



Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference

The River of Life Unites Us

Annual Conference 2022

**Guide for Members of the
Tennessee-Western Kentucky
Annual Conference
June 15 - 17, 2022**

THE MISSION OF THE TENNESSEE-WESTERN KENTUCKY CONFERENCE

...is to discover, equip, connect, and send lay and clergy leaders who shape congregations that offer Jesus Christ to a hurting world one neighborhood at a time.

In the United States, the United Methodist Church has 54 annual conferences, supervised by bishops in 46 episcopal areas. There are 75 annual conferences in Africa, Europe, Eurasia, and the Philippines, which are supervised by 20 bishops.

The Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference, in the Southeastern Jurisdiction, is led by Bishop Bill McAlilly, who was elected as a bishop at the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference in 2012. Bishops often serve for two consecutive four-year terms. Our conference has 921 churches. Bishop McAlilly presides over the annual conference session but, as in the General Conference, does not vote.

Conference staff includes the bishop and episcopal staff, nine district superintendents and their respective district support, several conference program and support staff, financial/operations staff, and communications staff.

District Superintendents

Caney Fork River District: Rev. Donna Parramore

Cumberland River District: Rev. Scott Aleridge (*projected: Rev. Jerry Wallace*)

Harpeth River District: Rev. Allen Black (*projected: Rev. Dr. Vona Wilson*)

Metro District: Rev. Autura Eason-Williams

Mississippi River District: Rev. Dr. Cynthia Davis (*projected: Rev. David Weatherly*)

Purchase District: Rev. Nancy Johnston Varden

Red River District: Rev. Pat Freudenthal

Stones River District: Rev. Chip Hunter

Tennessee River District: Rev. Dan Camp

Each local congregation and multiple point charge belongs to a district. They are presided over by either an ordained elder or a probationary elder, ordained deacon, local pastor, part-time local pastor, student pastor, certified lay minister, certified lay speaker, or supply pastor.

Who are members of the annual conference?

All clergy (elders and deacons, active and retired) hold their membership in the annual conference, not in a local church. Deaconesses and diaconal ministers, both retired and active, are lay members of annual conference.

The Book of Discipline requires an equal number of laity and clergy to be members of the annual conference session. To be a voting member, a lay person must be elected by their local congregation/charge through a nomination and voting process that is held at the church's annual charge conference.

The charge conference is to the local church what the annual conference session is to the conference; i.e., the annual business meeting. Charge conferences may happen more often, but they must happen at least once a year, under the rules of *The Book of Discipline*. A district superintendent or their designee presides.

Laity are *members* of the annual conference, whereas *delegates* are those who are elected to represent the annual conference at jurisdictional and General conferences. There are several at-large members to annual conference, who, by virtue of their district, conference or national positions, are also voting members of the annual conference.



**1st SESSION OF THE
TENNESSEE-WESTERN KENTUCKY CONFERENCE**
*Theme: **The River of Life Unites Us***

The annual conference session is presided over by the resident bishop, who is the legal chairperson of the annual conference.

Resident Bishop: Bishop William “Bill” T. McAlilly

Assistant to the Bishop: Rev. Dr. Rob Martin

Conference Secretary: Rev. Monica Mowdy (*elected for a four-year term at beginning of the quadrennium*)

Conference Treasurer: Larry Davis

Chancellor: Lisa Carson

Associate Chancellor: Zack McMillen

Conference Lay Leader: Janice McCallen

Assistant Secretaries: Rev. Nancy Speas and Rev. Erin Beasley

– take minutes and keep track of all the business that occurs during business sessions.

Head Teller: Rev. Stephen Saul

– oversees the validation of the voting process during the business sessions; receives motion forms from the floor and monitors microphones during business sessions.

Floor Manager: Rev. Brian Marcoulier

– assists with the flow of the business sessions by assuring that speakers and those making reports are available at their appointed time and to assist those at the head table.

Pages

– provide technical assistance, answer questions, and may serve as ushers.

What is the business of the annual conference session?

Members will be called upon to vote on several items including the annual budget for next year, resolutions, the consent agenda, and

any other items brought forth before the body. In the year prior to General and jurisdictional conferences, voting on delegates takes place. You can find all materials presented in advance on the conference website and in the app.

Annual conference also includes many opportunities for inspirational worship, reports from areas of the conference; and the Service of Licensing, Commissioning, and Ordination. You will also participate in other celebrations of various kinds, prayers for discernment, and times of learning and fellowship.

View the conference schedule for a list of planned events at <https://twkumc.org/AC2022/>

Annual conference 2022 offering

The annual conference offering this year will go to TWK Disaster Response so our teams can continue to assist survivors of natural disasters that have occurred in our conference. This offering will be taken up during opening worship. An online giving link will be available on the annual conference webpage



Who can vote and how do I vote?

When you check in, you are given a name badge with a stripe at the bottom indicating your voting status. Early in the conference schedule, the bishop declares the boundaries of the bar. People who are not allowed to vote, i.e. guests and friends, staff and a few others, must sit outside the bar. (The bar may be open for guests due to the fact we may have low enough registration.)

To be eligible and able to vote:

You must use your issued voting code, which comes to you by email from GNTV.

You will need a personal device with its own data plan.

You may vote from anywhere your device will work. (This is a hybrid conference.)

Lay members vote. Clergy vote. Guests do not.

If you wish to be recognized to speak to a motion, **whether in-person or online**, you will need to use the *get recognized* feature on the GNTV website. For instructions, go to <https://gntv.info/virtual-event-help/>. If recognized by the bishop, you will then use the *raise hand* feature on the Zoom webinar. The TWKUMC limits speeches to three speeches for and three speeches against, each limited to

three minutes. If making or amending a motion, you will need to have your copy/text ready and paste it into the Get Recognized text box, so that the bishop and the screens can say it exactly right when asking for a vote. Robert's Rules of Order are followed. For more information on this process, please go to our conference website at <https://twkumc.org/news/gntv-voting-aid-resources/>. The bishop's decisions must conform to the conference's Standing Rules. See rules at <https://twkumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/TWK-Standing-Rules-Final.pdf>.

Alternate members, elected by each church, may attend to hear the debate and procedures, but may not vote. If a lay member to annual conference is unable to fulfill their duties as the representative of a charge to annual conference, the alternate lay member to annual conference from that charge, elected at charge conference, can fill their position. This change must be cleared through your district office and recognized by the conference secretary. To request a change, submit an email to your district administrative assistant. (If the pastor is not able to do so, the same can be submitted by the district superintendent of the district for that charge). Until something official has been submitted, the alternate to annual conference will not be given voting credentials.

Any member may move for the question, which takes precedence over the debate going on. You will use your get recognized feature on the Zoom meeting event. It requires two-thirds agreement. The annual conference session follows its own Standing Rules. In any parliamentary situation not clearly covered by the Standing Rules, the conference is governed in its actions by the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*.

What if I have questions while attending annual conference?

If you have a general question about annual conference or the facility, please ask a friendly volunteer at the Guest Help Desk or find a conference staff member.

How do I know what to report back to my church?

The Communications team will do a conference recap article — available on the conference website at <https://www.twkumc.org/ac2022/> soon after the close of annual conference. That page is where you can find links to just about everything you will need to know about annual conference.

Sometimes I don't understand what is meant. Can you help?

Here is a list of jargon, words that we United Methodists use without thinking, but that someone new to the process might have trouble with. It's in alphabetical order for easy reference.

Apportionments: Every church is expected to pay its apportionments, the share of the overall expenses of running a large denomination, jurisdiction, annual conference and district. Apportionment giving financially underwrites United Methodist ministry and mission beyond the local church. The amount for each church is reached by a specific formula.

The Book of Discipline: This is the official manual of procedures and regulations. It covers every aspect of church life, doctrine, guidance for Christian behavior, procedures for becoming a church member or minister, protocols for organizing and administering local churches, annual conferences, districts and churchwide boards and agencies, as well as rules of church law. It is revised every four years at General Conference.

The current one is dated 2016. The last General Conference was May 10-20, 2016, in Portland, Oregon. A special session was held in February 2019 in St. Louis. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, General Conference has been postponed and is tentatively scheduled for 2023.

The Book of Resolutions: This book explains the many social and justice ministries' actions that The United Methodist Church believes in, teaches, and practices. It contains all resolutions or pronouncements on issues approved by the General Conference and currently valid.

Cabinet: The appointive cabinet includes the bishop, the assistant to the bishop, nine district superintendents, the treasurer/director of administrative services, and the connectional ministries officer.

Central Conference: This refers to the seven geographic areas of Africa, Europe, Eurasia, and the Philippines, each composed of annual conferences. Our partner conferences in Zimbabwe and Russia are each part of the Central Conferences. We are also partners with Methodist churches in South Korea and Puerto Rico.

Charge Conference: The basic policy-making body of the local congregation. It reviews the congregation's ministries, endorses candidates for ministry, and sets clergy compensation.

Connectional: You often hear this word used, as in “We’re a connectional church.” It’s unique to The United Methodist Church and simply means all United Methodist leaders and congregations throughout the world are connected by certain loyalties and commitments that call us to live in covenantal accountability. Connectionalism empowers us to be in ministry around the world and our relationships are on equal footing, not one dominating over another.

Deacon: A person ordained to lifetime ministry of Word and service to community and congregation. Deacons are not part of the itinerant system, which appoints pastors to congregations; rather, they find their own positions that are then approved by the bishop. After ordination, they carry the title reverend.

District: Regional group of churches or charges, supervised by a district superintendent. The Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference has nine district superintendents, who are appointed by the bishop to administer the work of the Church within a particular geographic area.

Elder: A person ordained to a lifetime ministry of service, Word, sacrament and order. They are authorized to administer the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion and to order the church for mission and ministry. After ordination, they are referred to as reverend. Elders are itinerant and are designated to serve through the appointive system.

Itinerancy: The system of The United Methodist Church by which pastors are appointed to their charges by the bishops, unlike other denominations where a pastor is called. Elders in the United Methodist Church are guaranteed an appointment and are under obligation to serve where appointed.

Licensed Local Pastor (LLC): A licensed local pastor, annually approved by the District Committee on Ordained Ministry (dCOM), who is authorized to perform all duties of an ordained minister while assigned to a particular church or charge under the supervision of a district superintendent. A licensed pastor is recognized as clergy only while they are under an appointment. There are full time and part time local pastors.

Provisional Elder or Deacon: In the process toward ordination for either deacons or elders, there is a three-year period that is somewhat like an internship. They serve a congregation or Christian ministry, study, take tests, and develop their spiritual life and leadership. After certain requirements are achieved and with the recommendation of their District Committee on Ordained Ministry (dCOM), they apply to be commissioned. The Board of Ordained Ministry reviews the applications and will recommend them for commissioning or to defer as a way to continue to discern and ready themselves for the work ahead. Once commissioned, after successfully completing all required courses, participating in the Residents in Ministry (RIM) process, finalizing the application process, and then with the approval of the Board of Ordained Ministry, the person is put before clergy colleagues and with their approval can be ordained. The term has changed from probationary to provisional, but the old name lingers.

Social Principles: A document setting forth the basic position of The United Methodist Church on important social issues. Each General Conference reviews the **Social Principles** document, makes changes, and reissues it in full in *The Book of Discipline*.

Information on the General Church



The United Methodist Church does not have a central headquarters or a single executive leader. Duties are divided among bodies that include the General Conference, the Council of Bishops and the Judicial Council. Each of these entities is required by our Constitution, a foundational document, to be part of our structure, and plays a significant role in the life of the church.

The General Conference: The United Methodist General Conference meets every four years, with no fewer than 600, nor more than 1,000 delegates. It last met in February 2019, in a special session to debate a single issue. The last full session of General Conference was in 2016 in Portland, Oregon. At the General Conference session, delegates from all over the world voted on many items which amended and were added to the *The Book of Discipline* and *The Book of Resolutions*. The General Conference might be compared to the legislative branch of the U.S. government. The General Conference is the only official voice of The United Methodist Church. Though bishops preside over the General Conference, they have no vote.

Working with the General Conference is the **Council of Bishops**, 164 active and retired bishops from all over the world, who meet somewhat like the executive branch of the U.S. government. Currently, the U.S. has 46 bishops who administer 56 annual conferences. They elect their own leader each quadrennium.

The president of the Council of Bishops is Bishop Thomas Bickerton (2022), who serves the New York Episcopal Area.

As the denomination's Supreme Court, a nine-member **Judicial Council** — composed of both laity and clergy — interprets church law and determines constitutionality of proceedings at all levels of church life. It usually meets twice a year in the spring and fall to consider whether actions of various church bodies adhere to the Constitution and *The Book of Discipline*.

The next largest body is the jurisdictional conference. There are five jurisdictions in the United States: Northeastern, North Central, Southeastern, South Central, and Western.

The Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference is one of 13 conferences (nine bishops) that belong to the Southeastern Jurisdiction.
<http://www.sejumc.org/>

The jurisdictional conference meets every four years following the General Conference; its primary function is to elect bishops. It also conducts business of interest to the whole region, such as mergers of conferences. The last Southeastern Jurisdictional conference was held in Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, and virtually on July 21, 2021. The called session met to vote on the coming together of the Memphis and Tennessee annual conferences. The vote passed and the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference began on January 1, 2022.

Much more information about the United Methodist Church is available at www.umc.org.