

**TENNESSEE-WESTERN KENTUCKY CONFERENCE
2026-2027 NOMINATIONS**

Resident Bishop: David Graves
Conference Secretary: Jefferson Furtado
Treasurer/Statistician: Mark Hagewood
Lay Leader: Janice McCallen
Chancellor/Parliamentarian: Lisa Carson
Associate Chancellor: Zack McMillen

CONNECTIONAL TABLE

Team Leader: David Graves
Facilitator/Assistant to the Bishop: Vona Wilson
Facilitator/ Connectional Ministry Officer: Melinda Young Britt
Administrative Guide Team Leader: Bethany Huffman
Connection Guide Team Leader: Darren Mayberry-Wright
Leadership Development Guide Team Leader: Heather Harriss
Justice and Mercy Guide Team Leader: Carlisle Jones
Mental Health and Well-Being Guide Team Leader: Marie C. King
Faith and Innovation Guide Team Representative: Carlos Uroza
Lay Leader: Janice McCallen
Dean of the Cabinet: Nancy Johnston Varden
BOM Representative: Toi King
General Conference Delegate: Josh Shaw
Conference Treasurer/Statistician: Mark Hagewood
Director of Communications: Amy Hurd, APR
Director of Operations, Connectional Ministries: Courtney Lawson

ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDE TEAM

Leader: Bethany Huffman

Steve Curry
T.J. Dixon

David Hayes
Kevin Hostler

John Pearce
Don Terry

Director of Administrative Services: Mark Hagewood

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Class of 2027 Jim Grove, Larry Newton, Edna Lee Borders
Class of 2028 Don Terry, Jackson Henry, Leticia Mayberry-Wright
Class of 2029 Gale Sharp, Martha Brooke Martin, Darryl Humphrey
Class of 2030 Raul Alegria, Haley Robinson, Steven VanHooser

Director of Property Re-imagination: BJ Brack
Assistant to the Bishop: Vona Wilson
Director of Administrative Services/Treasurer: Mark Hagewood
Chancellor: Lisa Carson

COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (CFA)

Officers: Voted by Members, President
Class of 2027 Sue Engle Carrigan, Zach Moffatt, Mary Kate Myers, Michael Waldrop
Class of 2028 Brenda Harlan, Kate Hinson, Judy Jones, JL Nave
Class of 2029 Cary Pappas, Sarah Carty
Class of 2030 John Pearce, Kylene McDonald, Mona Miller, Philip Hardin

Director of Administrative Services/Treasurer: Mark Hagewood
Assistant Treasurer without vote: Teresa Thornton
Bishop without vote: David Graves
Assistant to Bishop and Cabinet Representative without vote: Vona Wilson
Connectional Ministry Officer without vote: Melinda Young Britt
Foundation Director without vote: David Weatherly

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Officers: Kevin Hostler, Chair
Ken Murray, Vice-Chair
Class of 2028 Gracie Dugan, Kevin Hostler
Class of 2029 Ken Murray, Leslie Hotzfeld
Class of 2030 Michael Walker, Debbie Robinson, Rachel Eller, Krislyn Durham, Beth Stockwell

CFA Representative: Kylene McDonald
Director of Administrative Services/Treasurer: Mark Hagewood
Assistant Administrative Officer/Human Resources Specialist: Alice Grunau
Connectional Ministry Officer: Melinda Young Britt

COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

Chair: Nathan Reed
Class of 2028 Jolinne Ballentine-Downy
Class of 2029 Nathan Reed
Class of 2030 Kathryn Tune, Susan Spieth, Todd Hill, Luci Cromer

Director of Administrative Services/Treasurer: Mark Hagewood
Assistant Benefits Officer: Clare Wilson
Cabinet Representative: Diantha McLeod

BOARD OF PENSIONS & COMMITTEE ON HEALTH BENEFITS

Chair: Steve Curry
Vice Chair: Donna Spencer
Secretary: Judy Tyree
Class of 2027 Deanna Hannah, Gina Link,
Class of 2028 J. Keith Long, Andy Morris
Class of 2029 Ronnie Peck, Sheila Peters
Class of 2030 Michael Thomas, Annette Vaughan
Class of 2031 Emily Walker

Director of Administrative Services/Treasurer: Mark Hagewood
Assistant Benefits Officer: Clare Wilson
Cabinet Representative: Jerry Wallace

COMMITTEE ON SAFE SPACES

Chair: Marilyn Dupree

Raul Alegira
Lisa Carson
Corky Carter

Lee R. Dotson
Jeff Koch
Jonathan Lewis

Hannah Underwood
Michael Wallace

Director of Operations, Connectional Ministries: Courtney Lawson

Associate to District Superintendent: Sharon Lewis-Karamoko

Director Of Administrative Services: Mark Hagewood

SAFE SANCTUARY SUB-TEAM

Chair: Hannah Underwood

Joanna Cummings
Stacey Haralson

John Harding
Beth Morris

Lucinda Sharp

Encore Ministries Representative: Lisa Harper

Office of Administrative Services: Alice Grunau

Director of Operations, Connectional Ministries: Courtney Lawson

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT GUIDE TEAM

Leader: Heather Harriss

Class of 2028 Heather Harriss

Class of 2029 Georgia Dawson

Class of 2030 Catherine Thomas, Monica Butler, Nicole Poland Nyembo, Charles Elliott

Director of Operations, Connectional Ministries: Courtney Lawson

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY (BOM)

Officers: Mary Beth Bernheisel, Chair
Regina Hall, Vice Chair
Delores Smith, Secretary
Birgitte Thaarup French, Licensing School Dean
Roger Brown, BOMEK Chair
Luther Ray Chandler, Continuing Formation and Education Chair
Mark Hagewood, Ministerial Education Fund Chair/Treasurer
OPEN, Candidacy & Ministerial Recruitment Team
Carlos Uroza, Residence in Ministry Chair
Lenior H. Culbertson, Conference Relations Committee Chair
Toi King, Chair of the Order of Elders
Jonathan Lewis, Chair of the Order of Deacons
April Arnold, Chair of the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members
Jeffrey Martin Rudy, Parliamentarian
Tondala Hayward, BOM Registrar

April Arnold
Mary Beth Bernheisel
Helen Bond

Kimi Brown
Roger Brown
Harriet Bryan

Jim Capps
Luther Ray Chandler

Sandra Clay
LeNoir Culbertson
Liz Dover
Devona S. Dunn
Regina Girten
J Dan Gullett
Birgitte French
Mark Hagewood
Cynthia Haley
James Haley
Regina Hall
Amanda Hartmann
Westmoreland
Tondala Hayward
Jimmy Hendricks

Francis De Hennessey
Gail High
Maggie Jarrell
Adam Jones
Toi King
Steven Lee
Jonathan Lewis
Kevin Marston
Amy Martin
Sam McGlothlin
Virginia Mohundro
Lanita Monroe
Bo Myers
Holly Neal
Josh Newberry

Travis Penney
Tom Pierce
LaRhonda Potts
Erin Racine
Haley Robinson
Jeffrey Rudy
Glense Scales
Delores Smith
Velma Thomas-Parker
Carlos Uroza
Tommy Vann
Vicki Wallace
Kevin Wheatley

Cabinet Representative: Cynthia Talley
Consulting during transition: Jefferson Furtado

CONFERENCE RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair: LeNoir H. Culbertson

Kimi Brown
Harriet Bryan

Francis De Hennessey

Jonathan Lewis

BOARD OF LAITY

Lay Leader/Chair: Janice McCallen
Associate Lay Leader: TBD
Director of Lay Servant Ministries: TBD
Scouting Coordinator: TBD
President of UWF: Karen Saunders
UWF member: Deborah Poole
UWF member: Katie Harris
President of UMM: OPEN
UMM member: TBD
UMM member: TBD
President United Methodist Young Adults: TBD
UM Young Adult Member: TBD
UM Young Adult Member: TBD
President UMYF: TBD
UMYF Member: TBD
UMYF Member: TBD
Youth Member: TBD
Youth Member: TBD
Lay Member: TBD
Lay Member: TBD
Lay Member: TBD
District Lay Leader: TBD
District Lay Leader: TBD
District Lay Leader: TBD
Cabinet Representative: Nancy Johnston Varden

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

Chair: Chip Hunter

Vice Chair: Lory Catlett

Class of 2027 Dietrich Kirk

Class of 2028 Bryant Fisher, Janie Luna, Blake Moore

Class of 2029 Regina Hall, April Scales

Class of 2030 Carrie Yoder, Abe Zimmerman, Jason Jones, Mike Kemp, Lory Catlett, Chip Hunter

Director of Operations, Connectional Ministries: Courtney Lawson

Treasurer/Director of Admin Services: Mark Hagewood

Associate to District Superintendent: Adam Kelchner

BOARD OF CAMP AND RETREAT MINISTRIES

Chair: John Hill

Class of 2027 Jedediah Hanes, John Hill

Class of 2028 Gary Hawkins, Bill Howell, Mike Smith, Carrie Sherrill, Adele White

Class of 2029 Judy Coursey, April Grippo, Vin Walkup, Jamie Weakley, Justin Ramer

Class of 2030 Jim Melrose, Lucy Ann Gossett, Melisa Derseweh

Executive Director of Camp and Retreat Ministries, Director of Cedar Crest Camp: Russell Casteel

Director of Beersheba Springs Assembly: Sarah Ratz

Camping and Retreat Ministries Representative: Audrey Jordan

Connectional Ministry Officer: Melinda Young Britt

Director of Operations, Connectional Ministries: Courtney Lawson

Treasurer/Director of Office of Administrative Services: Mark Hagewood

YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM

Chair: Jordan Littrell

Class of 2027 Jordan Littrell

Class of 2028 Colin Moore, Mary Kate Myers, Mandy Rogers

Class of 2029 Andrew Connell, TJ Debman, Mary Catherine Lowe

Class of 2030 Steven Racine

Camping and Retreat Ministries Representative: Jonathan Gowan

Camping and Retreat Ministries Representative: Russell Casteel

Camping and Retreat Ministries Representative: Caleb Purdue

MLC TWK Coordinator: Kat Bair

Director of Operations, Connectional Ministries: Courtney Lawson

CONFERENCE YOUTH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Eli Bagwell
Sabrina Cherry
Brady Clark
Lennen Eakes

Beckett Eller
Cintia Furtado
Lily Newberry
Sarah Ponath

Lindsay Stanfield
Miriam Varden
Lanieya Young

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM

Chair: Maggie Jarrell

Gracie Dugan
Tracy Evers
Betsy Haley
Janet Haynes

Theresa Franklin-Hill
Kayla Johnson
Audrey Jordan
Kelsey Sledge

Jessica Swift
Hannah Underwood
Kindle Willis

MLC TWK Coordinator: Kat Bair

JUSTICE & MERCY GUIDE TEAM

Leader: Carlisle Jones

Class of 2027: Amy Martin, John Purdue
Class of 2028: Carlisle Jones, Harold Turks
Class of 2030: Laura Creekmore, Fabiana De Oliveira Ferreira, Jong Ju Lee

Director of Operations, Connectional Ministries: Courtney Lawson

COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE (CORR)

Chair: Delores Rivers

Anti-Racism Co-Chair: Larry Chitwood
Anti-Racism Co-Chair: Bill Gibson
GCORR Member: Stephen Handy
CRCC Chair: Kimi Brown
CRCC Member: Cynthia Talley
Disability Ministry Cohort Facilitator: Keri Cress
Hispanic/Latino/Indigenous Ministries Chair: Myriam Cortes

Director of Operations - Connectional Ministries: Courtney Lawson

ANTI-RACISM COALITION SUB-TEAM (ARC)

Co-Chair: Larry Chitwood
Co-Chair: Bill Gibson

Allyson Ashmore
Ben Boone
Sherrie Cavin
Keith Caldwell
Cynthia Davis
Aaron Dennis

Allison Gossett
Stephen Handy
Tondala Hayward
Stacey Harwell-Dye
Toi King
Ingrid McIntyre

Holly Neal
Hope Peppers
Jerome Scales, Jr.
Deborah Smith
Connor Williams

CROSS-RACIAL CROSS-CULTURAL SUB-TEAM (CRCC)
(Serves the function of ELCC, reference BOD Par. 631)

Chair: Kimi Brown

Corrie Alexander
Mary Beth Bernheisel
Kimi Brown

Jackie Gardner
Tondala Hayward
Sharlet Panhalkar

Cynthia Talley
Susanne Tropez-Sims
Billy Vaughn

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN (COSROW)

Chair: Sarah McWhirt-Toler

Class of 2027: Sarah McWhirt-Toler, Patti Zimmerman, Ellie Crain

Class of 2029: Shelby Bowles, Carol Cavin-Dillon, Jackie Gardner, Sarah McCain, Elizabeth Williams

Class of 2030: Birgitte French, Tom Fuerst

Director of Operations, Connectional Ministries: Courtney Lawson

Dean of Cabinet: Nancy Johnston Varden

COMMITTEE ON CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Chair: Monica Mowdy

Class of 2027: Jedediah Hanes, Dale Mathis, Davis Turner

Class of 2028: Mary Foust, Eric Mayle, John Melick

Class of 2029: Monica Mowdy, Ben Boone, Eric Bronkala, Stacey Harwell-Dye, Tim Holton-Overcast, Jim Hughes, Peter Millett, Shelby Slowey, Austin Teegarden

Class of 2030: Nicole Harriman, Tom Lee, Fred Morton, Todd Wilson

Creation Care Representative: Andy Binford

Anti-Racism Coalition Representative: Larry Chitwood

Director of Operations, Connectional Ministries: Courtney Lawson

Mission Coordinator for Social Action of the UWF: Melba Mitchell

CREATION CARE

Co-Chair: Ann Cover

Co-Chair: Gregory Waldrop

Funding & Fundraising: Paul Slentz, Tom Smedley

Ministry Coordinator: Daniel Joranko

Andy Binford
Shelby Bowles
Kendra Capps
Russell Casteel

Mary Beth Eberle
Wendy Knight
Gary Lawson Sr.
Neil Letson

Scott Murray
John Varden
Bo Walker
Crys Zinkiewicz

DISASTER RESPONSE

Chair: Donna Parramore

Ed Baumgarten
Jorge Berrios
Rebecca Gwynn-Dixon
Karastin Hancock

David Lay
Mollie-June Miller
Bachman
Sally Millsap

HG Stovall
Susanne Tropez-Sims
John Varden
Rickey Wade
Gary Wedgwood

Conference Disaster Response Coordinator: Robert Craig

Associate to District Superintendent: BJ Brack

UMCOR: Angela Overstreet

Episcopal Office: Brandi Galbraith

COMMITTEE ON HISPANIC-LATINO-INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES

Chair: Myriam Cortes

Jorge Berrios
Luz Campos
Joel Centeno
Goyo De la Cruz

Angellie Felicano
Stacey Hardwell-Dye
Fabiana Oliveira
Donna Parramore

Alma Pérez
John Purdue
Lilia Ramirez
Fabian Valiter

COMMITTEE ON NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES (CONAM)

Chair: Mary T. Newman

Pat Bryan
Wes Bryan
Goyo De La Cruz

Debbie Fitzhugh
Margie Hesson
Jeffrey Hobbs

Teryl Loftis
Hugh Lowe
Debbie Neely

College Representative: JosEllen Turrentine

United Women in Faith Representative: TBD

LGBTQ+ INCLUSION

Chair: Izzie Zimmerman

Chaplain: Timothy Holton

Chris Haynes

Lindsey Jeter

Daron Sills

Dean of Cabinet: Nancy Johnston Varden

Directory of Operations, Connectional Ministries: Courtney Lawson

FAITH AND INNOVATION

Faith and Innovation Guide Team

Chair: Melinda Young Britt

Chaplain: Danai Chinoda

Daniel Chinoda
Kristin Clark-Banks
Aaron Dennis
Tory Dillard

Mary Beth Hagan
Bud Hamilton
Lindsey Jeter
Brian Marcoulter

Jeff McCormick
Kris Roof
John Weaver
Ellen Zinkiewicz

Chaplain of Discernment and Innovation: Amanda Crice

Assistant to the Bishop: Vona Wilson

Director of Operations, Connectional Ministries: Courtney Lawson

Faith and Innovation Mission Spark

Chair: Ellen Zinkiewicz

Chaplain: Brian Marcoulier

Sean Flannigan
David Martin
Camille Mayle
Lynn Patterson

Benny Weakley
Jaimi Weingartner
Dane Wood

Research Specialist: Kevin Crawford

Treasurer/Director of Administrative Services: Mark Hagewood

Associate to the District Superintendent: BJ Brack

Director of Operations, Connectional Ministries: Courtney Lawson

Faith and Innovation Thriving Congregations

Chair: Mary Beth Hagan

Chaplain: Luke Lea

Nick Baird-Chrisohon
Eric Bronkala
Patrick Camacho

Kristin Clark-Banks
Stacey Haralson
Jim Melrose
Amy Moritz

Betty Proctor

Connectional Liaison: Keri Cress

Associate to the District Superintendent: Stephen Handy

Faith and Innovation Cultivating Call, Imagination & Transformation (CIT)

Chair & Chaplain: Amanda Crice

Brady Banks
Weslee Hill
Jason McAnally

Sheila Peters
Adam Rush
Josh Shaw

Blake Simmons
Sean Stanfield
Bo Thomas

Associate to the District Superintendent: Sharon Lewis-Karamoko

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING GUIDE TEAM

Chair: Courtney Lawson

Chaplain: Marie C. King

Melinda Young Britt
Roger Brown
Renee Dillard
Angela Harris

Keller Hawkins
Timothy Holton
Amy J. Hurd
Audrey Jordan

Ken Murray
Clare Wilson
Nancy Johnston Varden

CONNECTION GUIDE TEAM

Chair: Darren Mayberry-Wright

Class of 2028 Megan McInnis

Class of 2029 Rachel Hagewood, Jerrell Nelson

Class of 2030 Darren Mayberry-Wright, Tim Tanton, Celinda Hughes, Brad Ewing, Amanda Hartmann-Westmoreland, Greg Taylor

Camping & Retreat Representative: Sarah Ratz

Camping & Retreat Representative: Audrey Jordan

District Admin.: Robin Stanfield

District Admin.: Penny Story

District Admin.: Chris Grosson

Director of Communications: Amy Hurd, APR

Digital Media Specialist: Jonathan Stallings

Connectional Liaison: Keri Cress

Episcopal Office Representative: Brandi Galbraith

ANNUAL CONFERENCE DESIGN TEAM

Chair/Coordinator: Amy Hurd, APR

Conference Secretary: Jefferson Furtado

Assistant Treasurer: Clare Wilson

Assistant to the Bishop: Vona Wilson

Administrative Assistant: Joanna Newberry

Chancellor: Lisa Carson

Lay Leader: Janice McCallen

Episcopal Liaison: Brandi Galbraith

Connectional Ministries Officer: Melinda Young Britt

Digital Media Specialist: Jonathan Stallings

COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

Chair: Melba Mitchell

Krislyn Durham

Linda Furtado

Matthew Kelley

Eva Lang

Director of Administrative Services/Treasurer: Mark Hagewood

Annual Conference Design Team Chair: Amy Hurd

Conference Secretary: Jefferson Furtado

Conference Chancellor: Lisa Carson

Assistant to the Bishop: Vona Wilson

COMMITTEE ON STANDING RULES REVIEW

Chair: JV Thompson

Wayne Davis
David Hill

Zak Kelley

Susanne Tropez-Sims

Director of Administrative Services/Treasurer: Mark Hagewood
Conference Design Team Chair: Amy Hurd
Conference Secretary: Jefferson Furtado
Conference Chancellor: Lisa Carson
Ministry Assistant: Joanna Newberry

COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES & HISTORY

Chair: Lyn Hoyt

Class of 2027 Jim Overcast, Carese Parker
Class of 2028 Richard Griffin, J Gullett, Marie C. King
Class of 2029 Lyn Hoyt, William Bowen, Rob Dunbar
Class of 2030 Nicole Harriman, Mack Land, Lawrence Horner

Conference Archivist: Gratia Strother
Conference Historian & Strother's Meetinghouse Curator: David Martin
Asbury-Babb Curator: Phil Hodge
Director of Administrative Services/Treasurer: Mark Hagewood
Research Specialist: Kevin Crawford
General Commission on Archives and History Representative: Jerome King Del Pino

RESEARCH & EVALUATION TEAM

Chair: Amy Hurd

Class of 2028: Bob Hurd
Class of 2029: Pam Church

Research Specialist: Kevin Crawford

EPISCOPAL OFFICE TEAMS

CABINET ECUMENICAL OFFICER: Jefferson Furtado

COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY

Officers: Bryan Brooks, Chair
Janice McCallen, Secretary/Conference Lay Leader
Milton Wilson, Residency Chair

J. W. Luna
Jeff McCormick

Mona Miller
Michele Morton

Deb Suddarth
Annette Vaughan

SEJ Clergy Delegate: Harriet Bryan
SEJ Lay Delegate: Josh Shaw
General Conference Lay Delegate (Legacy TN): Jim Allen
General Conference Lay Delegate (Legacy Memphis): David Reed
General Conference Clergy Delegate (Legacy Memphis): Rob Martin

EPISCOPAL RESIDENCE COMMITTEE

Chair: Milton Wilson

Council on Finance and Administration Designee: Mona Miller

Conference Board of Trustees Designee: Jackson Henry

Consultant: Brandi Galbraith

COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCE NOMINATIONS

Chair: Bishop David Graves

Will Clark
Linda Furtado

Susan Graham
Amanda Hartmann
Westmoreland

Nancy Johnston Varden
Cliff Steger

Leadership Development Representative: Georgia Dawson

Faith & Innovation Representative: Keri Cress

Connection Representative: Chris Grosson

Administrative Representative: Bethany Huffman

Justice & Mercy Representative: Harold Turks

Connectional Ministries Officer: Melinda Young Britt

Director of Operations, Connectional Ministries: Courtney Lawson

Assistant to the Bishop: Vona Wilson

COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Chair: Kevin Presley

LAY
Mary Alice Carfi
Jeff McCormick
Annette Vaughan

CLERGY
Will Clark
Ann Cover
Nan Zoller

ALTERNATES, LAY
Michael Adkins
Ellie Crain
Laura Hunt
Amy Moritz
John Sparks
Thomas Woodard

ALTERNATES, CLERGY
Allison Gilliam
Connor Williams

COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS (DIACONAL) DIACONAL MINISTERS OR LAY

Liz Shadbolt, chair
Whitney Simpson

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Chair: John Hill

Lora Jean Gowan

Donna Parramore

ALTERNATES
Gary Wedgewood

WESLEY FOUNDATIONS AD INTERIM BOARDS

The Nominations Committee requests that the Annual Conference ratifies the ad interim appointment by the BHECM of the following board members for the 2025-26 term.

Austin Peay State University

Corrie Alexander-Willette, President
Michael Neubert, Chair Elect
Joel Morris, Chair of Fundraising and Development
Anne Wall, Treasurer
Ellie Crain, Secretary

Chris Hodges
Payton Reynolds
Allison Harris
Persephone Morrison, Student President

Belmont University

Steph Dodge
Myriam Cortes
Gary Boling
Jedediah Hanes

Linda Jones
Kate Orr
Paul Purdue

Cumberland University

Sheridan Henson, Chair
Steve Boutell, Ex-Officio
Whitney Simpson, Director/Ex-Officio
JaLana Maupin, Volunteer
Eric Alspaugh, CU Faculty Advisor

Gail High
Karen Rudzinski
Michael Hallmark
Adelia Latta, Student Rep

Fisk University

Princilla Morris, Chair
Cheryl Seay, Treasurer
Susanne Tropez-Sims
Ester McShepard

Janice Woodard
Herbert Marbury
April Scales
Jerrell Nelson
Deanna Lest

Murray State University

Amanda Tipton, Chair
Melinda Paul, Secretary
Carrie McGinnis
Gregory Waldrop
Issac Miller
Ken Claud
Katana Darnell

Dale Broach
Kendra Capps
Nancy Johnston Varden
April Arnold, Campus Minister
Glynis McCallum, Administrative Assistant
Brian Hoover, Faculty Advisor

Tennessee State University

William C. Bowen Sr., Chair
Fred Allen, Program Chair
Garlinda Burton, Secretary
Kimberly Goods, Fundraising/Gala Chair

Helen Houston
Billy Moon
Liz Shadboldt
Amy E. Steele, Campus Minister

Tennessee Tech University

Steven Shoup, Chair
Kurtis Boehms, Vice Chair
Susan Luna-Hazelwood, Finance

Erica Dyer, Fundraising
Laurie Watson, Secretary
Maria Little, Student Rep

Trigg Lampkins, Student Rep
Char Finch
Amber Armistead
Matthew McClanahan

Frances Eldridge
Janet Coonce, At Large
Gideon Sledge, At Large

University of Memphis

Lisa Chitwood, Chair
Carla Taylor, Vice Chair
Gary Vanasek, Secretary
Matthew Lott, Treasurer
Elaine Cain
Ayanna Hampton
Charles Elliott
Dean Emerson
Mary Stone
James Haley II
Aaron Dennis
Harriet Sprott
Fred Morton
Renee Hardaway

Christy Brown
Tondala Hayward, Campus Minister
Cilali Gonzalez, Student Intern
Cali VanCleve, Student Intern
Kyla Smith, Student Intern
Deborah Smith, Ex-Officio
Erv Walker, Ex-Officio
Eliza Ford, Ex-Officio
Joel Vera, Ex-Officio
Dawn Carpenter, Ex-Officio
Michael Moore, Ex-Officio
Elizabeth Thomas, Ex-Officio
Danielle Seemann, Ex-Officio

University of Memphis at Lambuth

Scott Murray, Chair
Adam Johnson
Beth Ann Simpson

Kristy Sherrod
Jolinne Downey
Nathan Reed

University of Tennessee at Martin

Caden Neville, Chair
Nikki Claybrooks, Vice Chair
Katy Allen, Secretary
Rachel Lovell, Past Board Chair
Mollie June Miller-Bachman, Campus Minister
Megan Lewter, Wesley Assistant Director
Shirley Borden, Personnel Committee Chair

Nicolle Crist Gallagher, Personnel Committee
Richard Griffin, MFUMC Treasurer
Rochelle Alexander
Sharon Austell
George Pasley, Personnel Committee
John Varden
Amanda Crice

Vanderbilt University

Lane Crawford, Chair
Aaron Olson, Vice Chair
Nick Deitmen, Secretary
Kurt Shepherd, Treasurer
Bob Johnson, Treasurer Ex Officio
Jimmy Byrd

Melissa Snarr
Chris Haynes
Tammy Lewis Wilborn
Emily Dougherty, WEUMC Trustees rep
Josh Horn, WEUMC Finance rep
Keri Cress

WESLEY FOUNDATIONS 2025-2026 BOARD

The Nominations Committee requests that the Annual Conference ratifies the appointment by the BHECM of the following Board of Directors members for the 2025-26 term.

Middle Tennessee State University

Honey Denson
Krislyn Durham

Mary Beth Hagan
Sandeep Kuntam

Katie Henry, Chair
Steve Miller
Justin Reed
Nita Wright
Jacob White
Kae Sigler
Ryan Bennett, Ex-Officio
Rickey Wade, Ex-Officio

Trey Carey, Ex-Officio
Tommy Ward, Ex-Officio
Drew Shelley, Ex-Officio
Lory Catlett, Ex-Officio
Dane Wood, Ex-Officio
John Weaver, Staff
Beth Morrison, Staff
Alec Creasy, President

WESLEY FOUNDATIONS 2026-2027 BOARDS

The Nominations Committee requests that the Annual Conference approves the following Wesley Foundation Boards for the 2026-2027 term.

Fisk University

Princilla Morris, Chair
Cheryl Seay, Treasurer
Susanne Tropez-Sims
Ester McShepard
Janice Woodard

Herbert Marbury
April Scales
Jerrell Nelson
Deanna Lest

University of Tennessee at Martin

Caden Neville, Chair
Nikki Claybrooks, Vice Chair
Katy Allen, Secretary
Rachel Lovell, Past Board Chair
Mollie June Miller-Bachman, Campus Minister
Megan Lewter, Wesley Assistant Director
Shirley Borden, Personnel Committee Chair

Nicolle Crist Gallagher, Personnel Committee
Richard Griffin, MFUMC Treasurer
Rochelle Alexander
Sharon Austell
George Pasley, Personnel Committee
John Varden

University of Memphis

Lisa Chitwood, Chair
Matthew Lott, Treasurer
Elaine Cain
Ayanna Hampton
Charles Elliott
Dean Emerson
Mary Stone
Melissa Gooch
James Haley II
Aaron Dennis
Brooke Carkeet

Harriet Sprott
Amanda Hartman-Westmoreland
Will Clark, Vice-Chair
Renee Hardaway
Christy Brown
Elaine Shanley
Tondala Hayward, Campus Minister
Student Interns
Deborah Smith, Ex-Officio
Ashley Harris, Secretary, Ex-Officio
Danielle Seemann, Ex-Officio

Middle Tennessee State University

Sean Gilliland, Chair
Delaney Reynolds, President
Krislyn Durham, Personnel Committee
Mary Beth Hagan, Facilities Committee
Sandeep Kuntam, Finance Committee

Rick Clark, Finance Committee
Steve Miller, Finance Committee Chair
Justin Reed, Facilities Committee Chair
Nita Wright, Personnel Committee
Zoe Kraus, Student Rep

Kae Sigler, Student Rep
Ryan Bennett, Ex-Officio
Trey Carey, Ex-Officio
Tommy Ward, Ex-Officio
Drew Shelley, Ex-Officio

Lory Catlett, Ex-Officio
Dane Wood, Ex-Officio
John Weaver, Staff
Beth Morrison, Staff

Murray State University

Ken Claud, Interim Board Chairperson
Melinda Paul, Secretary
Carrie McGinnis
Gregory Waldrop
Issac Miller
Amanda Tipton
Shani Campbell

Katana Darnell
Dale Broach
Haley Robinson
Nancy Johnston Varden
April Arnold, Campus Minister
Glynis McCallum, Administrative Assistant
Brian Hoover, Faculty Advisor

Tennessee State University

William C. Bowen Sr., Chair
Eloise Alexis
Garlinda Burton
Kimberly Goods

Alvin Goodwin
Peter Millet
Billy Moon
Bobby Lee Smith

Tennessee Tech University

Steven Shoup, Chair
Kurtis Boehms, Vice Chair
Susan Luna-Hazelwood, Finance
Erica Dyer, Fundraising
Laurie Watson, Secretary
Maria Little, Student Rep
Trigg Lampkins, Student Rep

Char Finch
Amber Armistead
Matthew McClanahan
Frances Eldridge
Janet Coonce, At Large
Gideon Sledge, At Large

University of Memphis at Lambuth

Scott Murray, Chair
Kristy Sherrod
Jolinne Balentine-Downey
Nathan Reed

Ruth Montgomery
Beverlyann Jetton
Adam Pulliam
Jocelyn Gargus

Vanderbilt University

Lane Crawford, Chair
Aaron Olsen, Co-Chair
Kurt Shepherd, Treasurer
Bob Johnson, Treasurer
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TWK Nominations Report Narrative

The Nominations Committee has initiated a rhythm of work throughout the year to provide more space for thoughtful conversations, particularly in areas of significant change. In that regard, there are three questions that may arise from our Annual Conference 2026 nominations so we want to address them briefly as an addendum to our report.

Leadership on the TWK Board of Higher Ed and Campus Ministry. We are nominating Chip Hunter, Senior Pastor of Cookeville FUMC, to serve as Chairperson for BHECM. Is this a conflict of interest, since there is a Wesley Foundation in Cookeville? We acknowledge that in a deeply connectional system (which we value), there will always be "connections" of some type when serving in conference leadership. This is a good challenge, and in a volunteer-led conference that only increases. How do we not let potential conflicts hinder people from serving who have the gifts and graces we need for this time?

Our TWK Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry follows our conference's conflict of interest policy, a policy that is in place to address conflicts of interest present when voting on items where this might be an issue. Further, we understand that some of our Wesley Foundations operate as an incorporated or unincorporated entity associated with a local church (known as a congregation-based campus ministry), while others operate independently as an incorporated organization associated with a TWK district (known as a district-based campus ministry). In the case of the Wesley Foundation at Tennessee Tech, it is a district-based campus ministry, a separate entity with a separate budget. The Campus Minister of Tennessee Tech reports to the District Superintendent, and not to a pastor at Cookeville FUMC. Nor is any money exchanged between the Wesley Foundation and Cookeville FUMC unless Cookeville First UMC chooses to make a donation to the Wesley Foundation in their community.

Organization of Committee on Race & Religion (CORR); Ethnic Local Church Concerns (ELCC); Antiracism Coalition (ARC); and Cross-racial, cross cultural (CRCC group). These ministries have shifted dramatically over the past 2-3 years. We are doing the right work, and it is happening through new avenues, while BOD required committees (CORR and ELCC) have not been active. Our leaders expressed readiness to make some shifts that help us align our efforts for deeper and more profound impact regarding our shared discipleship priority of "disrupting and dismantling racism and discrimination".

All of these ministries are being supported in 2027 and funds are budgeted differently to allow us to easily place resources where ministry is happening, while also having an "emerging ministries" line to support ministries that emerge. The Nominations Committee is responding to these discoveries. We are responsible for nominating people to lead the ministry that are in place.

- The Committee on Race & Religion has been without a Chairperson in recent months. This gap is being filled with our 2026-2027 nomination of Delores Rivers as Chairperson for CORR. Delores is a member of Centenary UMC in Memphis with many years experience in change transitions. Delores is currently developing a curriculum for a youth camp based on Rev. James Lawson's work in non-violent justice. We anticipate CORR serving as an umbrella to foster collaboration, strategy and deeper impact with all of these ministries (ARC; CRCC; Hispanic-Latino-Indigenous Ministries, and Native American Ministries). As we take this first step, we will bring leaders together to help shape our strategy for the future.
- The Ethnic Local Church Concerns (ELCC) reported to the Justice and Mercy Guide Team that they were inactive, and that the work they need to do is actually being done through a new group that was initiated in the Red River District. Rev. Sharlet Panhalkar has helped us understand that CRCC is the new focus on ELCC work in many conferences. Sharlet has been a part of this new group. You will see the required function of "ELCC" placed within the CORR umbrella and as being "met" through the newly formed CRCC group. All this to say, there is not a need for us to nominate a leader beyond the CRCC team.
- "Cross racial, cross-cultural" (CRCC) ministry, which is critical for us, IS being done and is, in essence, the work of ELCC now carried out through a CRCC group. We are nominating Rev. Kimi Brown to lead this group.

- Meanwhile the Anti-Racism Coalition (ARC) is active and fruitful. It has been an avenue where change is being fostered. Leadership for ARC is in place.

Can a conference staff person serve as “Chairperson” of a committee?

We currently have 44 ministry teams (and more than 350 people) engaged in some way with conference leadership. Of those 44 ministry teams, three are led by staff: Annual Conference Design Team; Faith & Innovation; and Mental Health and Well Being.

All three of these teams involve detailed collaboration with other departments in order to implement, track and make decisions with resources allocated for their specific purposes. While many non-staff persons serve on these teams, the staff person(s) are ultimately responsible for day to day operations that ensure the work is carried out. The amount of work it takes to implement these ministries exceeds the amount of time and work involved in our typical practice of a volunteer leader supported by a staff member. These teams are non-disciplinary groups which means they are established by the TWK to serve our unique needs and are not responses to the Book of Discipline required committee structure or make-up.

While it’s impossible to fully answer every question, we hope these summaries provide some contextual background information for the changes you note in our Nominations Report for Annual Conference 2026. We anticipate improvements in our work every year so that we are responding to new ways God is equipping us to live out our call and the specific discipleship priorities in this 2024-2028 quadrennium. We appreciate your prayers as we continue to do this work.