

CHAPEL CHATTER

Open Hearts/Open Minds/Wide Open Doors



PASTOR'S NOTE

Warm Easter greetings in the name of our Risen Savior!

We are back home from the General Conference 2024 in Charlotte, NC attended by more than four thousand United Methodist delegates and guests from around the world. Praise the Lord!

There are lots of important things that I want to share about what happened at the General Conference. One of those was the message delivered by the Council of Bishops President Thomas Bickerton during the opening service of the global legislative assembly.

“Are you willing to move forward in the spirit of hope and embrace a season of reformation? Are you committed to the revitalization of The United Methodist Church? Are you here to work for a culture marked by compassion, courage, and companionship? Because it causes me to genuinely ask, and this is as genuine as I can be. If you can't agree to that, what are you doing here? Maybe, just maybe, you're in the wrong place because my sense is that we are here not only because we love our United Methodist Church, we are committed to moving it forward with renewal, revival, and a reclaimed sense of purpose. If you are not committed to that, then perhaps, in love, we might just ask you with integrity that you just leave us alone to do our work.”

The message is very timely considering the difficult challenges that many of us faced both as individuals and churches during the season of pandemic, disaffiliation, racial injustice, among others. The message is also timely because our community is coming together (again) for the Kittrell Tent Revival [on May 6th-9th](#).

What is a revival? Perhaps revival is best described by defining what it is not. Revival does not come by design. A lot of us grew up saying that our church or our community is going to have a revival on such and such date. It is part of the year's schedule, like Vacation Bible School. But that is not revival! It's a good thing to do, but it isn't revival. Revival cannot be orchestrated or produced by our own efforts. Revival is not the church deciding to do something. Rather, revival is God deciding to do something to His church! Revival comes at the sovereign, gracious decision of God to send a fresh movement of His Holy Spirit among His people. In other words, revival is God moving in our midst through the power of the Holy Spirit.

When you're reviving something, the very word says that something is alive but is about to die. It is struggling for life and needs to be awakened. Revival is God breathing new life! The meaning of revival is best captured from a Methodist hymn, "Revive us again; fill each heart with thy love. Let each soul be rekindled with what?" Fire from above! Revival happens when God moves His people and He wakes them up spiritually. And it can happen on many different levels— personal, church, community and nation.

Revival can be best described in the Acts [3:19](#) where Peter says, "Repent then and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out and that times of refreshing may come from the Lord." That is what a revival is! It is a time of refreshing that comes from the Lord. It rekindles the fire of the Holy Spirit in the souls of God's people. Now, when revival comes, some great things will happen. God's people will have a new passion for prayer and for worship and for God's Word. When revival comes, you will see a renewed confession and renewed commitment to holiness. Then you will see an increased burden for the lost and an emphasis on reaching out new and diverse people. Revival is almost always followed by great numbers of people coming to Christ.

In closing, I hope and pray that you will make every effort to attend the Kittrell Tent Revival. Bring your family and friends. As United Methodists, let us commit one another "to moving forward with renewal, revival and a reclaimed sense of purpose."

Prayer Requests

Patricia Rogers, Freddie Oettinger, Thomas Beckham, Dennis Wilson, Tim Smith, Angie Rowland, Mary Holmes, Corbitt Cash, Debbie Sherrin, Tonja Tooley, Jordan Bobbitt, Joni Ayers, Wayne Young, Tilley Hughes, Bobby & Rose Marshall, David & Karin Driver & Evie Odom. Shut-Ins: Kay Deans, Ben & Jackie Brown, Virgie Eaves, Freddie McGhee, Faye Young & Frances Roberts. (For prayer request, please call [919-418-0682](tel:919-418-0682) or email Pastor Edgar @ edejesus@nccumc.org.)



WEDNESDAY ONLINE PRAYER MEETING

Prayer Warriors are invited to join the Wednesday Online Prayer Meeting every week [from 7:00-7:30pm](#). This month of May, we will meet [on May 1st](#), 15th, 22nd & 29th. We will not have a Prayer Meeting [on May 8th](#) due to the Kittrell Tent Revival. Please see the Zoom link below.

Edgar Raymund A. De Jesus is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Prayer Group Zoom Meeting (Bethel UMC & Plank Chapel UMC)

Time: This is a recurring meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://nccumc.zoom.us/j/98771477114?pwd=TVRTVHcwWWU0UytHOGhTYXFaZmxhdz09>

Meeting ID: [987 7147 7114](#)

[Passcode: 288519](#)

[+16465588656,,98771477114#](#) US (New York)

[+16469313860,,98771477114#](#) US

"KOFFEE CORNER" WOMEN'S GROUP

Plank Chapel UMC is birthing the "Koffee Korner"-- a Fresh Expressions women's group that meets every first Wednesday of the month in the Fellowship Hall. Our next meeting is [May 1st @ 10:00am](#). For more information, please contact Jan Hicks @ [919-525-4778](tel:919-525-4778).

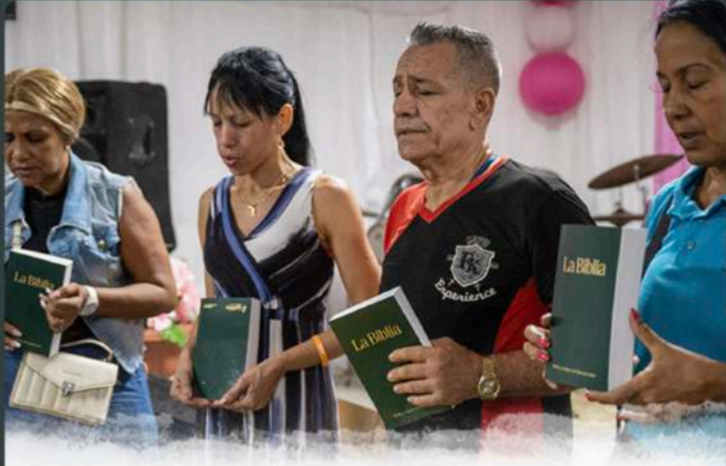


"STRONGER TOGETHER" EXERCISE CLASS

We are starting a new Exercise Class named "Stronger Together" that meets every Monday & [Thursday from 6:00pm-7:00pm](#). For more information, please contact Debra Newman @ [252-915-7005](tel:252-915-7005).



The Voice of the Martyrs [view as web page](#)



Place God's Word in the hands of believers

in the world's most difficult and dangerous places to follow Christ.

400,000 Bible Challenge
A BIBLE FOR EVERY BELIEVER

Help deliver God's Word to waiting Christians!

The 400,000 Bible Challenge is on, and your gift can provide hope in the darkest corners of the world.

In countries where Christians follow Christ at any cost, from North Korea to Afghanistan, believers yearn for their own copy of the Bible — even though owning one can result in imprisonment or death. VOM's Middle East staff recently learned of a Bible smuggler who was killed in Iran.

Bible distributors are willing to risk everything — even their lives — to get God's saving Word to those living in the world's most difficult and dangerous places to follow Christ.

[Stand with our persecuted Christian family. Support the 400,000 Bible Challenge today.](#)

GIVE ONLINE

A group of generous ministry friends have already funded the first 100,000 Bibles. **Now we invite you to** join the challenge and help provide an additional 300,000 Bibles to Christians in hostile areas and restricted nations — **our brothers and sisters asking for God's Word.**

[Give today to send Bibles to hostile areas and restricted nations!](#)



**UNITED METHODIST
MEN**

All men are invited to our monthly United Methodist Men Breakfast Fellowship every third Sunday of the month [from 8:00am until 9:00am](#). Our next breakfast fellowship is [May 19th, 2024](#)

**UNITED WOMEN IN
FAITH**

The United Women in Faith are composed of women who are "powerful, fearless force" driven by God's love and united in sisterhood. With a focus on women, children and youth, we act for justice and transform communities. Our next regular meeting of the United Women in Faith will be [on Sunday, May 19th @ 3:00pm](#). All women are invited!



Dear Bethel & Plank Chapel Family,

Good morning and greetings in the Name of our Risen Savior!

I would like to share with y'all some important updates regarding Connect Church 2024. On April 9th, the Cohort Team met at Plank Chapel UMC to accomplish both the individual and congregational assets. The team also formulated at least two questions to be asked and the list of the people in the community that we will contact.

Furthermore, I would like to inform y'all regarding the season right now for Bethel UMC. We are blessed to have committed lay leadership at Bethel UMC despite in few numbers. And they are doing whatever it takes "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world".

Therefore, after much prayerful thought and discernment, Bethel UMC is discontinuing the Connect Church process. Instead, they will focus much of its energy in growing the Dinner Church which had at least 40 people in attendance last week.

Lastly, Plank Chapel UMC is still committed to continue to be part of the Connect Church 2024. The Cohort Team will meet again [on Friday, May 10th, 6:00pm-7:30pm](#) @ Plank Chapel UMC.

Thank you and please keep the Connect Church 2024 in your prayers!

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Edgar



Youth Program Back On Track At Plank Chapel

Plank Chapel United Methodist Church is on the verge of reviving its youth program, which has been in hiatus for several years.

An organizational committee was formed recently, charged with formulating plans to re-launch a program geared toward youngsters as well as teens.

Titled "Journey," the new initiative will focus on structured gatherings for local and area children and teens in a safe sanctuary environment at the church. Those 5 to 18 years of age may register to participate with a kickoff event planned for May 19.

Each monthly meeting will include music, games, crafts, storytelling and a fellowship meal. Activities will be broken down into two age groups: 5 to 10 and 11 to 18. Gathering and sending forth messages will include all participants.

Registration forms will be available at the church and posted on the church's website at plankchapel.org.

For more information, see Pastor Edgar, Nancy and Ron Gustafson, Lora and Wayne Young, or Pam and Edgar Cobb.

Change Bucket

The April Change Bucket is ACTS or Area Christians Together in Service based in Henderson. The goal of ACTS is to provide a warm meal to those who may otherwise go without. ACTS also offers a food donation program to help with soup kitchen warehouse and to help with other community food supplies. ACTS serves meals every weekday [from Monday-Friday](#). Soup Kitchen Hours: [Monday through Friday](#), **11:00am-12noon**; Food Pantry Hours: **Tuesday & Thursday** [8:30am-9:30am](#); Address: [210 South William Street, Henderson, NC 27536](#).





SENIOR
Circle



APRIL SENIOR CIRCLE NEWSLETTER

Every moment of the April Senior Circle expressed God's love for us. Pastor Edgar spoke to us about God's gift to us through His Son giving us the opportunity and challenge to live as Resurrection Christians walking in faith. He also shared a you tube musical video called "Goodness of God" by Cece Winans which had our toes tapping, our eyes watering, and our hearts uplifted in thanksgiving to the Creator.

Judy De Jesus then took us on a magical virtual tour of Roxie Kearney's botanical garden which she and her husband, Robert began cultivating when they moved to Kittrell in 2003. Using photos from 2010 to 2024 we were able to see azaleas grow from cuttings into towering mounds of pink, white, crimson and lavender blossoms. They were everywhere. They surrounded a sparkling pond, encircled shady trees, bordered well traveled paths created by years of hard work, and climbed above old, weather beaten barns. Along the journey we saw tall lilacs, roses, irises, hydrangeas, raised vegetable gardens and the list goes on. Music floating in the background added to the wonder of it all. In addition to Judy, we would like to thank Toni Smith, Roxie, and Pastor Carolyn for the images they shared with us, making the virtual tour a spectacular trip.

Flowers are a special gift from God adding joy, marking the seasons, celebrations, joys and sorrows of our lives. Often flowers speak when words fail. We were fortunate to hear Sally Coghill speak of her career as a florist which spanned forty two years. She spoke of the joy of serving people in some of the most sacred moments of their lives. It was interesting to know Valentine's Day was her busiest time of year. She misses her work but enjoys arranging flowers for special occasions for family , friends, and thankfully for Plank Chapel and Senior Circle.

Of course the topic of flowers and gardens sparked a lively conversation about plants shared, cuttings received from fellow gardeners and memories of loved ones and their favorite plant. Anyone who knew Kay House, one of the early Senior Circle organizers, remembers her love for sunflowers. We will always remember her love for every senior, her big hugs and her belief in the joy of fellowship as well as her sunflowers.

There was another joy that made our gathering special.....NEW FACES!!!! We welcomed Toni Smith, one of our talented photographers , who helped us out with the 2024 photos and we also were happy to meet Nancy and Ron Gustafson. Nancy has volunteered to do a program in May about their trip to Iceland. We know there will be beautiful pictures and stories about their adventure climbing glaciers. Thank you, Nancy and Ron.



The Kearney Homestead. Established by Robert and Roxie Kearney 2003. Photo April 2024

With Love,
Your Friends at Senior Circle

PLANK CHAPEL UMC CHOIR

Last April 7th, Plank Chapel UMC had a Re-Dedication of the Choir, Musicians & Audio-Visual Tech Team. An Appreciation Luncheon was held after the [11:00am](#) worship service. We give thanks to God for the leadership of Greg Hunt and generous donors who donated the sumptuous lunch. The Choir Practice meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month-- [May 8th](#) & 22nd.

AWAKENINGS

Renew, fresh and revive your spirit as we worship our Awesome God at "Awakenings" every [Sunday, 8:00am](#) (except third Sunday of the month due to UMM Breakfast Fellowship). "Awakenings" offers contemporary music, come-as-you-are setting, relevant Bible-based conversation and a good cup of coffee! This month of May, the "Awakenings" meet on the 5th, 12th & 26th.



Come and join the "Dinner Church" [on Saturday, May 4th, 6:00pm](#) @ Bethel UMC (4193 Fairport Road, Kittrell, NC 27544).

"Dinner Church" is a new way of being the church. It is a "fresh expressions" church that gathers people during the week or the month for a meal and conversation around faith. The movement gets its inspiration from the early church and Jesus' ministry through meals. An invitation to eat was an invitation to faith. Similarly, the "dinner church" movement centers on breaking bread and sharing God's Word with conversation.



SENIOR CIRCLE

Senior Circle is a wonderful way to meet new friends, build relationships and have fun among fellow Christians! We meet every third Wednesday of the month with a program and light lunch @ Plank Chapel UMC Fellowship Hall. We will meet again [on Wednesday, May 15th, 10:00am](#) and every third Wednesday of the month. Bring your family and friends!

BLESSING BOX MINISTRY

In 2022, Plank Chapel UMC saw a great need in the community for those vulnerable to have access to the food they cannot always afford. And so, we birthed the Blessing Box Ministry and encouraged church members as well as the community to help keep the box stocked with non-perishable food items for those in need. We give thanks to God for your generous gifts and support for this outreach ministry.



Many NC Conference church leaders recently attended the first Fresh Expressions United Methodist National Gathering in Charlotte, NC. Fresh Expressions is an ecumenical movement that helps churches reach new disciples for Christ.

“Fresh expressions are about getting creative in your church’s reach. A group starts when a Christian sees those already in his or her circles with a spiritual lens. It’s asking the simple question, ‘How can I help my friends connect with God?’ Fresh expressions form where mutual interests meet hearts open to opportunities to connect on faith matters.”

Fresh Expressions United Methodist: A Distinctly Wesleyan Spirit-Led Movement of New Christian Communities that Serve the Present Age. John Wesley famously exclaimed, “The world is my parish.” But have we, the people called Methodists, made the parish our world? This book is a practical guide to help United Methodists put the “go” back in our mission statement through cultivating Fresh Expressions of Church.

Fresh Expressions Books

The NC Conference Media Center has several books on the Fresh Expressions movement that are available to borrow. These are all published by United Methodist publishers. Additional titles can be purchased directly from the Fresh Expressions [online store](#).

Spring Forest's Celtic Spring Festival

This Free Event is open to the first 100 people who reserve a ticket. **RSVP** to Spring Festival - [Saturday, May 11, 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm](#)



Center for Leadership Excellence
North Carolina Conference
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Edgar,
The Center for Leadership Excellence invites you to a webinar, *Preparing for Racialized Storms*, with the Rev. Dr. Harold Dorrell Briscoe.

This webinar will introduce church leaders to the content in Dorrell's book, *There's A Storm Comin': How the American Church Can Lead Through Times of Racial Crisis*. The session will help churches with knowledge and skills to prepare for and respond to racially charged events that inflict trauma on the social fabric of America. During the webinar, Dorrel will address Understanding Systemic Racism, the Racial Crisis Framework, Proactive Measures for Racialized Crises, and Standing Up for Racial Justice.

Preparing for Racialized Storms
Presented by the Center for Leadership Excellence
with Harold Dorrell Briscoe
[Tuesday, May 14, 2024, 1-2pm ET](#)

[Register Now](#)

About Harold Dorrell Briscoe:



Harold "Dorrell" Briscoe founded and serves as lead pastor at The Six:Eight Church in Durham. His education includes a master's degree in Public Administration as well as Theological Studies and a Doctor of Ministry degree. His work focuses on the intersection of race, religion, law, and power.

[Register Now](#)

Kittrell Tent Revival is coming! This year, it's [May 6th-9th, 6:30pm-8:30pm](#) @ Kittrell Community Center.

Last year, the Lord led Pastor Radford Frazier to start a "revival" in the heart of Kittrell. With the Holy Spirit's direction and with the help of many volunteers in our local churches, it was a great success! We spend the week of May 22th-25th worshipping God together and tearing down the barriers of church walls that can often divide us. Union Chapel Church, Kittrell First Baptist, Revive Church of God, Plank Chapel UMC together with Kittrell Fire Department came together and made a difference in the Name of Jesus Christ.

I strongly believe that God wants to bring revival to His church! The only question that really remains is: "Do you have the desire to be revived?" If you want to experience revival, come join us! If you want our church to see a revival, come join us and let us seek the Holy Spirit. If you want our community to see a mighty outpouring of God's healing and transformation, now is the time to seek Jesus.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Edgar

kittrell
MAY 6-9
TENT REVIVAL

MUSIC AND PREACHING NIGHTLY

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
FRANK SOSSAMON	RADFORD FRAZIER	ESTON BAILEY	RONNIE MORTON
FREEDOM LIFE CHOIR	REVIVE COG CHOIR	UNASHAMED QUARTET	GREATER JOY SPIRITUALS

6:30PM-8:30PM
KITTRILL COMMUNITY CENTER
27 W. MAIN ST. KITTRILL, NC

ONE GROUP FOR ONE PURPOSE
TO LEAD PEOPLE TO CHRIST



Connections #304

1. Disaffiliation Report

Congregations that remained with the United Methodist Church (UMC) in North Carolina during a 2019 schism over gay marriage and ordaining LGBTQ+ clergy are more politically and theologically diverse than those that left, researchers at Duke University found.

“Somewhat paradoxically, while the UMC as a whole is becoming more liberal due to the exodus of the most conservative pastors and congregations, a greater share of congregations within the denomination will have members with diverse theological and political viewpoints,” according to a new report by Duke sociologists Joseph Roso and David Eagle.

Their study, released April 16 by the [Religion & Social Change Lab](#) at Duke, is based on administrative records of the North Carolina and Western North Carolina conferences of the church and a 2021 longitudinal survey of clergy. (Read the [report here](#).)

2. Special Sunday are Cause for Celebration



Celebrations are as important in our church lives as in our personal lives,” said Linda Bruner, Director of Connectional Giving at United Methodist Communications. “We celebrate the work of each local church, while acknowledging that no one church is the total body of Christ. We are the church together, so what we celebrate in our communities is important in our church lives as well. That is why we have [Awareness and Annual Conference Special Sundays](#) and Churchwide Special Sundays.”

There are five [Annual Conference Special Sundays](#) that celebrate the life and ministry of annual conferences. The annual conferences select the dates to commemorate these Sundays and collect offerings that support each of these programs. Gifts received remain in the conferences.

The Christian Education Sunday offering supports congregations and districts in providing educational and small-group ministries, teaching individuals of all ages about the Christian faith and encouraging service in the church, the community and the world.

Disability Awareness Sunday celebrates the gifts and graces of persons with disabilities and calls the church to consider how to better serve all people with Christ’s love and care.

On Volunteers in Mission Sunday, an offering may be received and used by the annual conference Volunteers in Mission program. [United Methodist Volunteers in Mission](#) (UMVIM) is a grassroots movement within The United Methodist Church designed to provide an official channel for short-term volunteer service.

Golden Cross Sunday focuses on the work of health and welfare ministries and institutions in the annual conferences. For example, in the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference, those who benefit from the offering include 2,200 seniors residing in 31 Wesley Living affordable housing communities. Golden Cross helps those with limited incomes remain independent and socially active.

Rural Life Sunday is an opportunity to pay tribute to the rural heritage of The United Methodist Church and recognize the ongoing crisis occurring in nonurban areas. In the Michigan Conference, the offering supports [scholarship assistance](#) for pastors serving in rural settings or small churches.

“Thanks to the Rural Life Sunday offering, the Michigan Conference Town and Country Ministries is able to provide \$1,000 a year scholarships to seminary students from small communities as they pursue a Masters in Divinity and \$500 a year scholarships for those taking Course of Study to be local pastors. Town & Country Ministries also offers a Ministry Grant of up to \$1,000 for churches with membership under 100,” said the Rev. Carol J. Freeland, chairperson. “These monies can go to any need the church may have, building repair, technology upgrades, or ministry and program funding. This important offering also helps supplement our annual Michigan Conference Circuit Rider Retreat offering help and direction to pastors and their spouses in leading small and multiple church charges.”

In comparison, [Awareness Special Sundays](#) are days designated to recognize specific ministries undertaken within each local church. While no offering is taken, these observances underscore how members' participation and support for these ministries are vital to each service.

These Awareness Sundays include:

- Heritage Sunday, May 24 or the Sunday preceding, when United Methodists honor their past and envision their future
- Women's Ministry Sunday, which recognizes women's ministry within the church (on a day designated by the congregation)
- Men's Ministry Sunday, which commends men's ministry within the church (on a day designated by the congregation)
- Laity Sunday, the third Sunday in October, which gives recognition to the ministry of all Christians to love God and their neighbors
- Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday, the second Sunday in November, which encourages people to help others through organ and tissue donation

The Connectional Giving Team at United Methodist Communications has created [resources](#) to help local churches bring awareness to these special dates within their congregations.

United Methodist Communications also offers [leader resource kits](#) in English, French, Korean and Spanish to help churches plan for a third category of observances: [Special Sundays](#) designated throughout the year to provide churchwide opportunities for giving that supports specified ministries.

On these Special Sundays, the denomination celebrates generosity by engaging in offerings that change lives. These resources help churches to:

- Impact communities through [Human Relations Day](#) (observed on the Sunday before Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)
- Support disaster relief via [UMCOR Sunday](#) (Fourth Sunday in Lent)
- Strengthen Native American ministries by means of [Native American Ministries Sunday](#) (Third Sunday of Easter)
- Promote peace and justice on [Peace with Justice Sunday](#) (First Sunday after Pentecost)
- Transform communities through [World Communion Sunday](#) (first Sunday in October)
- Provide scholarships with the help of [United Methodist Student Day](#) (last Sunday of November)

How can you support these special observances? Get involved in the ministry of your church. Participate in conference giving opportunities and programs. Share information with your friends who may be searching for a way to join the ministry of serving others.

“United Methodist churches are bound together by a common mission and governance that accomplish reaching out into the world,” said Bruner. “We join in mission with each other to achieve the ministry of Jesus Christ – and that’s definitely something to celebrate!”

3. Creation Care Resources for Spring



Creation Care Ministry at Your Church

Last year, the North Carolina Conference passed a resolution urging local churches to form creation care teams or begin (or continue) creation care ministries. The NC Conference Creation Care Team, led by our Creation Ministries Coordinator, Rev. Jarrod Davis, is hosting online and in-person training for funding, starting, and continuing creation care ministries. View the dates and register for [these trainings](#), which run from April through June.

The NC Conference Creation Care Committee is accepting applications for local church creation care [grant funding](#) through May 1, 2024.

NC Conference Lay Servant Ministries will be offering a class on “Loving People and Planet in God’s Name” at First UMC in Elon on July 27. Stay tuned to the [LSM Courses](#) page for registration information.

Online Book Club

Join the NC Conference Creation Care Team for monthly online book discussions. The next meeting is on April 22 at 10:30 am, and they will discuss Rachel Carson’s classic book *Silent Spring*.

Stay updated on these monthly discussions by joining the [NC Conference Creation Care](#) Facebook group.

Worship Service & Study Videos

The NC Conference Creation Care Team created an online worship service that you can use for your church at any time. Additionally, they offer a series of archived webinars great for group discussion or individual study. Find [these videos](#) on the NC Conference Vimeo page.

Borrow these books from the NC Conference Media Center to get all ages involved in helping your church become a green church!

General Conference Infographic to Share

THE ROAD TO GENERAL CONFERENCE

PART 1 OF 4

FIRST: A QUICK LOOK AT OUR STRUCTURE



IT STARTS WITH YOU!

You are a committed leader within your local church faithfully participating in the life and ministries of your local congregation through your **prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.**

YOUR CHURCH IS PART OF A DISTRICT

The North Carolina Conference has **eight districts** -- Beacon, Capital, Corridor, Fairway, Gateway, Harbor, Heritage, Sound.



YOUR DISTRICT IS PART OF AN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Your church is one of approximately 439 churches in the **North Carolina Annual Conference**. The United States has 54 annual conferences, supervised by bishops in 46 episcopal areas. There



The NC Conference offers this four-page infographic about the upcoming General Conference to share with your congregation and on social media. It was created by the Virginia Annual Conference, who graciously adapted it to include the information for the North Carolina Conference and allowed our sharing of the PDF and images.

Use the links below to download and distribute these files in any way that would be helpful to inform your congregation and community about the General Conference of The United Methodist Church, happening April 23 through May 3, 2024, in Charlotte, NC.

- [Download a printable PDF](#)
- [Download the PNG image for page 1](#)
- [Download the PNG image for page 2](#)
- [Download the PNG image for page 3](#)
- [Download the PNG image for page 4](#)

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YOUR DISTRICT IS PART OF AN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Your church is one of approximately 439 churches in the **North Carolina Annual Conference**. The United States has 54 annual conferences, supervised by bishops in 46 episcopal areas. There are 75 annual conferences in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines, which are supervised by 20 bishops.



YOUR CONFERENCE IS PART OF A JURISDICTION

There are five US Jurisdictions -- North Central, Northeastern, South Central, Southeastern, and Western. North Carolina is part of the **Southeastern Jurisdiction** or SEJ.

WE ARE A WORLDWIDE CHURCH

Outside the US, Annual Conferences are organized into seven **Central Conferences**. Together we all make up the United Methodist Church.



WE ARE GOVERNED BY THREE BODIES

The United Methodist Church does not have a central headquarters or a single executive leader. Duties are divided among bodies that include the **Judicial Council**, the **General Conference**, and the **Council of Bishops**.

GENERAL CONFERENCE SETS POLICY

The General Conference meets every four years. Legislation is examined and voted upon by **persons elected** from Annual Conferences from **across the denomination**. The Council of Bishops presides over General Conference and the Judicial Council reviews passed legislation to determine its constitutionality, legality, or meaning.



LEARN MORE nccumc.org/gc

Sources: umc.org, umnews.org, resourceumc.org

THE ROAD TO GENERAL CONFERENCE

PART 2 OF 4

THE NORTH CAROLINA DELEGATION



DELEGATIONS ARE ELECTED

Delegates to General Conference are elected by Annual Conference members at their Annual Conference meetings every four years. Typically this happens the summer prior to General Conference. The number of delegates ranges from 600-1000. This year there will be **862 delegates**, half clergy and half laity.

There are **eight clergy** and **eight laity** (plus alternates) on the North Carolina Conference General Conference delegation. These delegates were elected in 2019 by members attending Annual Conference in Greenville, NC.

(North Carolina's full delegation also includes 16 delegates to the SEJ Conference as well as alternates, all of whom were elected in 2019.)



MEETINGS

The full North Carolina delegation has been meeting together **since their election in 2019** to prepare for General Conference. These meetings were first in person, then virtually during the height of the pandemic, and then in person again.



2020 IN 2024

After pandemic-related delays, the Judicial Council ruled that 2020 was not canceled but was postponed. When the delegation heads to Charlotte in April they will be participating in the **2020 General Conference**.

AT GENERAL CONFERENCE

General Conference is a 10-day meeting consisting of several parts. Delegates will spend much of the first week **meeting in committees** to review legislation and make edits or changes before passing it to the larger body for voting.



Delegates will participate in **worship** experiences, engage in **conversation** and **dialogue** with fellow delegates from across the world, and ultimately will be tasked with **voting on legislation** put before the body.

WHERE?

General Conference will take place in **Charlotte**, North Carolina.

WHEN?

April 23-May 3, 2024



LEARN MORE nccumc.org/gc

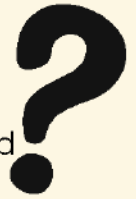
Sources: umc.org, umnews.org, resourceumc.org

THE ROAD TO GENERAL CONFERENCE

PART 3 OF 4

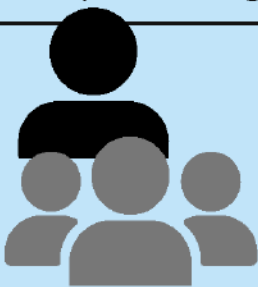
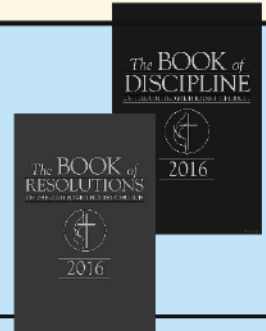
WHAT IS GENERAL CONFERENCE?

General Conference is the body that **sets official policy** and **speaks for the denomination**. This body meets every four years to revise and amend the *Book of Discipline*, the *Book of Resolutions*, and other official documents. It also sets the denomination's budget.



LEGISLATION

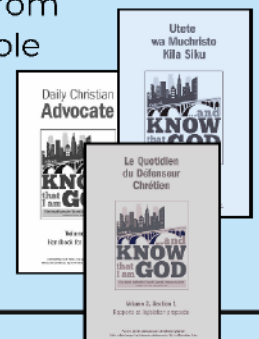
Petitions with changes or additions to the *Book of Discipline*, the *Book of Resolutions*, and other official documents are submitted during the years between General Conferences. This legislation is what General Conference Delegates act upon during General Conference.



AUTHORS

Anyone can submit a petition to General Conference. Some come from individuals, some come from groups of people, some come from official bodies or organizations from within the church, and some even come from whole Annual Conferences.

Legislation is submitted prior to General Conference and is compiled for delegates into volumes of the **Advanced Daily Christian Advocate** to read and review. The ADCA is translated into four languages - English, French, Portuguese and Kiswahili.



REVISIONS

Submitted legislation is **grouped by theme** into one of fourteen **Legislative Committees**. Each General Conference delegate serves on a single committee and spends the first several days in committee reading, having conversations about, and revising what has been submitted.

Often there are **similar pieces of legislation** that aim to do the same thing that can be selected, combined, and/or revised before passing them forward.

Each day General Conference delegates receive **updated legislation** that has moved from committee on to the full body.



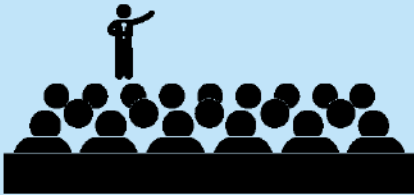
LEARN MORE nccumc.org/gc

Sources: umc.org, umnews.org, resourceumc.org

THE ROAD TO GENERAL CONFERENCE

PART 4 OF 4

WHAT IS GENERAL CONFERENCE? *(continued)*



PLENARY SESSIONS

The full body of the General Conference meets together for worship, dialogue, and voting. It is in **full plenary sessions** where votes are taken on petitions and resolutions.

VOTING

Each General Conference delegate votes on legislation brought before the body. Most legislation requires only a **majority vote**.



Changes to the **constitution** require **both** a 2/3 vote by the General Conference and a 2/3 aggregate vote of lay and clergy members in annual conferences.

AFTER GENERAL CONFERENCE



REVISED DOCUMENTS

The *Book of Discipline*, the *Book of Resolutions*, and other documents as approved by the General Conference are updated with revisions. Passed legislation usually becomes effective on **January 1st** of the following year.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Constitutional amendments passed by 2/3 of the General Conference are sent to Annual Conferences for voting. Those **elected to attend Annual Conference** from their church or district will cast a vote.



Once **all Annual Conferences** from across the connection have voted, if 2/3 of the total votes cast are in favor, that legislation becomes official.



LEARN MORE
nccumc.org/gc

Sources: umc.org, umnews.org, resourceumc.org
Created for the VAUMC and then adapted.

SUN 28	MON 29	TUE 30	WED May 1	THU 2	FRI 3	SAT 4
Pastor: General Conference			● 7pm Prayer C	Pastor Edgar @ Plank Chapel UMC		
● 8am Cancell ● 10am Sunda ● 11am Worshi	Pastor Edgar's I ● 6pm Stronge			● 6pm Stronge		● 6pm Dinner C
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
● 8am Awaken ● 10am Sunda ● 11am Worshi ● 12pm Church	Kittrell Tent Revival 6:30-8:30 at Kittrell Community Center			Pastor Edgar @ Plank Chapel UMC		
	Pastor Edgar's I ● 6pm Stronge	Pastor Edgar@Bethel UMC	● 3pm Choir Re ● 7pm Prayer C	● 6pm Connect ● 6pm Stronge		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Mother's Day ● 8am Awaken ● 10am Sunda ● 11am Worshi	Pastor Edgar's I ● 6pm Stronge	Pastor Edgar@Bethel UMC	● 10am Senior ● 7pm Prayer C	Pastor Edgar @ Plank Chapel UMC		
				● 6pm Stronge		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Pentecost Sund ● 8am UMM Br ● 10am Sunda 2 more	Pastor Edgar's I ● 6pm Stronge	Pastor Edgar@Bethel UMC	● 3pm Choir Re ● 7pm Prayer C	Pastor Edgar @ Plank Chapel UMC		● 9am Free Ma
				● 6pm Stronge		
26	27	28	29	30	31	Jun 1
Graduate Recog ● 8am Awaken ● 10am Sunda ● 11am Worshi	Pastor Edgar's I ● 6pm Stronge	Pastor Edgar@Bethel UMC	● 7pm Prayer C	Pastor Edgar @ Plank Chapel UMC		
				● 6pm Stronge		