



Rooted in Our Baptism

Saturday Wrap-Up

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2022



North Carolina Conference
The United Methodist Church

Called to a More Excellent Way; Called to Be God-Bearers

At Saturday's Ordering of Ministry worship service, members of Annual Conference and many special guests, friends, and family assembled to celebrate and honor 52 people who said to the Lord, "Here I am, send me."

Bishop Leonard E. Fairley celebrated the call to ministry being answered, "Here we are gathered brothers and sisters, to give witness that in the community of faith, there are men and women, young and old, who have heard the answer to a deeper calling!"

He then asked all gathered: "If you had to say what is the most defining moment of an Annual Conference, what would you say? Is it passing the budget? Is it nominations? Is it resolutions and debate or reading of appointments? Let me suggest that this service is our defining moment - sending men and women into the world to take authority, to administer the sacraments, to order the life of the church and bridge the gap between the church and the world."

Throughout his sermon, Bishop Fairley spoke of the relevance of *theotókos* (God-bearers) like Samuel and Mary who said, "Here I am." He reminded those gathered of Isaiah's Ministry of



Bishop Leonard E. Fairley presides over the Ordering of Ministry Service. The call to ministry of 52 persons was celebrated during the worship service.

God when the Lord asks, "Whom shall I send?" Isaiah responded, "Here am I; send me."

Fairley reminded the candidates, "God will never cease speaking into your heart and in your soul and in your spirit. Please do not allow the distractions to make you miss the voice of God saying, 'Do you love me more than these? Feed my sheep. Tend my lambs.'...Because the sheep belong to Jesus, you do not get to choose who is in and who is out. Remember, as my grandma used to say: 'You have no Heaven or hell to put anyone in.' Jesus has chosen you. Feed his sheep."

As part of the service, candidates who were to be licensed, commissioned, certified, and ordained were introduced by leaders in their respective areas. Angie Thompson, lay minister, and John Hall, Conference Lay Leader, presented the lay ministers. Brenda Brown, Deaconess, presented the candidate for deaconess (a vocational ministry for laity).

Rev. Laura Fine Ledford, Chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry, presented to Bishop Fairley those whose call to ministry was recognized and who had

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Ordering of Ministry: Called to Be God-bearers *continued from page 1*

been approved by the Board to be licensed as local pastors, commissioned as part of the process of becoming ordained, and those who had completed that process and were to be ordained as deacons or elders.

"You have heard the call of God upon your life for this work, the voice of God saying to you, 'Look! I have made you for extraordinary purposes,'" noted Fairley. "Today, we celebrate with joy that each of you have simply replied, 'Here we are Lord. Send us.' You have simply answered, 'Speak Lord for your servant is listening. Here we are, servants of the Lord. Let it be according to your Word.'"

During the ceremony, Bishop Paul L. Leeland extended greetings on behalf of the denomination's Council of Bishops. He referenced the spiritual gifts of Isaiah, and wished the Ordering of Ministry candidates wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength to do the right thing, spiritual knowledge, and fear of the Lord.

In keeping with the week's emphasis on celebrating the diversity within our conference, Rev. Edith Salazar-Veliz, Rev. Tyler Muller-Yoder, and Rev. Seyun Hwang read Philippians 1:1-6 in Spanish, English, and Korean, respectively.

Bishop Fairley closed with this challenge, "Please don't chase an appointment. Please don't chase a pension. Please don't chase a salary. Chase the more excellent way. Be God-bearers. Be *theotókos*."

Commissioned as Deaconess

Josey Bridges Snyder

Certified Lay Ministers

Raymond Burkart

Sherry Coombs

Judith Curtis

Ann Davis

Jeanne Murray

Pattie Porter

Michelle Taylor Skipper

Ken Smith

Susan Usher

Licensed for Pastoral Ministry

Elias Ballew

William Radford Frazier

Coy Edwin Garrett, Jr.

Donna Hammond

Earl Hardy, Jr.

Amanda Hedden

David Helbig

Marisol Hernandez

Krysha Jamis

Kudakwashe Kagura

Eunsoo Kang

Michael Larbi

Kate Locklear

Pete Mace

Joshua Nichols

Tammy Taylor

Rebecca Turner

Jennifer Wise

Commissioned

Stephen Travis Bazan

Jacob Marshall Dye

Mark Edward Gustafson

Rachel Elise Kwashe

Stephan Thomas Margeson

Kathryn Michelle Medinas-Lockley

Rachel Marie Meyers

Brandon Jesse Miller

Willie Elmer Murray, Jr.

Catherine Earle Neal

Tobi Anne Nguyen
Donald Clayton Parker
Damion Taj Quaye
Elijah Mick Raynor
Cassidy Anna Salter
Britney Ann Toner

Ordained as Deacon

Hannah Nicole Bryn
Adam Kenneth Ledbetter-Bock

Ordained as Elder

Ernesto Enrique Barriguete
Constance Spence Belmore
Hope Elizabeth Ledbetter-Bock
Jason Bradley Leighton
Garrett Michael Rea
Jamie Lee Thompson

Special Called Session in November 2022

- Special Called session of Annual Conference is set for Saturday, November 19, 2022 at Jarvis Memorial UMC: Greenville for the purpose of ratifying the disaffiliation agreements for local churches who have decided to leave the denomination.

Annual Conference 2023 Scheduled

- Annual Conference 2023 is set for June 14-17, 2023 and is returning to the Greenville Convention Center.

Last Three Resolutions Considered on Saturday Morning

On Saturday morning, the business of the Annual Conference returned to consideration of the last three resolutions as found on pages 94-97 in the Conference workbook.

Rev. Laura Johnson from Apex UMC, in a point of personal privilege, explained that people were asking her about the purpose of resolutions at Annual Conference. Johnson stated that resolutions are written "to raise awareness, to make statements, to seek out our call to justice. We are people, in our baptism vows, who commit to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves. And resolutions are a way for us, as people of faith, to discuss those forms of evil, oppression, and injustice when we see them in our lives. These resolutions are prayerfully written and offered to us for consideration."

5. Resolution 5 was submitted to Annual Conference from the Youth. It encourages equal pay between clergymen and clergywomen. This resolution does not provide a specific solution to this endemic issue, but it does call attention to it. Ken Smith from Angier UMC made an amendment to equalize housing allowances between men and women. However, Lisa Reynolds from the Corridor District made an amendment to the amendment to move that change to the "therefore be it be resolved" section of the resolution. That change to the amendment was accepted by the Annual Conference, and the resolution passed by a majority vote.



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6. Resolution 6 came from a committee of the Annual Conference, UM Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM). It encouraged and commended all churches to support the work of UMVIM with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Because it was submitted by a committee, this resolution was presented automatically before the Annual Conference and was passed by a majority vote.
7. Resolution 7 came from the North Carolina Chapter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action and encourages the Annual Conference to be a welcoming community of disciples that "shall continue to open the doors of inclusion of all God's children, including LGBTQIA+ persons."

MFSA member and one of the authors of the resolution, Henry Jarrett, spoke on the resolution saying, "The intent of this resolution is to continue moving forward realizing that yes, we are going to continue to disagree with each other. Families have disagreements... we work through them, and we pray over them. But we move forward as a church, lovingly disagreeing with each other."

Rev. Paul Stallsworth from the Heritage District spoke against the resolution and stated that we are "citizens of a divided and polarized nation... and a divided and polarized church. We have been together this week, fellowshiping, eating, worshipping, and working together. It has not always been easy. But because of God's help and forgiveness, and the Bishop's good encouragement, we have persisted." He said that the resolution, which calls for unity and inclusion, is excluding those who disagree.

After further discussion for and against, the question was called, and Resolution 7 passed by majority vote.

Rev. Ben Wolf thanked the four laity and four clergy serving on the Resolutions Committee.

Wolf noted that the amended resolutions passed on Friday and Saturday would be posted at nccumc.org/ac2022/resolutions. He encouraged churches to use the resolutions as resources for discussion and study.



Early Morning Run/Walk Draws Nearly 100

Early in the morning, before the sun fully rose, nearly 100 members of the North Carolina Annual Conference gathered for fellowship and exercise. The 'Glow in Greenville' 5k Run/Walk follows in a long tradition of run/walks as part of Annual Conference from the days of gathering in the Fayetteville area. There was particular joy of reconnecting in person after two years of virtual gathering.

The route, which winds through several neighborhoods behind the Convention Center, is flat and shady. Participants ranged from Boston Marathon competitors, to casual walkers, youth, conference staff, clergy, and laity. A total of 20 conference leaders, including Cabinet members, spread across the route to encourage racers and point them in the right direction toward the finish line.

A special highlight of the 2022 Run/Walk was the NC Clergy Spouse Association hosting a post-event refreshments table - open to participants and conference members - to foster space for fellowship and community building.

Many thanks to all of the planners and volunteers who made the event possible. We look forward to seeing you at the 2023 AC Run/Walk!



On Thursday evening, Dail Ballard, Executive Director of North Carolina United Methodist Camp and Retreat Ministries, offered conference members a little levity and fun flying planes while Jay Locklear provided "flying" music - "I'll Fly Away."

Offerings Update

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the special offerings. Online giving will be available at nccumc.org/giving/ac2022 until the end of June. You may also send checks to NC Conference - Raleigh Area, P.O. Box 890202, Charlotte, NC 28289-0202 with the selected offering noted on the Memo line.

UMCOR: Ukraine Relief

An offering for Ukraine Relief was received during Opening Worship on Wednesday. The updated offering total is \$20,097. Your generosity supports Advance #982450 International Disaster Response & Recovery, United Methodist Committee on Relief's regional humanitarian response.

Tornado Relief: KY & TN

This offering was received during Celebrate the Connection on Friday to support the Conferences and local churches of Tennessee and Kentucky as they provide direct services of sheltering, feeding, cleaning, and supporting volunteer teams. The total raised was \$8,227.

The Gary Wayne Locklear Mission Endowment

This offering was received during the Celebration of Laity Ministries on Friday afternoon. Gifts will be invested in long-term, life-altering ministries within the geographical bounds of the NC Conference that impact the lives of innumerable people in the name of Jesus. The total raised was \$8,978.

Your generosity to all of these special offerings will make a tangible difference. Thank you!

Wrap Up Notes

- There are 15 New Faith Communities under the age of 5 years. Two New Faith Communities began in the past year.
- For 2024, a conference budget of \$15,734,449 was approved (a 2.21% increase from 2023).
- Overall, the approved conference budgets have been reduced 28% over the last six budget years.
- 36 persons entered the retired status this conference year.
- Minimum salary for pastors under full-time appointment was approved as \$48,320, an increase of \$947 per year.
- 7 churches have closed in this conference year.
- Professing membership at the end of 2021 stood at 214,320, down 4,662 from 2020.
- 163 pastors received new appointments for 2022-2023.
- Recordings of all business sessions, Bible study, and worship services are available for viewing at nccumc.org/ac2022/watch.
- Photos from the four-day conference can be viewed online in the Annual Conference 2022 album at [flickr.com/nccumc](https://www.flickr.com/photos/nccumc/).
- For the final PDF of Resolutions from AC2022, go to nccumc.org/ac2022/resolutions and click on the red "View the Resolutions" button.
- Donations to special offerings may be made through the end of June. See "Offerings" article on page 4 for details.

Correction and Additional Details on Boy Scouts Legal Update

In the Thursday Wrap Up, the Trustees report (p. 7) included incorrect terminology regarding the bankruptcy proceedings for the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). To clarify, there will no longer be a charter between BSA troops and churches.

Instead, The United Methodist Church has developed a new Affiliation Agreement to document relationships between Scout Troops and local churches. This replaces charters and defines the relationship between the organizations. The new Affiliation Agreement more fully clarifies the role of UM congregations, outlines liability insurances the BSA must provide, and includes the responsibilities of the adult Scout leaders.

Existing charters were extended through June 30, 2022. Churches should implement the Affiliation Agreement as of July 1, 2022, with changes in property or accounts being completed as soon as feasible even if not able to be completed by July 1.

As soon as the final Agreement document is released, it will be posted at nccumc.org/boyscouts. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the Conference BSA Leadership Team at boyscouts@nccumc.org.

Survey Request Reminder

As the office of Race, Equity, and Justice Ministries seeks to support and equip our anti-racism spiritual transformation, the team wants to offer the best schedule of opportunities for all to participate.

They ask that you scan the QR code below and fill out a two-question survey so that they can prepare better to serve the conference. Let's better equip our people for Más Diversity.



Discounts from Amplify & Cokesbury

For those interested, two special discounts were offered:

- Amplify Media, a UM Publishing House streaming service, has Wesleyan Bible studies and devotionals. They are offering a discounted subscription for conference churches using promo code NC2022.
- Cokesbury is offering two discounts to churches. Churches who haven't ordered Adult Bible Studies since June 2021, can receive a free starter bundle by calling 800-672-1789. Also, visit [cokesbury.com/annual-conference-2022](https://www.cokesbury.com/annual-conference-2022) and use code AC2022 for \$10 off a \$100 purchase.

Strong Support of AC 2022 "Canstruction" Project

To raise awareness of food insecurity in North Carolina, our NCC Mission Team constructed models of iconic eastern NC structures out of cans of food. These five thousand plus cans of food were procured at a discounted price by several major groceries in our state.

Additional donations were received in the lobby bins. All of the food was distributed to food banks in eastern and central North Carolina at the end of AC 2022.

Food insecurity is a lack of consistent access to enough food for every person in a household to live an active, healthy life. USDA statistics show that 20-25% of people in our conference area are food insecure depending on the county in which they live.

Please contact Rev. Bill Haddock if you have questions at (910) 262-3831 or revbillh@nccumc.org.



Many Thanks to Our Writers & Photographers!

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