



Postponed 2020 General Conference  
**WORSHIP GUIDE**

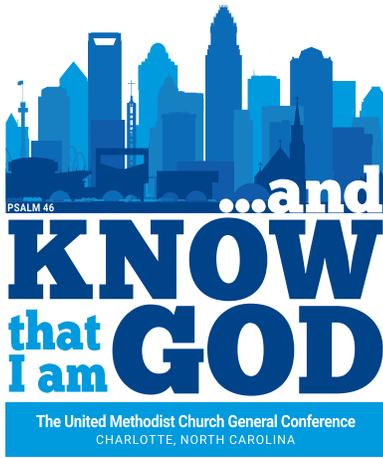
April 23-May 3, 2024  
Charlotte, North Carolina



**KNOW**  
that  
I am **GOD**



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.  
The people of The United Methodist Church®



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# Episcopal Welcome



**Bishop Carter**

Greetings!

Grace and peace to you from God our creator and our Lord Jesus Christ. On behalf of all North Carolinians, we welcome you to Charlotte April 23-May 3, 2024. Psalm 46:10 sets the theme for this important gathering: "...and know that I am God." In all we do, God guides our every decision.

We are honored and privileged to host visitors from around the world and to introduce you to this place we call home. Our Charlotte Area Host Team looks forward to showing you the best of the metropolitan area. The Western North Carolina Conference, of which Charlotte is a part, and the North Carolina Annual Conference will co-host the event.

Our people are hospitable and friendly, and we trust that all who gather for what promises to be an historic conference will be blessed by the city of Charlotte and by the warmth and beauty of the state of North Carolina.

Hundreds of volunteers eagerly await the opportunity to greet and assist you. Our goal is to provide radical hospitality – an environment in which you feel safe and cared for as you meet with others at the Charlotte Convention Center and discern where God is calling us as a denomination.

Jesus Christ invites us to bear witness to the breadth of his church, where, through baptism, we are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation. As our Holy Communion liturgy so eloquently says, we "offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith."

As we gather in this setting, may we witness the Holy Spirit breaking through. We encourage you to join us in praying daily for the Holy Spirit to use each of us and the General Conference to make disciples of Jesus Christ and transform the world.

On behalf of all North Carolina United Methodists, we look forward to having you join us in Charlotte. We look forward to welcoming you and to witnessing the power and presence of the Holy Spirit as one body of Christ.



**Bishop Shelton**

Bishop Kenneth H. Carter Jr.  
Resident Bishop, Charlotte Area  
The United Methodist Church

Bishop Connie Mitchell Shelton  
Resident Bishop, Raleigh Area  
The United Methodist Church



# General Conference: An Overview

General Conference will meet April 23-May 3, 2024, at the Charlotte Convention Center in North Carolina. Steps from Uptown's hotels, attractions, dining and nightlife, the 600,000-square-foot Charlotte Convention Center is an accessible meeting and convention space with a bustling cityscape on its doorstep. The convention center recently completed a \$126.9 million expansion. Charlotte, known as the Queen City, is the 16th most populous city in the U.S.

Co-hosting the event are the Western North Carolina Annual Conference, with 642 congregations, and the North Carolina Annual Conference, which has 439 congregations. The Charlotte Episcopal Area is part of the Western North Carolina Conference.

The 2020 General Conference was set to happen in Minneapolis, Minnesota, until the pandemic made it necessary to postpone the quadrennial legislative event until 2024. At the upcoming conference, the Commission on the General Conference will follow appropriate protocols related to COVID-19 to safeguard attendees' health.

Delegates from Africa, Europe, Asia and the U.S. will attend the 11-day gathering, which could attract as many as 7,500 people. Some 862 delegates, elected from around the world, will gather to set policy and direction for the church, as well as handle other important business.

Meeting every four years, General Conference is the only entity that speaks for the denomination. The United Methodist Book of Discipline, updated every four years, incorporates changes made by General Conference.

The General Conference theme is "... and know that I am God" from Psalm 46:10. The entire verse (NRSV) reads: "Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations. I am exalted in the earth." The verse number may vary in non-English translations. The General Conference Worship and Music Team plans to create a new focus each day by pairing the theme with different words, such as "love" or "believe."

United Methodist Communications designed the logo, which is used to maintain a consistent visual identity for the General Conference. The design incorporates the Charlotte skyline, along with the date and location.

The Commission on the General Conference, led by Kim Simpson, a laywoman and delegate from the Central Texas Annual Conference, planned the conference. Co-hosts are the Western North Carolina Annual Conference, led by Bishop Kenneth H. Carter Jr., and the North Carolina Annual Conference, led by Bishop Connie Mitchell Shelton. Wanda Musgrave of Western North Carolina and the Rev. Trish Archer of North Carolina co-chair the host committee. Hundreds of people, many of them volunteers, will serve in a variety of roles, such as greeters, registration officials, marshals, pages, translators, guides, drivers, musicians, technicians, reporters and emergency responders.

The General Administration Fund apportionments for General Conference pay for delegate expenses; operational costs (convention center and equipment rental, publishing, petition-tracking software, worship, labor); language services (printed translation of advance materials and spoken interpretation on site); expenses of the offices of the secretary, business manager and treasurer of the General Conference; and expenses of several commissions and committees in support of the event.

The changing global nature of the church is due in part to the rapidly growing membership in central conferences. Voting delegates will come from the United States (55.9%), Africa (32%), the Philippines (6%), Europe (4.6%) and concordat churches that have close ties to The United Methodist Church (1.5%). Half will be clergy, half lay.

The percentage of delegates from central conferences, which was 16% in 2000, has increased significantly since the start of this millennium. The percentage of delegates from central conferences for the most current four quadrenniums was 29% in 2008; 38%, 2012; 42%, 2016; and 44%, 2020. This change in representation has resulted in two of the four major cost drivers increasing significantly.



# General Conference: An Overview

The budgeted cost of language and translation services in 2024 is \$1.45 million for oral interpretation and \$490,000 for written interpretation. In 2016, the average travel cost for delegates from within the United States was approximately \$765 for each delegate, while the average travel cost for delegates from central conferences was approximately \$3,365 each. As representation from central conferences increases because of growth in membership, so likewise does the cost of travel for delegates.

The Commission on the General Conference launched a ministry partner program for the 2012 General Conference with the intent of creating an income stream that may permit the payment of some of the accumulated costs. This program will continue through the 2024 General Conference. Ministry partnership net income (after expenses) provided in 2016 was approximately \$400,000.

Meeting in August 2019, the Commission on the General Conference approved a General Conference schedule that includes 22.3 hours for legislative committee work in the first week and 27.8 hours for legislative work during the second week's plenary sessions. Compared to the last regularly scheduled General Conference in 2016, that is 10 minutes less for legislative committee work and nearly three hours more for legislative work in the second week.

The commission approved a recommendation that all legislative committees set aside time for delegates to discuss regionalization and how it will affect the work of their committee. That discussion would occur as the first order of business when legislative committees meet on April 25. The committees will receive a resource, including [\*some questions for discussion, prepared by the General Conference steering committee.\*](#)

Each day of General Conference will begin with worship and adjourn at 6:30 p.m. EDT, except for April 27, the last day of legislative committee work, which adjourns at 9:30 p.m.

The first-week schedule also includes the Episcopal Address and the Young People's Address on April 24 and the Laity Address on April 25.

For previous General Conferences, the commission approved a budget that included a daily per diem for each delegate's meals. However, with rising inflation, business manager Sara Hotchkiss said that was no longer realistic. She recommended and the commission approved having the convention center cater breakfast, lunch and dinner each day for all delegates. Hotchkiss is working with the convention center to ensure that cultural and dietary needs are met. On Sunday, April 28, no General Conference business will take place, and delegates will receive a \$50 per diem for the day. Lodging expenses will be paid directly to the hotel.

**Visitors will be asked to pay a voluntary \$10 registration fee each day they attend.**

View of the stage during the 2019 United Methodist General Conference inside the Dome at America's Center in St. Louis.

Photo by Kathleen Barry, UM News





# The Event Site

The site of the international gathering has traditionally rotated among the church's five regional U.S. jurisdictions. Since 1968, General Conference has convened in the following cities:

- **1968 - Dallas, Texas (uniting conference)**
- **1970 - St. Louis, Missouri (special session)**
- **1972 - Atlanta, Georgia**
- **1976 - Portland, Oregon**
- **1980 - Indianapolis, Indiana**
- **1984 - Baltimore, Maryland**
- **1988 - St. Louis, Missouri**
- **1992 - Louisville, Kentucky**
- **1996 - Denver, Colorado**
- **2000 - Cleveland, Ohio**
- **2004 - Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**
- **2008 - Fort Worth, Texas**
- **2012 - Tampa, Florida**
- **2016 - Portland, Oregon**
- **2019 - St. Louis, Missouri (special session)**

The 2020 General Conference was slated to convene in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in the North Central Jurisdiction. However, the COVID-19 pandemic made it necessary to postpone the quadrennial legislative event until 2024.

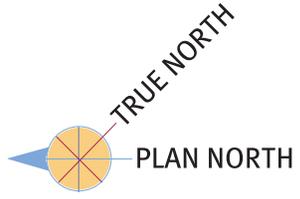
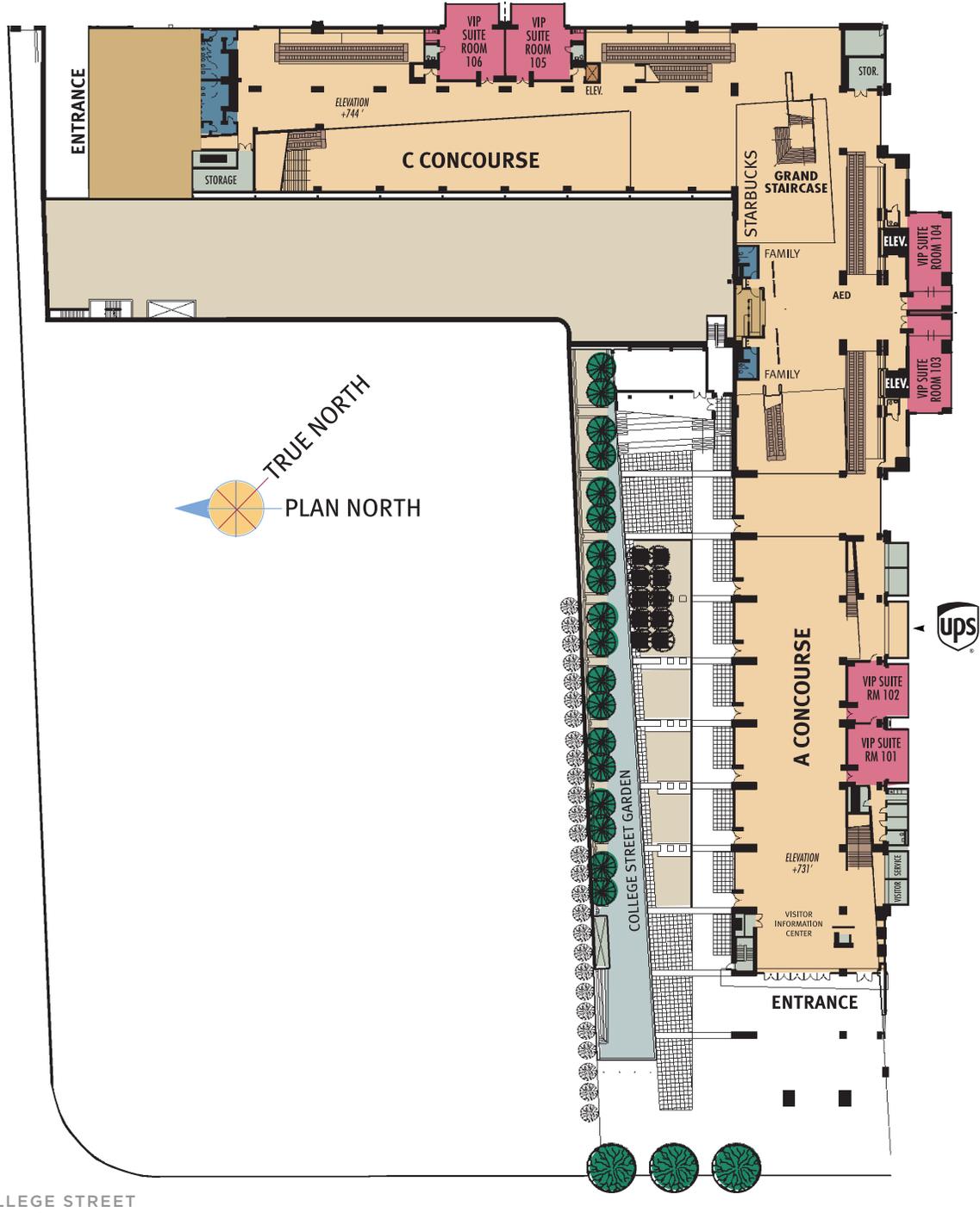
In November 2022, the Commission on the General Conference announced that the postponed 2020 General Conference would meet in Charlotte, North Carolina, in the Southeastern Jurisdiction.



# Event Site Map

## STREET LEVEL

SOUTH BREVARD STREET



SOUTH COLLEGE STREET

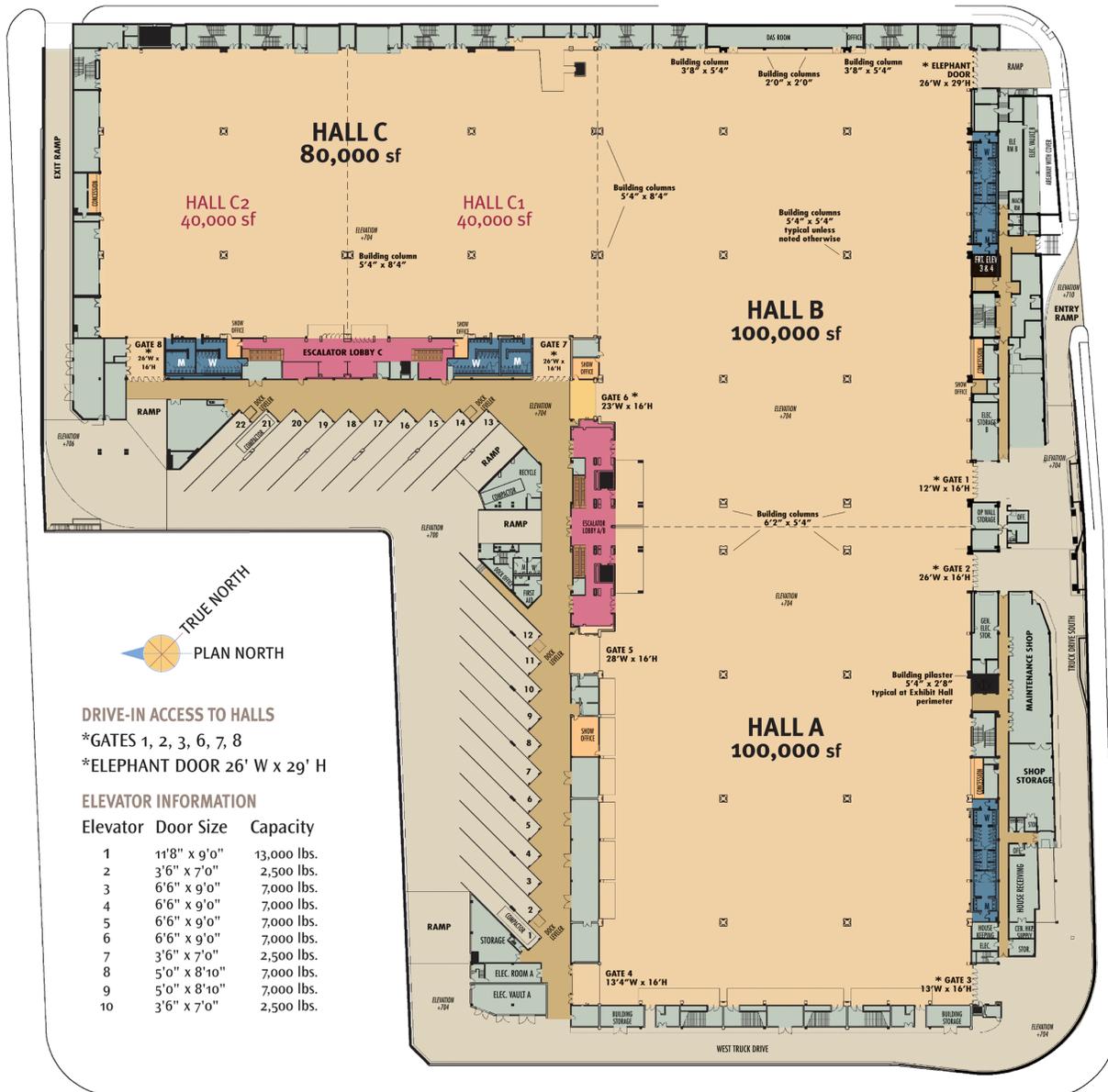
EAST STONEWALL STREET



# Event Site Map

## EXHIBIT HALL

SOUTH BREVARD STREET



**DRIVE-IN ACCESS TO HALLS**

\*GATES 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8

\*ELEPHANT DOOR 26' W x 29' H

**ELEVATOR INFORMATION**

Elevator	Door Size	Capacity
1	11'8" x 9'0"	13,000 lbs.
2	3'6" x 7'0"	2,500 lbs.
3	6'6" x 9'0"	7,000 lbs.
4	6'6" x 9'0"	7,000 lbs.
5	6'6" x 9'0"	7,000 lbs.
6	6'6" x 9'0"	7,000 lbs.
7	3'6" x 7'0"	2,500 lbs.
8	5'0" x 8'10"	7,000 lbs.
9	5'0" x 8'10"	7,000 lbs.
10	3'6" x 7'0"	2,500 lbs.

SOUTH COLLEGE STREET

EAST STONEWALL STREET



# Follow the Sights and Sounds of General Conference

## Keeping up with the proceedings of General Conference is easy!

Delegates and others can follow the proceedings on the General Conference website at <http://gc2020.umc.org>

You can also follow General Conference on Facebook and X (formerly Twitter)



**follow along at #UMCGC**



**Scan to visit the  
General Conference Website**

Features will include news coverage in multiple languages, with daily summaries and videos — such as interviews with delegates, volunteers and other key individuals.

All plenary sessions; worship services; the Episcopal, Laity and Young People's addresses; and other special events will be livestreamed. Archived versions of these will also be available for viewing.

Users can obtain general information about the legislative process. Updates on General Conference will be posted each day.

Press releases will update users with official announcements about the conference, and the digital lounge will feature footage of press conferences and interviews held during the conference.

Resources such as frequently asked questions and background information will help members and others understand how General Conference works.

A daily schedule of events will be posted, as well as practical information for delegates and visitors, such as information about Charlotte, the convention center and maps. Delegates can go to the website to find committee assignments, seating changes and the delegate list. Journalists can access background information on General Conference as well as credentialing procedures.

The General Conference will see changes in the Daily Christian Advocate, which will be fully digital and available through a Daily Christian Advocate website. The Advance Daily Christian Advocate will still be printed, as well as items in the daily editions that require voting, but the proceedings of the General Conference, delegate lists and news articles will be on the website only. Improvements to the website include highlighting items that are currently being discussed so they are easy to find.



# General Conference Schedule

## REGISTRATION (ALL CATEGORIES)

**Sunday, April 21** 1:00–6:30 P.M.

**Monday, April 22** 7:00 A.M.–6:30 P.M.

**Tuesday, April 23** 7:00 A.M.–1:00 P.M.  
4:00–6:30 P.M.

Registration will continue from 7:30 A.M.–6:30 P.M. each day except for Sunday, April 28.

## AGENDA AND PROGRAM

Following is the overall program of the Postponed 2020 General Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. This schedule was still in development at publication time and is subject to change. Following the presentation and adoption of the report of the Commission on the General Conference at the opening session of the General Conference, the Committee on Agenda and Calendar shall immediately

### Friday, April 19

1:00 P.M.	Orientation for Interpreters
	Orientation for Pages and Marshals
5:00 P.M.	Orientation for Central Conference Delegates

### Saturday, April 20

8:00 A.M.	Orientation for Central Conference Delegates
10:00 A.M.	Committee on Credentials

### Sunday, April 21

8:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.	Orientation for Central Conference Delegates
1:00 – 6:30 P.M.	Registration (all categories)
3:00 P.M.	Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters
	Committee on Correlation and Editorial Revision
	Orientation for Legislative Committee Recorders
6:00 P.M.	Orientation for Interpreters

### Monday, April 22

7:00 A.M. – 6:30 P.M.	Registration (all categories)
9:00 A.M.	Committee on Reference
	Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters
	Committee on Agenda and Calendar
1:00 P.M.	Committee on Courtesies and Privileges
	Committee on Presiding Officers
	Committee on the Journal
6:00 P.M.	Orientation for Heads of Delegations
	Orientation for Pages and Marshals

## Tuesday, April 23

7:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.	Registration (all categories)
9:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.	Orientation for All Delegates
2:00 – 3:30 P.M.	Opening Worship
3:30 – 3:50 P.M.	Break
3:50 – 6:30 P.M.	Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Call to Order</li> <li>▶ Roll Call and Setting the Bar of the Conference</li> <li>▶ Emergency Procedures</li> <li>▶ Greeting from Charlotte</li> <li>▶ The Role of Monitoring (5 minutes)</li> <li>▶ The Power of Communication (5 minutes)</li> <li>▶ Journey from 2016 to 2020 (15 minutes)</li> <li>▶ Speaker Recognition System Introduction</li> <li>▶ Testing the Voting System</li> <li>▶ Commission on the General Conference Report and Plan of Organization and Rules of Order</li> <li>▶ Elections               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Coordinator of the Calendar</li> <li>◦ Inter-jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy</li> <li>◦ General Conference Administrative Committees</li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ Report of the Committee on Agenda and Calendar</li> </ul>
4:00 – 6:30 P.M.	Registration (all categories)
5:00 P.M.	Daily Deadline for <i>DCA</i> Printing
6:30 P.M.	Adjournment

## Wednesday, April 24

7:00 A.M.	Committee on Agenda and Calendar
	Committee on Reference
7:30 A.M. – 6:30 P.M.	Registration (all categories)
8:00 – 8:30 A.M.	Worship
8:30 – 10:35 A.M.	Plenary Session Episcopal Address (45 minutes) Monitoring Report (3 minutes) Report on the Social Principles Revision (12 minutes) Nominations
10:35 – 10:55 A.M.	Break
10:55 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.	Plenary Session Young People's Address (30 minutes) <i>General Book of Discipline</i> Report and Dialogue (90 minutes)
1:00 – 2:30 P.M.	Lunch
2:30 – 4:30 P.M.	Organization of the Legislative Committees
4:30 P.M.	Dinner and Mandatory Leadership Training for Legislative Committee Chairs, Vice Chairs, Parliamentarians, Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Recorders, and Sub-Committee Chairs Recess for All Others
5:00 P.M.	Daily Deadline for <i>DCA</i> Printing

## Thursday, April 25

7:00 A.M.	Committee on Agenda and Calendar
	Committee on Reference
7:30 A.M. – 6:30 P.M.	Registration (all categories)
8:00 – 8:45 A.M.	Worship
8:45 – 9:30 A.M.	Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Opening Prayer</li> <li>▶ Monitoring Report (3 minutes)</li> <li>▶ Laity Address (30 minutes)</li> <li>▶ Administrative Committee Reports</li> </ul>
9:30 – 9:50 A.M.	Break
9:50 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.	Legislative Committees
12:30 – 1:30 P.M.	Lunch
1:30 – 4:00 P.M.	Legislative Committees
4:00 – 4:20 P.M.	Break
4:20 – 6:20 P.M.	Legislative Committees
5:00 P.M.	Daily Deadline for <i>DCA</i> Printing
6:20 – 6:30 P.M.	Evening Devotion (Legislative Committees)
6:30 P.M.	Adjournment



## Friday, April 26

7:00 A.M.	Committee on Agenda and Calendar	
	Committee on Reference	
7:30 A.M. – 6:30 P.M.	Registration (all categories)	
8:00 – 8:45 A.M.	Worship	
8:45 – 9:50 A.M.	Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Opening Prayer</li> <li>▶ Monitoring Report (3 minutes)</li> <li>▶ Financial State of the Church (15 minutes)</li> <li>▶ Connectional Table Report (20 minutes)</li> <li>▶ Jurisdictional Study Committee Report (15 minutes)</li> <li>▶ Administrative Committee Reports</li> </ul>	
	9:50 – 10:10 A.M.	Break
	10:10 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.	Legislative Committees
	12:30 – 1:30 P.M.	Lunch
	1:30 – 4:00 P.M.	Legislative Committees
	4:00 – 4:20 P.M.	Break
4:20 – 6:20 P.M.	Legislative Committees	
5:00 P.M.	Daily Deadline for <i>DCA</i> Printing	
6:20 – 6:30 P.M.	Evening Devotion (Legislative Committees)	
6:30 P.M.	Adjournment	

## Saturday, April 27

7:00 A.M.	Committee on Agenda and Calendar	
	Committee on Reference	
7:30 A.M. – 6:30 P.M.	Registration (all categories)	
8:00 – 8:45 A.M.	Worship	
8:45 – 9:50 A.M.	Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Opening Prayer</li> <li>▶ Monitoring Report (3 minutes)</li> <li>▶ Wespath – New Retirement Plan Overview (45 minutes)</li> <li>▶ Administrative Committee Reports</li> <li>▶ Consent Calendars</li> </ul>	
	9:50 – 10:10 A.M.	Break
	10:10 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.	Legislative Committees
	12:30 – 1:30 P.M.	Lunch
	1:30 – 4:00 P.M.	Legislative Committees
	4:00 – 4:20 P.M.	Break
4:20 – 6:00 P.M.	Legislative Committees	
5:00 P.M.	Daily Deadline for <i>DCA</i> Printing	
6:00 – 7:30 P.M.	Dinner	

7:30 – 9:20 P.M.	Legislative Committees
9:20 – 9:30 P.M.	Evening Devotion (Legislative Committees)
9:30 P.M.	Adjournment

## Sunday, April 28

Sabbath

## Monday, April 29

6:30 A.M.	Committee on Agenda and Calendar		
7:30 A.M. – 6:30 P.M.	Registration (all categories)		
8:00 – 9:20 A.M.	Worship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Consecration of Deaconesses and Home Missioners for Lifetime Service</li> </ul>		
	9:20 – 10:00 A.M.	Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Opening Prayer</li> <li>▶ Monitoring Report (3 minutes)</li> <li>▶ Administrative Committee Reports</li> <li>▶ Consent Calendars</li> </ul>	
10:00 – 10:20 A.M.	Break		
10:20 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.	Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Opening Prayer</li> <li>▶ Voting Demonstration</li> <li>▶ Elections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Trustees of John Street Church</li> <li>◦ Secretary-designate of the General Conference</li> <li>◦ Commission on the General Conference</li> <li>◦ General Agencies</li> <li>◦ Judicial Council</li> <li>◦ University Senate</li> <li>◦ Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
	12:00 – 1:30 P.M.	Lunch	
	1:30 – 3:40 P.M.	Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Opening Prayer</li> <li>▶ Africa University Report (20 minutes)</li> <li>▶ Higher Education and Ministry Report (20 minutes)</li> <li>▶ Calendar Items &amp; Conference Business</li> </ul>	
		3:40 – 4:00 P.M.	Break
		4:00 – 6:10 P.M.	Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Opening Prayer</li> <li>▶ Abundant Health Initiative Report (10 minutes)</li> <li>▶ Calendar Items &amp; Conference Business</li> </ul>

5:00 P.M.	Daily Deadline for <i>DCA</i> Printing
6:10 – 6:30 P.M.	Evening Devotion
6:30 P.M.	Adjournment

## Tuesday, April 30

6:30 A.M.	Committee on Agenda and Calendar
7:30 A.M. – 6:30 P.M.	Registration (all categories)
8:00 – 9:30 A.M.	Worship Ecumenical Introductions (30 minutes)
9:30 – 10:00 A.M.	Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Opening Prayer</li> <li>▶ Monitoring Report (3 minutes)</li> <li>▶ Administrative Committee Reports Consent Calendars</li> </ul>
10:00 – 10:20 A.M.	Break
10:20 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.	Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Opening Prayer</li> <li>▶ Calendar Items &amp; Conference Business</li> </ul>
12:00 – 1:30 P.M.	Lunch
1:30 – 3:40 P.M.	Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Opening Prayer</li> <li>▶ Recognition of Retiring Bishops and Presentation of New Episcopal Leadership (10 minutes)</li> <li>▶ Calendar Items &amp; Conference Business</li> </ul>
3:40 – 4:00 P.M.	Break
4:00 – 6:10 P.M.	Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Opening Prayer</li> <li>▶ 80th Anniversary of UMCOR and Migrant Ministries (10 minutes)</li> <li>▶ Calendar Items &amp; Conference Business</li> </ul>
5:00 P.M.	Daily Deadline for <i>DCA</i> Printing
6:10 – 6:30 P.M.	Evening Devotion
6:30 P.M.	Adjournment

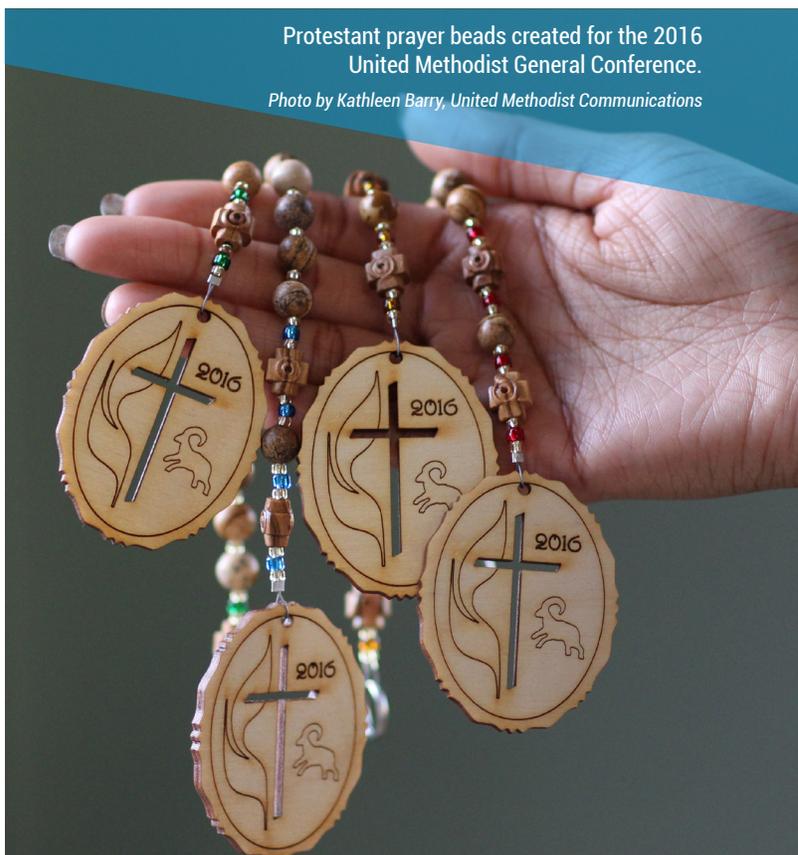
## Wednesday, May 1

6:30 A.M.	Committee on Agenda and Calendar
7:30 A.M. – 6:30 P.M.	Registration (all categories)
8:00 – 9:00 A.M.	Worship

9:00 – 10:00 A.M.	Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Opening Prayer</li> <li>▶ Monitoring Report (3 minutes)</li> <li>▶ Methodist Family Day (30 minutes)</li> <li>▶ Administrative Committee Reports</li> <li>▶ Consent Calendars</li> </ul>
10:00 – 10:20 A.M.	Break
10:20 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.	Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Opening Prayer</li> <li>▶ Calendar Items &amp; Conference Business</li> </ul>
12:00 – 1:30 P.M.	Lunch
1:30 – 3:40 P.M.	Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Opening Prayer</li> <li>▶ 100th Anniversary of the United Methodist Building (5 minutes)</li> <li>▶ Calendar Items &amp; Conference Business</li> </ul>
3:40 – 4:00 P.M.	Break
4:00 – 6:10 P.M.	Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Opening Prayer</li> <li>▶ Calendar Items &amp; Conference Business</li> </ul>
5:00 P.M.	Daily Deadline for <i>DCA</i> Printing
6:10 – 6:30 P.M.	Evening Devotion
6:30 P.M.	Adjournment

Protestant prayer beads created for the 2016 United Methodist General Conference.

*Photo by Kathleen Barry, United Methodist Communications*



<b>Thursday, May 2</b>	
<b>6:30 A.M.</b>	Committee on Agenda and Calendar
<b>7:30 A.M. – 6:30 P.M.</b>	Registration (all categories)
<b>8:00 – 9:00 A.M.</b>	Worship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Commissioning of Missionaries</li> </ul>
<b>9:00 – 10:00 A.M.</b>	Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Opening Prayer</li> <li>▶ Monitoring Report (3 minutes)</li> <li>▶ Mission Bicentennial (15 minutes)</li> <li>▶ Administrative Committee Reports Consent Calendars</li> <li>▶ Calendar Items &amp; Conference Business</li> </ul>
<b>10:00 – 10:20 A.M.</b>	Break
<b>10:20 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.</b>	Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Opening Prayer</li> <li>▶ Calendar Items &amp; Conference Business</li> </ul>
<b>12:00 – 1:30 P.M.</b>	Lunch
<b>1:30 – 3:40 P.M.</b>	Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Opening Prayer</li> <li>▶ Recognition of New Judicial Council Members and those members completing their service</li> <li>▶ Calendar Items &amp; Conference Business</li> </ul>
<b>3:40 – 4:00 P.M.</b>	Break
<b>4:00 – 6:10 P.M.</b>	Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Opening Prayer</li> <li>▶ Calendar Items &amp; Conference Business</li> </ul>
<b>5:00 P.M.</b>	Daily Deadline for <i>DCA</i> Printing
<b>6:10 – 6:30 P.M.</b>	Evening Devotion
<b>6:30 P.M.</b>	Adjournment

<b>Friday, May 3</b>	
<b>6:30 A.M.</b>	Committee on Agenda and Calendar
<b>7:30 A.M. – 6:30 P.M.</b>	Registration (all categories)
<b>8:00 – 9:00 A.M.</b>	Worship
<b>9:00 – 10:00 A.M.</b>	Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Opening Prayer</li> <li>▶ Monitoring Report (3 minutes)</li> <li>▶ Administrative Committee Reports</li> <li>▶ GCFA Report</li> <li>▶ Calendar Items &amp; Conference Business Announcements</li> </ul>
<b>10:00 – 10:20 A.M.</b>	Break
<b>10:20 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.</b>	Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Opening Prayer</li> <li>▶ Calendar Items &amp; Conference Business</li> </ul>
<b>12:00 – 1:30 P.M.</b>	Lunch
<b>1:30 – 3:40 P.M.</b>	Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Opening Prayer</li> <li>▶ Recognition of General Conference Staff and Local Host Committee (25 minutes)</li> <li>▶ Calendar Items &amp; Conference Business</li> </ul>
<b>3:40 – 4:00 P.M.</b>	Break
<b>4:00 – 6:00 P.M.</b>	Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Opening Prayer</li> <li>▶ Calendar Items &amp; Conference Business</li> </ul>
<b>6:00 – 6:30 P.M.</b>	Closing Worship
<b>6:30 P.M.</b>	Final Adjournment

## A WORD ABOUT SCHEDULES

Because of the fluid nature of General Conference, it is impossible to tell exactly when delegates will discuss a particular issue. Even when an item is scheduled, it can be delayed if other issues have taken more time than expected. Items can also be added at the last minute if more time is available than expected.

A committee meets each night to plan the agenda for the next day. This proposed agenda appears in the early-morning Daily Christian Advocate. Even then, there is no guarantee that the schedule will be followed. Occasionally, delegates schedule an order of the day to discuss a particular subject in plenary sessions.



# Opening Worship, Addresses, Other Special Events

General Conference will open at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, April 23, with a worship celebration that will include Holy Communion. The preacher will be Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton of the New York Episcopal Area, outgoing president of the Council of Bishops.

The Episcopal Address by Bishop L. Jonathan Holston of the South Carolina Annual Conference will be April 24 at 8:30 a.m. The Council of Bishops selected Holston to prepare and deliver the Episcopal Address on behalf of the entire council, composed of 59 bishops presiding over episcopal areas in the United States and central conferences. The council also includes retired bishops.

Later that morning, the Young People's Address will open the 10:55 a.m. plenary session. The speakers are Senesie T.A. Rogers, Sierra Leone, and Alejandra Salemi, United States. They will share their witness for the church.

"The Young People's Address is always a highlight of General Conference," said Chris Wilterdink, director of Young People's Ministries for the denomination. "It is a chance for young people to declare boldly their hope for the future and the reality of the now, using honesty and transparency. It is a chance to speak life into the process of conferencing, so that potential harm can be both recognized and minimized."

The Laity Address will be part of the 8:45 a.m. plenary session on Thursday, April 25. LaToya Redd Thompson, Mississippi Annual Conference, and the president of the Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders will be the main speaker. The Executive Committee of the Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders coordinated the speaker search.

Other special events include:

- ▶ Consecration of Deaconesses and Home Missioners for Lifetime Service, 8 a.m. worship, Monday, April 29;
- ▶ 80th anniversary of the United Methodist Committee on Relief and Migrant Ministries, 4 p.m. plenary, Tuesday, April 30;
- ▶ 100th anniversary of the United Methodist Building in Washington, D.C., 1:30 p.m. plenary, Wednesday, May 1;
- ▶ Commissioning of Missionaries, 8 a.m. worship, Thursday, May 2; and
- ▶ Mission Bicentennial, 9 a.m. plenary, Thursday, May 2.

Special reports published in the ADCA include Revised Social Principles, General Book of Discipline, Ministry Study, Jurisdictional Study Committee, Full Communion with the Episcopal Church and a study on ecclesiology titled "Sent in Love."



# Letter from the Worship & Music Director



First let me begin by expressing my gratitude for the opportunity to serve as Worship and Music Director for the General Conference. As you know, this General Conference was originally slated for 2020, but then life changed for all of us. As I think back to when we settled on the theme “...and know that I am God” we didn’t know how relevant and necessary those words would become to our lives. Who knew that between then and now life would change in so many ways for all of us. As you know, it takes many with a willingness to share their gifts to make this conference possible. Many of those names and organizations will not appear in this book. However, I want to thank everyone for sharing their gifts and their hearts in order to make this gathering possible. To my N.Y.A.C conference team and family and Bishop Thomas Bickerton, if I had the words I would put them here. Please know that through this journey you have continually fed my soul.

During your time here, please support our guest ensembles and artists who have traveled from various locations to share their ministry. Due to unforeseen circumstances, some who were slated to join us were unable to. I personally want to thank those who are with us and those who were unable to be with us for all they have done. By attending the lunchtime concerts in the Crown Ballroom, you will be able to support our guest ensembles and artists in a very meaningful and tangible way. To the musicians, singers and liturgists, thank you for letting God lead. In addition, thank you to the Council of Bishops and Bishop David Bard for all your support and guidance.

Continually I have said to the team “we will all be closer to Jesus when this is done.” I ask that you keep us in your prayers and heart as we will you. Although we are gathering to deal with a lot of business, it is important that even while doing the business we remember who God is and who we are in God. I pray that in each worship service God meets us all, at our point of need.

Stay blessed,

Raymond Trapp



# Worship Guides

TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2024  
2:00 P.M.

## OPENING WORSHIP SERVICE THEME:

*...and know that I am God*

## SCRIPTURE:

**Psalm 46:1-6,10-11**

<sup>1</sup> God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. <sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; <sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

<sup>4</sup> There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. <sup>5</sup> God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. <sup>6</sup> The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.

<sup>10</sup> "Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth." <sup>11</sup> The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

**CHOIRS & MUSICIANS:** Trinity Brass & Providence UMC

**PREACHER:** Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton

**SPECIAL GUEST:** Rev. Douglas Locklear

All congregational responses and song texts will be projected on screens during worship. You are invited to respond to all liturgy and expressions of faith in your heart language.

## LUNCH TIME WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**MEALTIME PERFORMERS:** Trinity Brass

Performances will be held in the Crown Ballroom during mealtime.



# Worship Guides

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024  
8:00 A.M.

## WORSHIP THEME:

*In the Hoping ...Know that I am God*

## SCRIPTURE

### Romans 5:1-5

*<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.*

**CHOIRS & MUSICIANS:** Williams Chapel UMC & Friends

All congregational responses and song texts will be projected on screens during worship. You are invited to respond to all liturgy and expressions of faith in your heart language.

We would like to thank the following for their contributions to today's worship:

**LITURGY WRITER:** Eric Park

## LUNCH TIME WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**MEALTIME PERFORMERS:** Jazz Ensemble

Performances will be held in the Crown Ballroom during mealtime.

### SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE

All are welcome to join us around the Lord's table during lunch outside the Upper Room Prayer Room. Bishop John Schol will preside over Communion. All elements will be gluten free.





# Worship Guides

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024  
8:00 A.M.

## THURSDAYS IN BLACK

### WORSHIP THEME:

*In the Believing...Know that I am God*

### SCRIPTURE

**Luke 4: 14-21**

<sup>14</sup> Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. <sup>15</sup> He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

<sup>16</sup> When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: <sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, <sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." <sup>20</sup> And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup> Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

**CHOIRS & MUSICIANS:** General Conference Music Ensemble

**PREACHER:** Bishop LaTrelle Easterling

All congregational responses and song texts will be projected on screens during worship. You are invited to respond to all liturgy and expressions of faith in your heart language.

We would like to thank the following for their contributions to today's worship:

**LITURGY WRITER:** Kate Hymes

**DANCERS:** "The Expressions of Praise" - Carter Mallory & Mackenzie Sanders, St. Mark's UMC

## LUNCH TIME WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**MEALTIME PERFORMERS:** Jazz Ensemble

Performances will be held in the Crown Ballroom during mealtime.

### SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE

All are welcome to join us around the Lord's table during lunch outside the Upper Room Prayer Room. Bishop Harald Rükert will preside over Communion. All elements will be gluten free.

## EVENING DEVOTIONS

At the end of our work tonight, devotions will be shared at 6:20 p.m. within the legislative committee rooms. Devotions will also be offered in the plenary space.



# Worship Guides

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024  
8:00 A.M.

## WORSHIP THEME:

*In the Trusting... Know that I am God*

## SCRIPTURE

**Proverbs 3:5-6**

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.  
In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.*

**CHOIRS & MUSICIANS:** Light of Christ UMC Praise Band

**PREACHER:** Bishop Sharma Lewis

All congregational responses and song texts will be projected on screens during worship. You are invited to respond to all liturgy and expressions of faith in your heart language.

We would like to thank the following for their contributions to today's worship:

**LITURGY WRITERS:** Celia Halfacre, Greta Smith, April Wilkerson

**DANCER:** Rev. Tisha Branch, First UMC of Mt. Vernon, NY

## LUNCH TIME WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**MEALTIME PERFORMERS:** Light of Christ UMC Praise Band

Performances will be held in the Crown Ballroom during mealtime.

### SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE

All are welcome to join us around the Lord's table during lunch outside the Upper Room Prayer Room. Bishop Cedric Bridgeforth will preside over Communion with Rev. Kathleen Weber. All elements will be gluten free.

## EVENING DEVOTIONS

At the end of our work tonight, devotions will be shared at 6:20 p.m. within the legislative committee rooms. Devotions will also be offered in the plenary space.



# Worship Guides

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024  
8:00 A.M.

## WORSHIP THEME:

*In The Rejoicing... Know that I am God*

## SCRIPTURE

### Philippians 4:4-8

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

**CHOIRS & MUSICIANS:** Charlotte Bronze

**PREACHER:** Bishop Eben Nhiwatiwa

All congregational responses and song texts will be projected on screens during worship. You are invited to respond to all liturgy and expressions of faith in your heart language.

We would like to thank the following for their contributions to today's worship:

**LITURGY WRITER:** Eric Park

## LUNCH TIME WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**MEALTIME PERFORMERS:** Charlotte Bronze

Performances will be held in the Crown Ballroom during mealtime.

### SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE

All are welcome to join us around the Lord's table during lunch outside the Upper Room Prayer Room. Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi will preside over Communion. All elements will be gluten free.

## EVENING DEVOTIONS

As legislative committees conclude their work tonight, devotions will be shared prior to adjournment. Devotions will also be offered in the plenary space.



# Worship Guides

MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2024  
8:00 A.M.

## SERVICE OF CONSECRATION FOR DEACONESSES AND HOME MISSIONERS

### WORSHIP THEME:

*In The Serving... Know that I am God*

### SCRIPTURE

#### Matthew 25:34-40

<sup>34</sup> Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup> And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' <sup>40</sup> And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

**PREACHER:** Bishop Karen Oliveto

All congregational responses and song texts will be projected on screens during worship. You are invited to respond to all liturgy and expressions of faith in your heart language.

We would like to thank the following for their contributions to today's worship:

**LITURGY PROVIDED BY:** United Women in Faith

**LITURGY WRITERS:** Betzy Elifritz-Warren, Celia Halfacre, and Mary Johnson

### LUNCH TIME WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

#### MEALTIME PERFORMERS:

Performances will be held in the Crown Ballroom during mealtime.

#### SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE

All are welcome to join us around the Lord's table during lunch outside the Upper Room Prayer Room. Bishop Laura Merrill will preside over Communion in Spanish. All elements will be gluten free.

### EVENING DEVOTIONS

At the end of our work tonight, devotions will be shared at 6:20 p.m. within the plenary space.



# Worship Guides

TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2024  
8:00 A.M.

## ECUMENICAL DAY

### WORSHIP THEME:

*In The Relationship... Know that I am God*

### SCRIPTURE

**Ephesians 4:1-6**

*<sup>1</sup> I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup> making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: <sup>4</sup> there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.*

**CHOIRS & MUSICIANS:** David UMC Youth and Chancel Choir

**PREACHER:** Rev. Dr. Jerry Pillay, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches

**SPECIAL GUESTS:** Rev. Dr. Neil Routh, Rev Dr Jean Hawxhurst, Dr. David Field, Rev. Dr. Betsy Miller

All congregational responses and song texts will be projected on screens during worship. You are invited to respond to all liturgy and expressions of faith in your heart language.

We would like to thank the following for their contributions to today's worship:

**LITURGY PROVIDED BY:** World Council of Churches organized by Dr. David Field

**LITURGY WRITERS:** April Wilkerson & Mary Johnson

### LUNCH TIME WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**MEALTIME PERFORMERS:** Davidson UMC

Performances will be held in the Crown Ballroom during mealtime.

### SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE

All are welcome to join us around the Lord's table during lunch outside the Upper Room Prayer Room. Bishop Owan Kasap will preside over Communion. All elements will be gluten free

### EVENING DEVOTIONS

At the end of our work tonight, devotions will be shared at 6:20 p.m. within the plenary space.



# Worship Guides

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2024  
8:00 A.M.

## WORSHIP THEME:

*In The Remembering... Know that I am God*

## SCRIPTURE

**Hebrews 12:1-2, 13:7**

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,<sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.*

**Hebrews 13:7**

*Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.*

**CHOIRS & MUSICIANS:** The Innovators

**PREACHER:** Bishop David Wilson

All congregational responses and song texts will be projected on screens during worship. You are invited to respond to all liturgy and expressions of faith in your heart language.

We would like to thank the following for their contributions to today's worship:

**LITURGY WRITER:** Mary Johnson

## LUNCH TIME WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**MEALTIME PERFORMERS:** The Innovators

Performances will be held in the Crown Ballroom during mealtime.

### SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE

All are welcome to join us around the Lord's table during lunch outside the Upper Room Prayer Room. Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank will preside over Communion with Bishop Robert Hoshibata. All elements will be gluten free.

## EVENING DEVOTIONS

At the end of our work tonight, devotions will be shared at 6:20 p.m. within the plenary space.



# Worship Guides

THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024  
8:00 A.M.

## SERVICE OF MISSIONARY COMMISSIONING WORSHIP

### WORSHIP THEME:

*In The Going Forward...Know that I am God*

### SCRIPTURE

#### Matthew 28:18-20

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

**CHOIRS & MUSICIANS:** Matthews UMC

**PREACHER:** Bishop Ruby-Nell Estrella

All congregational responses and song texts will be projected on screens during worship. You are invited to respond to all liturgy and expressions of faith in your heart language.

We would like to thank the following for their contributions to today's worship:

**LITURGY PROVIDED BY:** General Board of Global Ministries

**LITURGY WRITER:** Greta Smith

### LUNCH TIME WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**MEALTIME PERFORMERS:** Amy Cox

Performances will be held in the Crown Ballroom during mealtime.

#### SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE

All are welcome to join us around the Lord's table during lunch outside the Upper Room Prayer Room. Bishop Delores Williamston will preside over Communion with Bishop Minerva Carcaño. All elements will be gluten free.

### EVENING DEVOTIONS

At the end of our work tonight, devotions will be shared at 6:20 p.m. within the plenary space.



# Worship Guides

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2024  
8:00 A.M.

## WORSHIP THEME:

*...and know that I am God*

## SCRIPTURE

### 1 Corinthians 13:1-7,13

*<sup>1</sup> If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. <sup>4</sup> Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup> It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>13</sup> And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.*

**CHOIRS & MUSICIANS:** Shandon UMC

**PREACHER:** Bishop Tracy Smith Malone

All congregational responses and song texts will be projected on screens during worship. You are invited to respond to all liturgy and expressions of faith in your heart language.

## LUNCH TIME WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE

All are welcome to join us around the Lord's table during lunch outside the Upper Room Prayer Room. Bishop David Graves will preside over Communion with Deaconess Celeste Eubanks. All elements will be gluten free.



# Attributions for Worship Visuals

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### ID: 32626 - covid-vaccine-clinic-st-marks-umc-002

Description: Ana Salazar (left) receives a COVID-19 vaccination from Tabitha England, RN, during a clinic at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Charlotte, N.C.

*Courtesy/Credit: Photo by Mike DuBose, UM News*

### ID: 32590 - Five-Hundred-Thousand-Deaths-COVID-Glendale-United-Methodist-Church-Nashville-Sign

Description: The sign at Glendale United Methodist Church in Nashville, Tenn., calls attention to the death toll from the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Courtesy/Credit: Photo courtesy of Glendale United Methodist Church*

### ID: 28115

Description: The Eli Jackson Cemetery in San Juan, Texas, is among historic cemeteries threatened by the proposed border wall between the U.S. and Mexico.

*Courtesy/Credit: Photo by Mike DuBose, UM News*

### ID: 5392 - Immigration Nonviolent Protest March

Description: United Methodist faith leaders, other faith groups, labor leaders and immigrants march to a prayer vigil at the White House in support of progress on immigration reform and an end to deportations. Washington, DC, on Feb. 17.

*Courtesy/Credit: Photo by Jay Mallin, UMNS*

### ID: 32132

Description: Protestors gather in the courtyard of McKendree United Methodist Church in Nashville, Tenn., during a prayer vigil to grieve and remember people lost to acts of racism. They are holding signs in honor of victims of racial violence.

*Courtesy/Credit: Photo by Mike DuBose, UM News*

### ID: 30867 - 2019 Hulapalooza

Description: People at St. Dorcas United Methodist Church in Harare, Zimbabwe, try out hula hoops as part of the 2019 Hulapalooza event promoting health.

*Courtesy/Credit: Photo by Jan Snider, UMCom*

### ID: 32930 - 2021-immigration-ministry-042

Description: Some 1,500 migrants, many hoping to make claims for asylum in the U.S. are living under tarps and in tents in a camp at the El Chaparral border crossing in Tijuana, Mexico. The San Ysidro Port of Entry into the U.S., one of the busiest land border crossings in the world, is visible in the background.

*Courtesy/Credit: Photo by Mike DuBose, UM News*

### ID: 28215 - amazon-medical-boat-006

Description: The Rev. Armando Rodriguez Jr. (left) prays with Dr. Dimas Hidalgo (center) and Nelcilone Broga in the dental clinic onboard the John Wesley medical boat that was docked at an indigenous community in Murutinga, Brazil. Hidalgo reconstructed one of Broga's front teeth.

*Courtesy/Credit: Mike DuBose, UMNS*

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Text: Thomas Ken  
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## **JUST AS I AM**

Text: Charlotte Elliott  
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## **O CHURCH OF GOD, UNITED**

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Text: Luke 23:42  
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## **GREAT IS YOUR MERCY**

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# Meet the Worship Team

## **RAYMOND TRAPP**

### *Worship Leader*

Raymond Trapp, a Belizean native, has a rich history in music. He served as the Music Director/Organist at Vanderveer Park UMC in East Flatbush, Brooklyn, NY from 2009 to 2022.

Presently, Raymond holds the position of Music Director/Organist at Plymouth Church in Brooklyn Heights, Brooklyn NY. His journey into music began in the 6th grade through the NYC Music program, where he initially studied the alto saxophone.

However, driven by his desire to connect with the sacred setting of the church, Raymond transitioned to piano and eventually to the organ. He expressed, "I decided that it would be more practical to study instruments found in the church where I spent so much time."

Raymond's artistry is characterised by his profound affinity for the human voice and spirit, leading him to excel as a Choral Conductor and Worship Leader. His dedication to music has been acknowledged with the prestigious Colleague Certificate from the American Guild of Organists. Holding a bachelor's degree in music from Hunter College and a master's degree in sacred music/choral conducting from Westminster Choir College,

Beyond his local church community, Raymond actively contributes to the New York Annual Conference. Notably, he has served as the Music and Worship Director for the UMC Special General Conference in 2019 and is poised to undertake the same role for the UMC General Conference in 2024.



With a heart committed to serving others through music, Raymond shares his aspirations, "I pray that God will use us and the music to meet people at their point of need." Stay Blessed!

## **REV. XIMENA A. DÍAZ-VARAS**

### *Worship Design Team*

Ximena was born in Santiago de Chile. She emigrated with her husband in 1995. She lives in a multi-generational home in Derby, CT. Ximena is genuinely committed to equipping the ministry of the saints, training, and empowering the laity to become closer to the living God.

She believes that The United Methodist Church's future depends upon developing a healthy relationship between the clergy and the laity, working together

as a team to build Christ's church and God's beloved community as inspired by the Holy Spirit. Ximena became a United Methodist because of the denomination's commitment to a social Gospel; you use your voice to speak for the marginalized and voiceless as inspired by God's Word and the Spirit.

Ximena became one of the first Certified Lay Ministers (CLM) at the New York Conference in 2009. She served as CLM at the First UMC of Shelton from 2009 to 2014. In July 2014, Ximena was appointed as their pastor at Saint Andrew's UMC. In February 2015, she completed all the requirements from DCOM and became a Licensed Local Pastor. She served that congregation until





# Meet the Worship Team

2019. In July 2019, Ximena was appointed to the First United Methodist Church of Torrington. In July 2021, Ximena was appointed as the Assistant to the Bishop of the New York Annual Conference. In July 2023, adding to her appointment, Ximena was named Assistant to the Director of Connectional Ministries.

Ximena has served in several leadership positions in the CT District and the NYAC as well as a member of Worship Team for the General Conference.

Before becoming a local pastor, Ximena completed her training as a Chaplain at Griffin Hospital. This training has informed her pastoral care style and her crisis response.

## STEPHANIE PARSONS

### *Worship Design Team*

Stephanie has been part of the New York Annual Conference Worship Team since 2012, creating Visual Sermons designed to enhance conference themes, explore alternative expressions of theology, and enhance the atmosphere and aesthetic of the worship space. As a cradle United Methodist, Stephanie is committed to living out her calling as a layperson in the church. She is an advocate for inclusion in worship, creating welcoming spaces for all types of learners and people with different abilities.



Stephanie currently serves on several Conference Committees and teams including Accessibility, Episcopacy, Conference Sessions, and Compass. She is a member of the New Paltz United Methodist Church in New Paltz, NY, where she serves as a member of the worship

team and as the lay member to Annual Conference.

## LINDA MELLOR

### *Worship Design Team*

Linda has been a member of the New York Annual Conference worship team since 2012, designing and constructing Visual Sermons that support the work and spiritual life of the Conference. Linda is a member of the New Paltz United Methodist Church in New Paltz, NY, where she also serves as a member of the worship team designing and creating visual spaces to enhance the worship experiences of all.

## REV. TISHA MICHELLE BRANCH

### *Worship Design Team*

Rev. Tisha Michelle (Jermin) Branch is a daughter of the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church (UMC) and a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor Branch holds a M.Div. from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, a MSW from Clark Atlanta University, and a BA in Recreation and Leisure, with an emphasis in Therapeutic Recreation from Virginia Wesleyan College. Her academic preparation, along with her spiritual nurturing from her faith community has enable her to lead, build, create, empower, heal, and



transform in a variety of settings such as: The Children's Aid Society, Bronx Psychiatric Center, as well as local churches, committees and communities in NY, CT and GA.



# Meet the Worship Team

Currently Pastor Branch serves as the Senior Pastor of First UMC Mt. Vernon, Dean of Compass Mentoring Program for new clergy, and executive member of the Board of Ordained Ministry. Some of her gifts for life and ministry include creative worship and workshop planning, teaching, establishing new ministries, facilitating retreats, healer of hearts and minds, and liturgical dance.

She blessed to be a loving wife, mama, spiritual mother, grandmother, daughter, family, friend and mentor.

Pastor Branch truly loves the Lord and believes that worship is a lifestyle. By God's grace and for God's glory, she seeks to spread God's love, peace and joy with all she meets.

*"He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ"*  
Philippians 1: 6

## DAVID KINRADE

*Coordinator of Guest Artists*

The son of a United Methodist pastor, David Kinrade grew up in Iowa. However, he has lived in Newnan, Georgia since 1982. He graduated from Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa with a Bachelor's degree in 1980 and Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana with a Master's degree in 1982. After graduation, he served as the Music Minister/Organist of Newnan First United Methodist Church where he directed ten choirs. After 40 years of service, he retired from First United Methodist in June, 2022. Currently, he works part-time McKoon Funeral



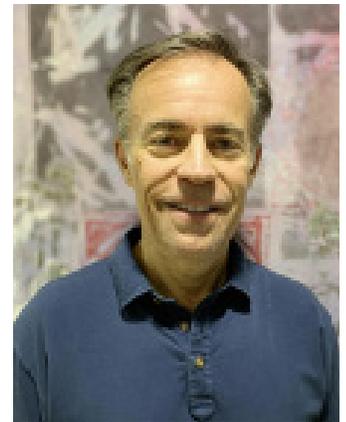
Home in Newnan while serving as a substitute organist for area churches. He is a member of the Fellowship of United Methodists in Worship and Music Arts, the Choristers Guild, and the American Choral Directors Association.

David is married to JoAn. She is a member of the North Georgia Conference, and currently serves two churches near Griffin, Georgia. They have two daughters, Emily Thompson and Rachel Kinrade, and three grandchildren. David keeps busy singing in the Atlanta Symphony Chorus, accompanying the local Masterworks Chorale, and train-watching. He loves spending time with family and friends.

## REV. KEVIN PRESLEY

*Coordinator of Guest Artists*

Kevin Presley is an ordained deacon in the Tennessee - Western Kentucky Conference (UMC). He serves as Minister of Music & Worship at Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Memphis, TN, having previously served churches in Georgia, Texas, and Missouri. Kevin earned the Master of Sacred Music (MSM) and Master of Music degrees (MM) from Perkins School of Theology & Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist University. He is proud to be a member of the Fellowship of Worship Artists (formerly the Fellowship of United Methodist in Music and Worship Arts) having served that organization in many roles over the years.





PSALM 46

...and

**KNOW**  
that  
I am **GOD**

The United Methodist Church General Conference  
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA



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