

**Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference Board of Laity and Lay Servant Ministries**  
**Janice McCallen and George Brown, TWK Conference Lay Leaders**

The laity of the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference continue to show great resilience and adaptive leadership as we completed our second year working together in mission and ministry.

We are so much stronger together! As the laity of the TWK Conference strive to fulfill our calling to live out the Great Commission and to work together in mission and ministry, we continue to build new and exciting relationships throughout the conference. Hundreds of gifted laity conference-wide volunteer their time and talents by serving in leadership and support roles on various strategy teams that help strengthen our conference structure.

Laity throughout our conference continue to support disaster relief efforts, as our geographic area continues to rebuild from massive storms and fires that battered our region. In the aftermath of The Covenant School shootings and other violent crimes in our conference municipalities, laity have joined together to support our conference's call to action around gun reform.

Our local churches continue to provide new ways to offer worship and lay people have partnered with their clergy to provide in-person and virtual worship opportunities for their churches. These new ways of worship have brought more people into our church buildings and our online communities.

Lay Servant Ministry classes are offered across most of our districts, and interest in in-person classes has grown. Additionally, those desiring further training or certifications have found quality online educational experiences, with roots in Wesleyan theology, on BeADisciple.com.

We will once again continue with a hybrid approach to annual conference this year. Some of our lay delegates will serve as hosts both in-person at First United Methodist Church in Murfreesboro, TN, and in our online community. We are extremely excited to offer our first TWK Conference Laity Luncheon this year. This luncheon will be hosted by the Board of Laity and sponsored by ENCORE Ministry. Representatives from Encore will serve as keynote speakers as they educate and inform our laity and clergy on the programs and grants available to support senior adult ministries in our local churches.

Disaffiliations have remained a distraction for our conference, but we continue to celebrate, highlight, and affirm the many reasons why it's important to us to remain in the UMC. We are thankful and blessed that our current Board of Laity members remain committed to the UMC.

George Brown, Associate Conference Lay Leader, along with other current and former Board of Laity members, faithfully serve on our General Conference delegation. The entire delegation has spent countless hours in prayer and preparation for this historical event. We offer our fervent prayers to our delegation and all General Conference delegates.

The laity of the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference remain committed to partner with our clergy leaders to fulfill the mission of our conference. Together we will "discover, equip, connect and send lay and clergy leaders who shape congregations that offer Christ to a hurting world, one neighborhood at a time." We are honored to be part of this great work.

God bless the laity and clergy of the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference!