

ADMINISTRATION

The role of the bishop is to uphold the Book of Discipline and order of the Church by consecrating, ordaining, commissioning, supervising and appointing persons in ministry to the Church and the world.

"The best of leadership is expressed in unselfish service. Methodism embraces the hearts of people who simply seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ and transform the world. Through the vitality of strong local congregations, we seek to be a church that is clear about its mission and confident in its future. Our bishops are asked to model leadership at its best and help us grow in grace, love and holiness. In twenty-nine years of ministry, I have "gone where sent" to empower, equip and

encourage laity and clergy to share the faith and make disciples for Christ. In various settings of leadership (thirteen years on the Annual Conference level and sixteen years in the local church), I have embraced the opportunities to develop vital ministry. Episcopal leaders are called to do the same by affirming and challenging leadership as well as creating opportunities for vital congregations."



MY VISION FOR THE PEOPLE CALLED "UNITED METHODISTS"

These are defining times for our United Methodist Church. While our decisions concerning our episcopal leaders always impact the course of our denomination, these leadership choices are pivotal.

In this era we are both blessed and challenged to stand at a place of tremendous influence on behalf of Christ in our local churches, annual conferences, this jurisdiction and the general church. In our region there are numerous signs of growth. Many youth and young adults are hearing the message of Christianity for the first time. Persons are returning with a yearning for newfound expressions of joy. Yet, along with this regional fruitfulness come unique challenges and questions. Can our church continue to thrive? Do we have the necessary will? Are we in tune with the leading of the Spirit? Are we up to the task? Are we equal to the challenge before us?

I am genuinely heartened about the possibilities that lay ahead, excited about the deepening conversations, and keenly encouraged about our willingness to transform lives, churches, communities and the global parish.

The Episcopal office allows persons with vision to see the full horizon of ability, need, and opportunity. It allows those who 'have ears to hear' a way of perceiving the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church as best achieved through vital congregations that are equipped, empowered, and inspired to make disciples. This renewing vitality in our churches, strengthened through diversity, anchored by the devotion of gifted laity and clergy, and shaped and honed through a commitment to Christian Conferencing, will convey transformational power to every community and city across the world.

I am convinced United Methodist Bishops are called to be leaders who guide, support, and inspire the people in the local churches. The work begins by partnering with laity and clergy to create opportunities for vital congregations. It continues by discovering the context for vitality, developing a plan, taking the risks that challenge us to make a difference, and holding ourselves accountable in ways that lead us to significant and inspiring growth. The desired result is that persons will grow spiritually, local congregations will be places of vital ministry, and our denomination will move closer to making the world our parish. It is my hope that our discernment will yield this kind of vibrant leadership for this generation and for generations to come.

WHAT OTHERS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT JONATHAN HOLSTON

"On behalf of the Conference Board of Laity, it is my honor to endorse Reverend Jonathan Holston, our North Georgia Delegation's Episcopal nominee. The Board voted unanimously to support Jonathan for the role of Bishop as we know him to be a mature spiritual leader, teacher, preacher, and administrator. He is experienced in the methods and practices of Methodism, knowledgeable of UMC polity and an advocate for laity partnership in mission and ministry within the community and around the world."

Jane Finley

North Georgia Conference Lay Leader

"Jonathan consistently seeks to equip and empower for ministry every person with whom he works. In ministry at the local church level and as a District Superintendent, he has a proven track record of administrative acumen, creativity and results orientation. His gift for being a pastor to pastors as well as laity is a reflection of his love for Jesus Christ and his Church. These are the qualities I seek in a Bishop!"

Rev. Bridgette Young-Ross

Assistant General Secretary for Campus Ministry

"Serving as Jonathan's associate pastor for the last two and a half years, I have seen how he patiently allows the laity to take holistic ownership of the ministry within the parish. Jonathan has worked with the people to own the ministry organizationally, spiritually, and institutionally. My eyes have been opened to the depth of what is happening here. I attribute this shift largely to his loving and patient style of leadership. Likewise, he has empowered this Christ-filled community to serve strongly locally and globally."

David Wofford

Associate Pastor, St. James United Methodist Church

"I have worked alongside of Jonathan Holston on the General Board of Global Ministries and found him to be a very wise and gifted servant leader with a passion to guide our church as an Episcopal leader. I truly believe that Jonathan is called to a time such as now to lead the revitalization of the United Methodist Church!"

Rev. Dr. Paul D. Hillard, Jr.

Senior Pastor, Saint Paul United Methodist Church, Tuscaloosa, Alabama

"Conozco a Jonathan Holston como un líder íntegro, cuyo ministerio ha sido fructífero en los diferentes contextos donde ha servido. Su liderazgo se caracteriza por gracia y firmeza, fe y acción, paciencia y tolerancia, y también por desafiar a nuestra amada iglesia a ser la iglesia que busca vivir el evangelio en palabra y en hecho."

Rev. Nora Colmenares Martinez

Secretaría General Asistente Junta General de Ministerios Globales

"For over 20 years it has been my privilege to work with Jonathan Holston and witness his diligence in various areas of ministerial leadership within the UMC. I am impressed by his love and devotion to Christ and the church, and by his leadership acumen for creativity and change to move the church forward in an exemplary manner."

Rev. Dr. Steve Wood

Senior Pastor, Mt. Pisgah United Methodist Church

North Georgia Conference



Nominee for the Episcopacy



JONATHAN HOLSTON

Compassionate Pastor | Seasoned Leader | A Heart for the Local Church



VITAL AND RENEWING SPIRIT

The role of the bishop is to faithfully practice, model and lead the spiritual disciplines of our faith and to call and inspire the clergy and laity within the Church to practice the Christian disciplines in their individual lives through the tradition of personal holiness.

"I am confident that a United Methodist Bishop is called to be a leader who guides, supports and inspires people to practice their faith. One cannot lead where one is not going. I have learned to surrender daily to the practices of personal piety and the means of grace as well as taking the opportunity to share and proclaim our Wesleyan heritage. These are the holy conduits that transform lives and renew our faith."



INQUIRING MIND AND A TEACHING OFFICE

The role of the bishop is to continue to learn and to teach how to make disciples and lead faithful and fruitful congregations using scripture, spiritual disciplines, our Wesleyan heritage, and the history and doctrines of United Methodism.

"We are faced with significant challenges in the midst of disconcerting times. The question of leadership is evident; namely, how do we breathe life into our inherited traditions and address the struggles of the emerging culture. It requires a decision of faith, a commitment to make hard choices and a willingness to make bold decisions. It requires teamwork that affirms a variety of leaders as well as taking risks that challenge us to discover God's preferred future in our midst. When one

affirms the laity, one empowers the ability to make disciples. When one affirms the clergy, one equips faithful transformational leadership. I am committed to seek ways to share the faith and make disciples for Christ."



A VISION FOR THE CHURCH

The role of the bishop is to lead the whole Church in claiming its mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

"I believe the Episcopal office allows leaders with vision to see the full horizon of ability, need and opportunity. Our Council of Bishops recognizes the mission of the

church is best achieved through vital congregations that are equipped and empowered as well as laity and clergy that are imaginative and inspired. I am encouraged about the possibilities, excited about the conversations and empowered in the willingness to transform our efforts for today and beyond."

A PROPHETIC COMMITMENT FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE CHURCH AND WORLD

The role of the bishop is to be a prophetic voice for justice in a suffering and conflicted world through the tradition of social holiness.

"Wesley stated, 'Faith without works of love is the grand pest of Christianity.' When episcopal leaders empower churches to be places of proactive discipleship, our congregations discover their mission field and serve in vital ministries of justice and mercy. When we embrace our spiritual duty to minister to those outside the church, we strike at the heart of Methodism's mission."

A PASSION FOR THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH

The role of the bishop is to be the shepherd of the whole flock and thereby provide leadership toward the goal of understanding, reconciliation and unity within the Church.

"We are at our best when people are heard and valued, not stifled, suppressed, or smothered. As we bridge the gaps of age, culture,



Jonathan consults with Bishop Daniel Wandabula following a leadership training event in Uganda.

ethnicity and language, we make an important witness to our faith. As a pastor of a local church, I recognize how episcopal leaders are at their best when they embrace the strength of our diversity, the involvement of gifted laity and clergy, and a commitment to the best in Christian conferencing. Bishops are called to teach, defend the faith, unify the church and minister to the needs of the church. When effectively achieved, a deeper trust develops and the spiritual challenges of communities are addressed."

