

April 10, 2024

Dear Friends,

Thank you for attending my brief on General Conference 2024.

I want to be fully transparent with you. I spent from March 2004 to June 2018 in the ordination process to become a fully ordained Elder in the Florida Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. I remain loyal to the United Methodist Church. I made a vow to be loyal before God. I intend on honoring that vow until the day I die. If I honor my vow, I have faith that God will honor me. No denomination is perfect. However, I have found my spiritual home in the United Methodist Church, and it is a big enough home to house many people from all around the world. Many of them, I don't agree with, and I don't like. I am really trying to work on that. Nevertheless, there is not a day that goes by that I am not grateful that my call to ministry began as an acolyte at St. Paul's United Methodist Church at age 8. Actually, it really started when I was baptized in 1985.



The picture above is of me on my day of baptism at St. Paul's United Methodist Church of North Miami in November 24, 1985 (the Sunday after my mother's 35th birthday). My adoption was complete just a few days before this on November 21, 1985. Pictured are David H. Averill, Karen T. Averill, David T. Averill, and Rev. Dr. Joe Jursa.

Personally, as ordained clergy, I remain fully committed to the mission and ministry of the United Methodist Church. I sense that most of you do as well. This is the church tradition where God has named me, claimed me, called me, married me, and ordained me. It is the tradition in which I will be buried. I have been shaped by and in the United Methodist Church in a variety of local churches for over 35 years. I feel that I best honor God by blooming where I have been planted by God's providence. Furthermore, Jesus prayed for the unity of His Church in the Garden of Gethsemane (John 17:21). Even though conflict is bound to occur, I really want no part of promoting division and schism. The United Methodist Church is my spiritual home on earth until God calls me to my heavenly home.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Dr. David J. Averill "John 14:1-2" 

Rev. Dr. David Averill



Guidelines for Holy Conferencing: What God Expects of Us

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly ... And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (Colossians 3:12-16a,17).

- Every person is a child of God. Always speak respectfully. One can disagree without being disagreeable.
- As you patiently listen and observe the behavior of others, be open to the possibility that God can change the views of any or all parties in the discussion.
- Listen patiently before formulating responses.
- strive to understand the experience out of which others have arrived at their views.
- Be careful in how you express personal offense at differing opinions. Otherwise dialogue may be inhibited.
- Accurately reflect the views of others when speaking. This is especially important when you disagree with a position.
- Avoid using inflammatory words, derogatory names, or an excited and angry voice.
- Avoid making generalizations about individuals and groups. Make your point with specific evidence and examples.
- Make use of facilitators and mediators.
- Remember that people are defined, ultimately, by their relationship with God -- not by the flaws we discover, or think we discover, in their views and actions.

We believe Christians can discuss important issues without the acrimonious debate and parliamentary maneuvering that can divide a group into contending factions. We see too many examples of that in secular society. We believe the Holy Spirit leads in all things, especially as we make decisions. We want to avoid making decisions in a fashion that leaves some feeling like winners and others like losers.

We can change the world through honest conversation on matters about which we are passionate.

We offer our thanks to the participants at The Global Young People's Convocation and Legislative Assembly, sponsored by the Division on Ministries with Young People, through the Discipleship Ministries, held in January 2007 in Johannesburg, South Africa, for inspiring the framework of these guidelines. They adopted similar guidelines for Christian Conferencing at the convocation. This work is based on guidelines for "Holy Conferencing" that emerged from the United Methodist "Dialogue on Theological Diversity" in February 1998.

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Ministry of the Laity

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3a

First UMC of Mt. Dora Staff Covenant
Draft for March 25, 2024

A.) I will commit to doing no harm. (First General Rule)

- 1.) I will support the staff team publicly.
- 2.) I will critique compassionately and privately.
- 3.) I will disagree graciously with staff and parishioners.
- 4.) I will go directly to another person to resolve a matter with them (Matthew 18).
- 5.) I will assume the best intentions of others.
- 6.) I will speak kindly to my fellow staff team members.

B.) I will do all the good I can. (Second General Rule)

- 1.) I will pray for my fellow staff team members.
- 2.) I will pray for First United Methodist Church of Mt. Dora that God's will might be done through the church.
- 3.) I will attend staff team meetings punctually and regularly.
- 4.) I will encourage the faith walks of my fellow staff team members and parishioners.
- 5.) I will seek God's guidance in decision-making.
- 6.) I will be a good steward of my time and the church's resources for the glory of God.

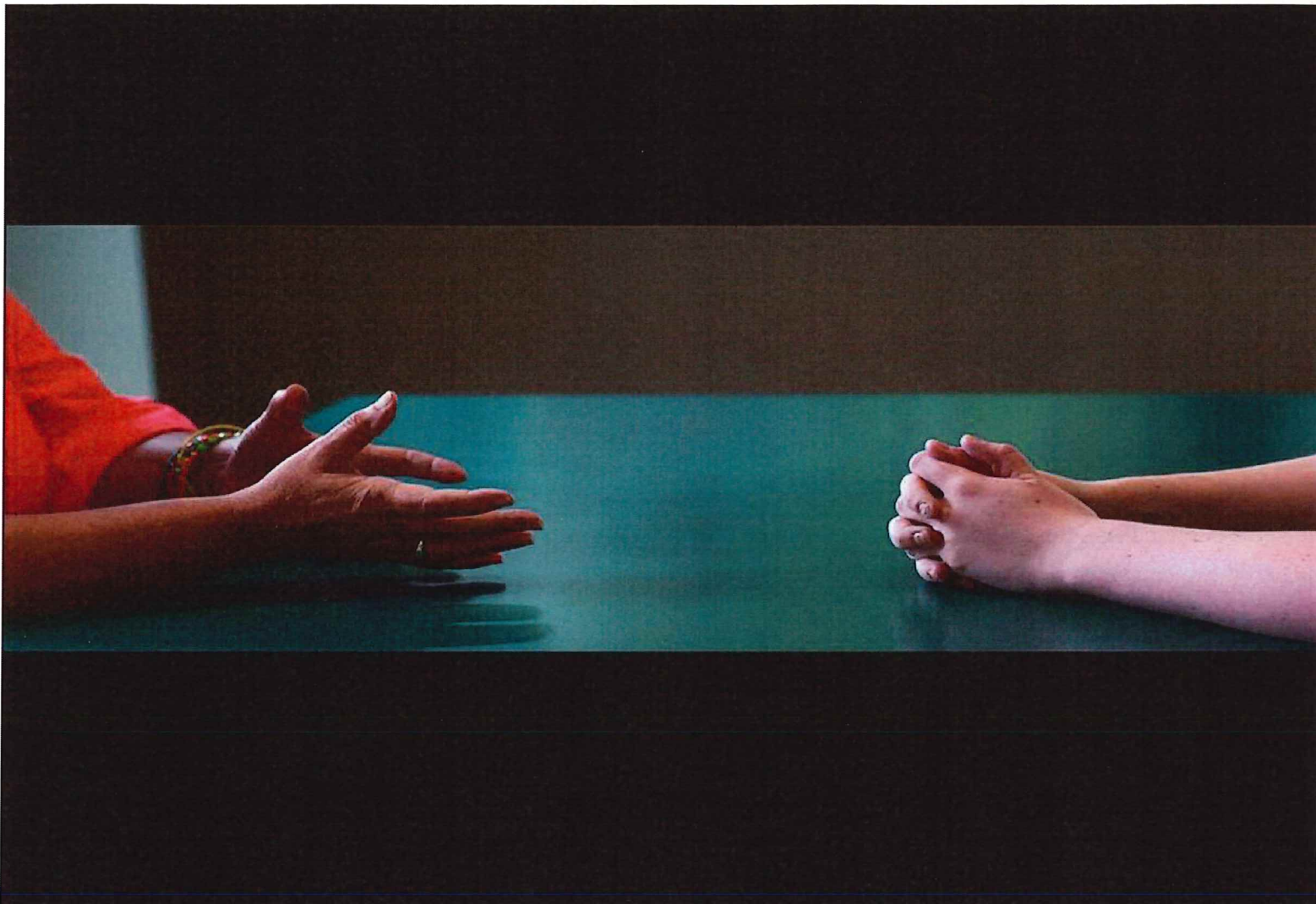
C.) I will stay in love with God (Third General Rule)

- 1.) I will worship regularly, and when I cannot, I will seek out services online for personal worship.
- 2.) I will regularly study the scriptures for personal use.
- 3.) I will create a weekly Sabbath time for myself and my family.
- 4.) I will serve regularly in our local community or in the wider world.

The 5Ws and 1H of Christian Conferencing

A UMC.org feature by Crystal Caviness*

SHARE



Hands in dialogue: sharing and listening. Photo illustration by Kathleen Barry, United Methodist Communications

You may know the scenario. You're participating in a church meeting, listening to someone share an idea or express an opinion with which another person disagrees. Suddenly, participants are choosing sides. Sometimes voices are raised, sometimes feelings are hurt. What's next? Could it be possible to find grace in the midst of this scenario?

Many church leaders, including John Wesley, say "yes!"

through a means of communication called Christian conferencing or holy conferencing – participants are encouraged to discern the Holy Spirit in their decision-making process. This sacred form of communication, however, is not limited to difficult discussions. As Christians, United Methodists are urged to bring holy conferencing into all interactions.

The term “holy conferencing” reflects that, “in our speech and our actions and our relationships, we’re looking for a more excellent way in ... how we treat each other,” writes Bishop Sally Dyck of the Northern Illinois Conference. Dyck, who authored a study guide titled “Eight Principles of Holy Conferencing (http://mnumc-email.brtapp.com/files/eefiles/documents/holy_conferencing_study_guide_2012.pdf),” adds that these principles are especially important when discussing controversial topics.

Christian conferencing dates back to Wesley’s times when the founder of the Methodist movement sought to engage members and clergy in small groups to encourage listening and learning from one another, with a focus on mutual understanding. With Wesley’s Christian conferencing, there were no winners or losers, only those who desired to discern God’s will.

The practice of Christian conferencing may have particular importance as delegates and thousands of others gather at General Conference to make decisions about the future of the denomination. To gain a better understanding of this discipline, following are excerpts from a conversation with Bishop Christian Alsted (Nordic-Baltic Episcopal Area) that address the 5Ws and 1H of Christian conferencing:

Who?

Everyone can participate in Christian conferencing, especially “Christian brothers and sisters who are listening for God’s voice and God’s direction for the church,” shares Alsted.

What?

The conversation about what Christian conferencing is — and isn’t — has been happening for years. Arriving at

Christian Conferencing and General Conference

The practice of Christian conferencing may have particular importance when delegates and thousands of others gather at General Conference to make decisions about the denomination’s future.

In order to move into this sacred communication space, Alsted suggests participants take a spiritual focus.

“Don’t think of yourself as being at General Conference to make decisions. Don’t think about being there because you won an election or you want to get your preferred petitions approved by the General

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...understanding, Alsted says, means being aware of the role God plays in our interactions and relationships with one another.

“Christian conferencing is a way for us to discern the will of God, to try to listen for God’s voice as we are in conversation with one another,” Alsted points out. “Christian conferencing is about growing together in holiness. It is not about doing, it is about being.

“Christian conferencing is a means of grace,” Alsted says. “Just like when we read the Bible or pray, God is always present. In that same way, God is always present when we practice Christian conferencing.”

What isn’t it?

“Christian conferencing is not a technique, not a particular process or a set of rules to regulate our conversation,” Alsted comments. “It’s a part of our theological DNA, like praying.”

When?

Christian conferencing is more than what happens at a specific date and time. In fact, according to Alsted, Christian conferencing should be occurring all of the time.

Where?

The short answer to the question of where Christian conferencing can take place: everywhere. Christian conferencing should not be relegated to meetings, Alsted says, adding that Christian conferencing should permeate all places where Christians are living out their faith.

...understanding, Alsted says.

“Think of yourself as being at General Conference to grow in holiness and, together with Christian brothers and sisters from across the world, listen for God’s voice and God’s direction for the church.

“Yes, we are going to make decisions. Yes, we are going to vote. But our main purpose should be to grow together as brothers and sisters, as the church.”

Because holy conferencing works best when people have a chance to build relationships with one another in small group settings, General Conference’s challenge is the large number of people involved and the lack of time to build those relationships.

Alsted is confident the discipline can translate into larger settings, such as General Conference. It’s a tall order, Alsted admits, readily acknowledging there will be differing opinions and, perhaps, strong disagreements.

“We need delegates, bishops and everyone who participates in any way to come with an open heart and open mind.”

... Wesley's day, Christian conferencing most commonly occurred in small communities of faith, where people knew and built trust with one another over time. The challenge of General Conference, Alsted shared, is the large number of people involved. Alsted encourages delegates to call on God to create a space where people are open "to allowing others to speak into their lives and where they have been given permission to speak into others' lives."

Why?

Christian conferencing is part of our heritage. When Methodism sprang up in America and conferences began developing, there were some adjustments from the original British conferences. The American version of Christian conferencing became a way to shape governance and discipline and encourage evangelistic outreach. "So the American version of Christian conferencing," Alsted shares, "became polity, unity and revival."

As Christian conferencing has evolved over the decades, Alsted suggests we strive to keep the three parts in balance.

How?

Although Wesley initially developed Christian conferencing to be used in small groups, Alsted is confident the discipline can translate into larger settings. While practicing holy conferencing, "the main purchase should be to grow together as brothers and sisters, as the church," says Alsted. And when we disagree, "are we able to disagree in a way that still honors God?," he asks, adding that participants should arrive to the discussion with open minds and open hearts.

*Crystal Caviness (mailto:ccaviness@umcom.org) works for UMC.org. She can be contacted at 615-742-5318.

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Hebrews 10:19-25 New Living Translation

A Call to Persevere

19 And so, dear brothers and sisters,^[a] we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. **20** By his death,^[b] Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. **21** And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house, **22** let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.

23 Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. **24** Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. **25** And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

Footnotes

a. 10:19 Greek *brothers*.

A handwritten blue mark, possibly a signature or initials, resembling a stylized '8' or 'S'.

b. 10:20 Greek *Through his flesh.*

< Hebrews 9

Hebrews 11 >

New Living Translation (NLT)

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THE ROAD TO GENERAL CONFERENCE

PART 1 OF 4

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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 Florida Conference currently has **eight** districts: Atlantic Central, East Central, Gulf Central, North Central, North East, North West, South East, and South West

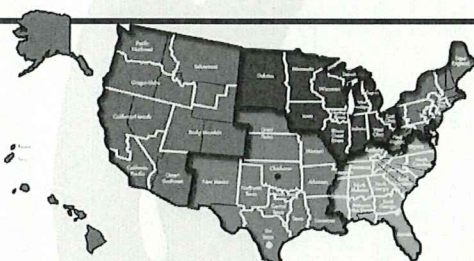


YOUR DISTRICT IS PART OF AN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Your church is one of **387 churches** in the Florida 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.



The Florida Conference
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

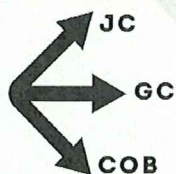


YOUR CONFERENCE IS PART OF A JURISDICTION

There are five US Jurisdictions -- North Central, Northeastern, South Central, Southeastern, and Western. Florida 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.



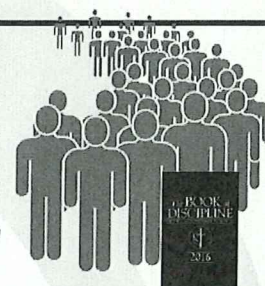
WE ARE GOVERNED BY THREE BODIES

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**.

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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 flumc.org/general-conference-2024

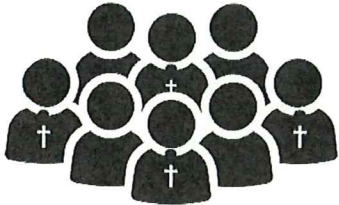
Sources: umc.org, umcnews.org, resourceumc.org

THE ROAD TO GENERAL CONFERENCE

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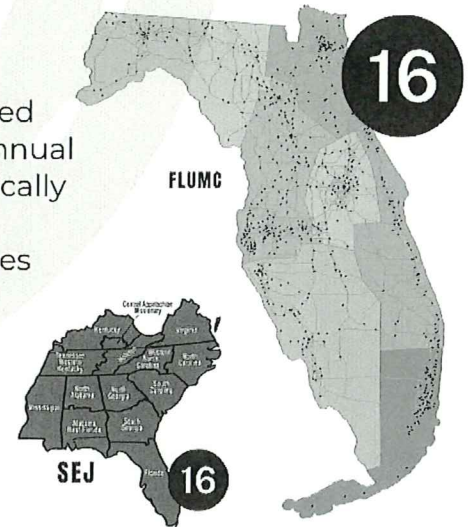
THE FLORIDA DELEGATION



DELEGATIONS ARE ELECTED

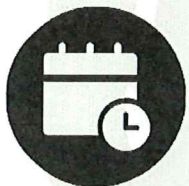
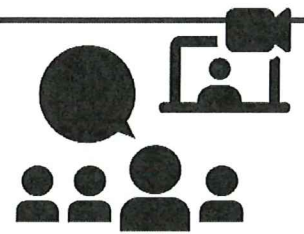
Delegates to General Conference are elected by Annual Conference members at their Annual Conference meetings every four years. Typically this happens the summer prior to General Conference. The number of delegates ranges from 600-1000. This year there will be **862 delegates**, half clergy and half laity.

There are **eight clergy** and **eight lay** delegates to General Conference plus **eight clergy** and **eight laity** elected to the SEJ Conference. All delegates were elected in 2019.



MEETINGS

The Florida 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.



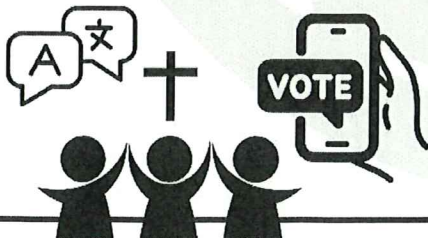
2020 IN 2024

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.

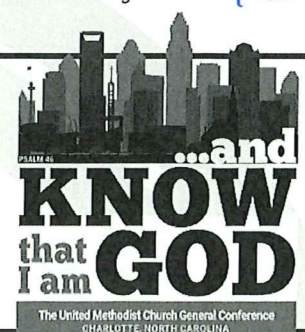


WHERE?

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

WHEN?

April 23-May 3, 2024



LEARN MORE flumc.org/general-conference-2024

Sources: umc.org, umcnews.org, resourceumc.org

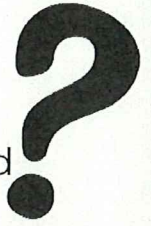
THE ROAD TO GENERAL CONFERENCE

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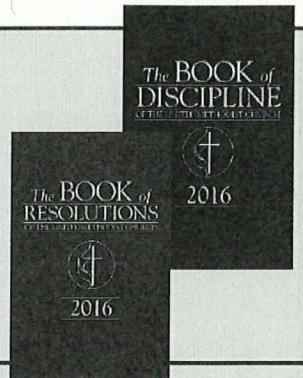
WHAT IS GENERAL CONFERENCE?

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.



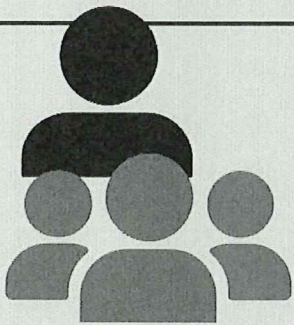
LEGISLATION

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.

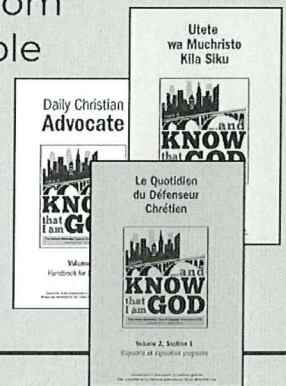


AUTHORS

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.

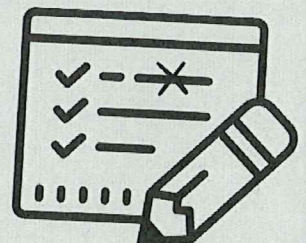
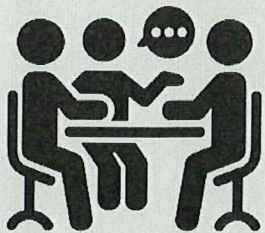


REVISIONS

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.



The delegations for the General Conference 2020 and the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference 2020 were elected at Annual Conference 2019. **NOTE:** On December 14, 2022 The Judicial Council of the UMC ruled that delegates elected for the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences will serve as delegates to the 2024 General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

Judicial Council Decision Number 1451 regarding delegates to 2024 General and Jurisdictional Conferences

The elected delegates are listed below.

Jump to a list of delegates by clicking one of the following links

- GC Clergy Delegates
- GC Lay Delegates
- SEJ Clergy Delegates
- SEJ Lay Delegates
- SEJ Clergy Reserve Delegates
- SEJ Lay Reserve Delegates

2020 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegation

Email correspondence to the delegation may be sent to fldelegation@flumc.org.

The following persons were elected to serve on the Florida Conference delegation to General and Jurisdictional Conference and are listed in the order of their election:

General Conference Clergy Delegates



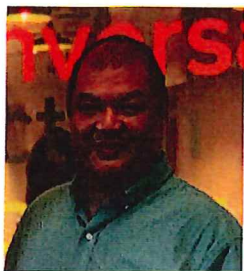
Alex Shanks; Assistant to the Bishop, Florida Conference;
450 Martin L. King, Jr. Ave.,
Lakeland, FL 33815



Cynthia Weems; South East District Superintendent;
600 Maynada St., Coral Gables, FL 33146

Brett Opalinski; Candler School of Theology, Emory University
445 Dickey Dr., Atlanta, GA 30322

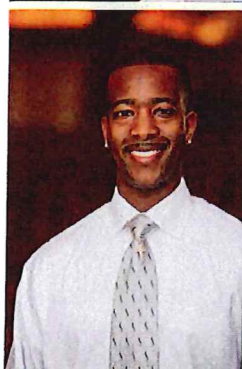
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Magrey deVega; Pastor; Hyde Park, Tampa;
500 W. Platt St., Tampa, FL 33606



Clarke Campbell-Evans; Florida Conference Director of Missional Engagement;
450 Martin L. King, Jr. Ave., Lakeland, FL 33815



Corey Jones; Pastor; Pasadena Community, St. Petersburg;
227 70th St. South, St. Petersburg, FL 33707



Sharon Austin; Florida Conference Director of Connectional and Justice Ministries;
450 Martin L. King, Jr. Ave., Lakeland, FL 33815



Esther Rodriguez; The Hope Partnership;
1101 Moss Park Rd., Orlando, FL 33832

General Conference Lay Delegates

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Molly McEntire; Florida Conference Mission Trainer and Volunteer Coordinator;
First, Lakeland;
914 Frank Lloyd Wright Way, Apt. 3, Lakeland, FL 33801



Derrick Scott, III; Campus Minister, Campus to City Wesley
Foundation;
San Marco, Jacksonville;
PO Box 550790, Jacksonville, FL 32255



Alice Williams; HR Consultant;
St. Luke's, Orlando;
5209 Fieldview Ct., Orlando, FL 32819



Heather Pancoast; Campus Ministry Director, Gator Wesley Foundation;
Community, Fruitland Park;
1380 W. University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32603



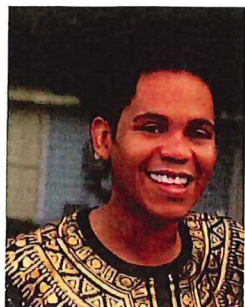
Carlene Fogle-Miller; Student;
Memorial, Fernandina Beach;
722 N. Boston Ave., Deland, FL 32724



Judith Pierre-Okerson; Educator, Miami Dade County Public Schools;
Miramar;
7952 Plantation Blvd., Miramar, FL 33023

Matt Dailey; Director of Worship;
Good Samaritan, Tallahassee;
3720 Capital Circle, Tallahassee, FL 32311

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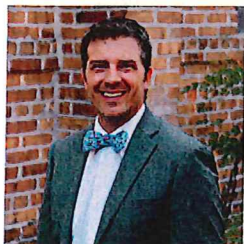


Antony Larry; Associate Director of Youth Ministries and Worship Engagement;
St. Luke's, Orlando;
4851 S. Apopka-Vineland Rd., Orlando, FL 32819

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference Clergy Delegates



Candace Lewis; President/Dean, Gammon Theological Seminary;
653 Beckwith St. SW, Atlanta, GA 30314



Justin LaRosa; Minister of the Portico Campus; Hyde Park, Tampa;
1001 N. Florida Ave., Tampa, FL 33602



Melissa Cooper; Minister of Worship and Arts; St. Luke's, Orlando;
2350 Oak Hammock Preserve Blvd., Kissimmee, FL 34746



Jennifer Stiles-Williams; Pastor; St. Luke's, Orlando;
4851 S. Apopka Vineland Rd., Orlando, FL 32819

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Deborah Allen; South West District Superintendent;
104 S. Pineapple Ave., Sarasota, FL 34236



Matthew Williams; Pastor; Trinity, Tallahassee
120 W. Park Ave., Tallahassee, FL 32301

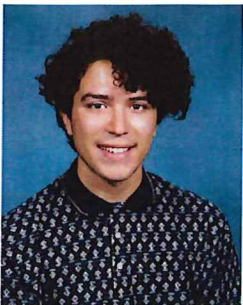


Vicki Walker; Minister of Missions and Outreach; Hyde Park, Tampa;
500 W. Platt St., Tampa, FL 33606



Clare Chance; Pastor; Avondale, Jacksonville;
1651 Talbot Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32205

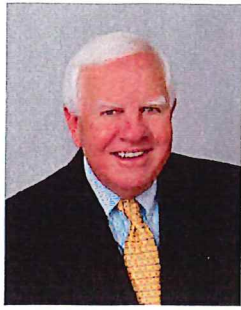
Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference Lay Delegates



Riley Standifer; Student; Community, Fruitland Park;
450 Martin L. King, Jr. Ave, Lakeland, FL 33815

Martha Gay Duncan; Retired; First, Lakeland;
4225 Pebble Pointe Dr., Lakeland, FL 33813

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Steve Gardner; Attorney; Hyde Park, Tampa;
560 Bosphorous Ave., Tampa, FL 33606



Will Cooper; Non-profit COO; First, Kissimmee;
2420 Old Vineland Rd., Kissimmee, FL 34746



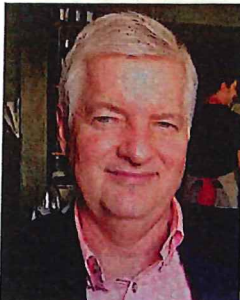
Jessica Scott; Public Relations; Memorial, Fernandina Beach;
PO Box 16372, Fernandina Beach, FL 32035



Rushing Kimball; Student; First, Winter Park;
28723 State Road 46, Sorrento, FL 32776



Heidi Aspinwall; Non-profit Director; Cornerstone, Miami;
912 S. Gondola Dr., Venice, FL 34293



Robert "Kim" Lee; First, Orlando;;
2048 Sue Harbor Cove, Orlando, FL 32803

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Vidalis Lopez; Pastor; First, Coral Springs; 8650 W. Sample Rd., Coral Springs, FL 33065

Mary Downey; Non-Profit CEO, Community Hope Center; Spring of Life, Orlando; 2420 Old Vineland Rd., Kissimmee, FL 34746;

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Vision 2030 Team Goals

Goal #1: Increase the involvement of young people in our church community through faith-based learning and intergenerational activities via flexible, hybrid platforms (i.e., virtual and in-person).

Keyword: Discipleship (GROW)

Support of Mission: -nurturing one another in our faith walk.
-supporting one another in Christian friendship.

Core Value: -over-investing in the young (a special emphasis on family ministries).

Scriptural Foundation #1: Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." (Matt. 19:14)

Goal #2: Develop marketing and communication systems to increase awareness in the community and the congregation of our Christ-centered mission, faith, and values. Utilize cutting-edge media and technology to amplify the message of our church's ministries.

Keyword: Communication (SHARE)

Support of Mission: -sharing our faith in Jesus Christ through invitation.
-witnessing to the love of God through hospitality.

Core Value: -welcoming our neighbors.

Scriptural Foundation #2: Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. (1 Peter 4:10)

Goal #3: Prioritize mission work, expressing our faith in Christ by meeting spiritual and material needs locally and globally.

Keyword: Missions (SERVE)

Support of Mission: -serving locally and globally in mission and outreach projects.-blessing God's kingdom through diversity.

Core Value: -honoring warm-hearted, traditional Methodist beliefs, customs, and celebrations.
-staying faithful in our commitments.

Scriptural Foundation #3: He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8)

Goal #4: Shepherd our human and capital resources to nurture and grow our ministries by modernizing our infrastructure physically and digitally; by simplifying and making transparent our governance; and by improving member engagement in gifts-based ministry and multi-generational leadership.

Keyword #4: Infrastructure (BUILD)

Support of Mission: -supporting one another in Christian friendship.

Core Value: -recognizing everyone has something to offer (gifts-based ministry and service).

Scriptural Foundation #4: Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, so that we may no longer suffer disgrace." I told them that the hand of my God had been gracious upon me and also the words that the king had spoken to me. Then they said, "Let us start building!" So they committed themselves to the common good. (Nehemiah 2:17-18)

First United Methodist Church of Mount Dora

March 25, 2024

Church Conference

Revised Mission, Vision, and Values (approved)

OUR MISSION (What we do)

First United Methodist Church of Mt. Dora will

Love God by

- nurturing one another in our faith walk.
- gathering for worship and celebration for the glory of God.
- supporting one another in Christian friendship.

Love Others by

- sharing our faith in Jesus Christ through invitation.
- serving locally and globally in mission and outreach projects.
- witnessing to the love of God through hospitality.
- blessing God's kingdom through diversity.

OUR VALUES (Who we are)

- honoring warm-hearted, traditional Methodist beliefs, customs, and celebrations.
- staying faithful in our commitments.
- welcoming our neighbors.
- recognizing everyone has something to offer (gifts-based ministry and service).
- over-investing in the young (a special emphasis on family ministries).
- disagreeing graciously.

OUR VISION (What God has called us to become)

We are called as a church to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with Mount Dora and the surrounding communities with our heart, hands, and head. We will become an intergenerational and intercultural community that loves God through vital worship, life-changing small groups, and life-giving friendships. In response to our love of God, we will love our neighbors by helping and hosting in Jesus' name.