



Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference

The River of Life Unites Us Annual Conference 2022

Friends,

The first session of the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Annual Conference is fast approaching, and it will be a blessing and privilege to honor the ministry God's accomplished through us in our legacy conferences, to celebrate coming together for the good of the kingdom and to the glory of God, and to look ahead to the opportunities our Maker's unfolding before us as we seek to be messengers of the Gospel wherever we are.

The theme of this year's session is "***The River of Life Unites Us.***" Throughout our gathering, we'll be invited in various ways to remember the goodness that flows from God—the waters of baptism connecting us to the divine and to one another, the outpouring of grace that cleanses and renews us, and the refreshing oases that in parched places quench our thirst. Liturgy, music, and symbol will draw us back to these time and again.

And this includes our **Service of Licensing, Commissioning, & Ordination on June 16 at 7 PM.** Perennially a pinnacle of our shared life and work, it will be especially so this year with a large class of candidates offering their "yes" to God's leading. The reaffirmation of our baptismal covenant is always an integral component of the service, as it gives us the opportunity to express gratitude for being received as God's own and being gifted with a call to serve. This year, we're adding another layer to this reaffirmation by how we present ourselves in that service.

As such we request that all clergy (including candidates) who participate in any way in the Service of Licensing, Commissioning, & Ordination **wear a white or off white alb.** This piece of attire is modeled after a first-century tunic, the most basic clothing item that was widely worn and the piece with which persons were clothed after they were baptized; as such it remains a symbol of the sacrament to this day. And, as a symbol of the sacrament, it reminds us of that most primary of things which unites us: our identity as those who are beloved of God.

Recognizing that perhaps not everyone who wishes to participate owns an alb, conference leadership welcomes you to wear what attire you have that's appropriate to the occasion. If however, you wish to procure an alb, you might seek one out that you might borrow from a colleague. Moreover, there are reasonably-priced options that you can look into, including those found at:

<https://www.cokesbury.com/search?q=alb&pagenumber=2>

<https://www.autom.com/ssearch?keyword=alb>

<https://www.gaspardinc.com/clergy-essentials/albs.html>

<https://www.gaspardinc.com/women-s-clergy-apparel/albs.html>

Ordained clergy who are participating in this service should **also wear a red stole** indicative of their order.

Vesting for this service will take place in the Chapel at Brentwood UMC beginning at 6:30 PM. All clergy who are participating must be dressed and ready to line up by 6:45 PM. Any questions may be directed to Rev. Jason W. Jones at jjones@bartlettumc.org.

We look forward to celebrating this historic evening and worshipping our God together!

TWK Board of Ordained Ministry