynthia W. Wright
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34 Class of 2025: Alexis Bighley; Priscilla Bornmann; Stan Brown; J. Cannon Carr; Jane
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13 Wynne
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15 Roberts; Drew Van Horn
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18
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21 Sargent Nelson; Alison Wright
22 Student Rep: Audra Holder
23 Ex-Officio: Michael McCord; Greg Porterfield;
24 Director: Josh Swanson
25
26 COASTAL COLLEGE OF GEORGIA
27 Davey Covey; Genia Crane; Scott Donovan; Erik Fletcher; Jay Hanson; Sarah Helder; Scott
28 Hyde; Clint Purser; Pete Richards; Dev Watson; Rick Williams
29 Ex-Officio: Michael McCord; David Thompson
30 Director: Kris Dockery
31
32 COLUMBUS STATE
33 Greg Harrison; Lynn Meadows-White
34 Student Leaders: Liam Burke; Josh Huddleston; Sam Lord; Brianna Putnam; Lucas
35 Sheppard
36 Director: Andy Ginn
37
38 GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE UNIVERSITY
39 Class of 2022: Gail Oliver; Terri Youngblood
40 Class of 2023: Stacy Pittman
41 Class of 2024: Bill Caldwell; Mackenzie Shover; Shirley Wiley
42 Ex-Officio: Mac Enfinger; Michael McCord; Greg Porterfield;
43 Director: Tate Welling
44 GEORGIA GWINNETT COLLEGE

1 Matt Brown; Natalee Dukes; Jeff Fuller; Kathy Garrison; Adam Hilderbrandt; Cynthia
2 Jackson; Liz Nauert; Natalie Stewart; Jen Strickland; Robert Viera
3 Faculty Advisor: Latanya Hammonds-Odie
4 Student Intern: Matt Crouse; Zachary Lakebrink
5 Ex-Officio: Rodrigo Cruz; Michael McCord; Taylor Lamphier;
6 Director: Ryan Shostak
7 GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
8 Class of 2023: Clay Boerner
9 Class of 2024: Earl Cashon
10 Wesley Director: Jonathan Smith
11 Student: Caroline Jones
12 Faculty Advisor: John Banter
13 Other: Dorsia Atkinson; Bill Bagwell; Allen Cason; Scott Hagan; John Ray; Chip Strickland
14 Ex-Officio: Stephen Grantham; Marsha Hagan; Michael McCord; Connor Sams; Alexandria
15 Simonton; Neco Trimmings
16 Director: Jonathan Smith
17
18 GEORGIA SOUTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
19 Class of 2022: Daryl Brown; Terri Jones; Brannon Parks; Chris Wooden
20 Class of 2023: Victoria Herron; Cal LeVert; Frank Lowrey; Josh Strange; Chris Walker
21 Class of 2024: Nathan Bateman; R. T. Beverly; Connie Haugabook; Rachel Shealy; Bob
22 Slenker; Terry Westbury
23 Ex-Officio: Michael McCord; Steve Patton;
24 Director: Johnny Updike
25
26 GEORGIA TECH INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
27 Class of 2021: Bard Brockman; Rachel Fullerton; Garrett Hutchins; Kirk Moss; Andy
28 Thomas
29 Class of 2022: Jamie Hamilton; Steven Neel; Phil Scott
30 Class of 2023: Joye Callaway; Kelley Grubbs; Charles Pursley; Ben Rochford; Margie
31 Schnelle; Jim Sowell; Leah Yarbrough
32 Student Rep: Allison Fain
33 Ex-officio: Michael McCord; Michael McQueen
34 Director: Geoff Beakley
35
36 KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY
37 Class of 2022: Chris Dervan; Megan Rainey
38 Class of 2023: Ashley Duncan; Jonathan Duncan; Mark Hellman; Lee Smith
39 Class of 2024: Avery Flowers
40 Ex-Officio: Evan DeYoung; Michael McCord; Terry Walton
41 Director: Sam Kellum
42
43 MACON WESLEY FOUNDATION
44 Class of 2023: Susan Dunn; Theresa Edwards; Daisey Floyd; Charity Lucas; Tommy Martin;
45 Eric Mayle; Scott Mitchell; Debra Williams

1 Class of 2024: Jeff Cook; Elizabeth Hammock; creede Hinshaw; Antoinie Walker
2 Class of 2025: Margaret Brogden
3 Ex-Officio: Craig Hutto; Michael McCord
4 Director: Brandon Tolle
5
6
7 PAINE WESLEY FELLOWSHIP
8 Ed Boothe; Helene Carter; Johnny Lowe
9 Ex-Officio: Jackie Connie; Luther Felder; Michael McCord
10
11 UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
12 Class of 2022: Tori Grubbs Cline; Tom Crane; Bill Curington; Chad Daniel; Roy Flores;
13 Brent Gilstrap;; Bailey Mitchell; Travis Sneed; David Walters; David Wofford; Perkins
14 Williams
15 Class of 2023: Jimmy Allgood; Tommy Atkins; Holly Benton; Dave Butts; Sam Dawkins;
16 Bob Dickson; John Freeland; Chris Laske; Robert Miles; David Moore; Deborah Mosley;
17 Grady Mosley; Ray Spence
18 Class of 2024: Pat Allen; Ron Blount; Doug Butts; Nikki Chester; R J Chester; Cindy
19 Gaultney; John Gaultney; Haynes Martin; Carolyn Moore; Ryan Nesbit; Carl Newton; Beau
20 Seagraves; Jeannine Simmons; William Simmons; Jim Timberlake; Jerry Varnado
21 Ex-Officio: Lindsay Atkinson; Reagan Bocook; Sam Carroll; Hannah Cole; Tim Del Risco;
22 Erin Gileland; Scottlyn James; Melisa Martinez; Michael McCord; Megan McGarrah; Devon
23 Radford; Kelly Riner; Sarah Shelnutt; Daniel Simmons; Dustin Sosebee; Kristen Sosebee;
24 Beverly Varnado; Aaron Vickroy; Leah Vickroy
25 Director: Bob Beckwith
26
27 UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA
28 Kanya Clemmons; Doug Gruenendelder; Laurie Hintz; Ben Mayfield; Bradley McEntyre;
29 Jeff Ross; Steve Schofield
30 Ex-Officio: Doug Gilreath; Michael McCord; Josh Meeks
31 Director: Nathan Dickens
32
33 UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA
34 Class of 2022: Michelle Garner; Steven Powers; Bill Tidwell
35 Class of 2023: Larry Patton; John Upson; Alice Wesley
36 Class of 24: Jennifer Allen; Edward Landrum
37 Ex-Officio: Rebecca Frantz; Michael McCord; Diane Ock; Jessica Terrell
38 Director: Sam Dawkins
39
40 VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY
41 Class of 2022: Cathy Buescher; Julie Hoff; John Fuller; Sara Unger; Robert Wood
42 Class of 2023: Jacob Bell; Linda Cordaro; Barft Davis; Mike Davis; Alicia Roberson
43 Class of 2024: Lois Bellflowers; Elsie Crane; Cindee Hires; Chuck Roberts
44 Ex-Officio: Paula Lewis; Michael McCord
45 Director: C J Harp