

# GRACE CONNECTION HOLINESS

2023 Journal



Volume II



**Western North Carolina Conference**

The United Methodist Church

## WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

**Conference Center:** 13924 Professional Center Drive, Suite 200, Huntersville, NC 28078

**Conference Mail:** PO Box 2757, Huntersville, NC 28070 | **Episcopal Mail:** PO Box 2428, Huntersville, NC 28070

**Archives:** G.A. Pfeiffer Library, Pfeiffer University, Misenheimer, NC 28109 | PO Box 1004, Misenheimer, NC 28109

**Websites:** [www.wnccumc.org](http://www.wnccumc.org) | [www.wnccumc.org/Administration](http://www.wnccumc.org/Administration) | [www.ac2023.org](http://www.ac2023.org)

**Phone:** 704.535.2260 | **Fax:** 704.992.7049 | **Archives:** 704.961.8450

### CONFERENCE CENTER STAFF PHONE EXTENSIONS (AND E-MAIL LINKS, ONLINE VERSION)

E-mails are: first initial + last name + @wnccumc.org, i.e., kingram@wnccumc.org. Exceptions: archives@wnccumc.org; bishop@wnccumc.org

- x 138.....Office of Resident Bishop
- x 155.... Carol Bateman.....Ministry Assistant, Missional Engagement & Equity and Justice Ministries
- x 110 .... Dawn Broom .....Ministry Assistant, Receptionist & Hospitality Coordinator
- x 124.... Shantá Bryan.....Accounting/Receivables, Treasury/Administrative Services
- x 177 .... Dale Bryant.....Benefits Administrator, Treasury/Administrative Services
- x 123.... Candy Caron .....Ministry Assistant, Church Development
- x 134.... Amy Coles.....Assistant to the Bishop
- x 128.... Maribel Daza .....Ministry Assistant/Payables, Treasury/Administrative Services
- x 148.... Luke Edwards .....Associate Director of Church Development
- x 111.... Maegan Habich .....Associate Director of Ministerial Services
- x 125.... Chris Hampton.....Director of IT Services
- x 168.... Lindsay Hampton.....Associate Director of Communications
- x 141 .... Havaleh Havelka.....Training and Resource Specialist (Resource Center)
- x 126.... Gloria Hernandez .....Controller, Treasury/Administrative Services
- x 114.... Rob Hutchinson .....Director of Church Development
- x 113.... Kimberly Ingram .....Director of Ministerial Services and Conference Secretary
- x 140.... Mark King.....Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services, Statistician, Benefits Officer
- x 601.... Jae Lee.....Director of Connectional Ministries
- x 146.... Shannon LeMaster-Smith...Youth and Children's Ministry Strategist
- x 127 .... Carl Martin .....IT Services Support Associate
- x 118.... Brian Mateer.....Director of Missional Engagement
- x 122.... Marsha Patton .....Ministry Assistant, Ministerial Services and Conference Secretary
- x 138.... DeEtta Rivens .....Executive Administrative Assistant to the Bishop
- x 1123.. Ben Rogers .....Mission Response Associate
- x 131.... Emma Sherrill .....Ministry Assistant, Ministerial Services
- x 115.... Bill White .....Director of Equity and Justice Ministries
- x 143.... Aimee Yeager .....Director of Communications

*For additional staff and contact information, please see Volume I, Section I, page 14.*

### WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE DISTRICT OFFICES

#### Appalachian

O 336.844.4090 | F 704.992.7049

#### Blue Ridge

O 828.254.8564 | F 704.992.7049

#### Catawba Valley

O 704.865.3580

#### Metro

O 704.525.3395 | F 704.525.4238

#### Northern Piedmont

O 336.282.3711 | F 336.282.6311

#### Smoky Mountain

O 828.454.6820 | F 828.454.6810

#### Uwharrie

O 704.983.1104 | F 704.986.0857

#### Yadkin Valley

O 336.725.4502 | F 336.723.6341

## DIRECTORY OF CONFERENCE-RELATED AGENCIES

### COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

<b>Bennett College for Women</b> 900 E Washington St, Greensboro, NC 27401   336.517.2100	<a href="http://www.bennett.edu">www.bennett.edu</a>
<b>Brevard College</b> One Brevard College Dr, Brevard, NC 28712   828.641.0641	<a href="http://www.brevard.edu">www.brevard.edu</a>
<b>Greensboro College</b> 815 W Market St, Greensboro, NC 27401   336.272.7102	<a href="http://www.greensboro.edu">www.greensboro.edu</a>
<b>High Point University</b> One University Pkwy, High Point, NC 27268   336.841.9000; Toll Free 800.345.6993	<a href="http://www.highpoint.edu">www.highpoint.edu</a>
<b>Pfeiffer University</b> Main Campus: 48380 US Hwy 52 (PO Box 960), Misenheimer, NC 28109   800.338.2060 Charlotte Campus: 1515 Mockingbird Ln, Charlotte, NC 28209   704.521.9116	<a href="http://www.pfeiffer.edu">www.pfeiffer.edu</a>

### HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INSTITUTIONS

<b>Aldersgate United Methodist Retirement Community</b> 3800 Shamrock Dr, Charlotte, NC 28215   704.532.7000	<a href="http://www.aldersgateliving.org">www.aldersgateliving.org</a>
<b>Arbor Acres United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc.</b> 1240 Arbor Rd, Winston-Salem, NC 27104   336.724.7921; Toll Free 866.658.2724	<a href="http://www.arboracres.org">www.arboracres.org</a>
<b>Chrysalis Counseling and Consultation Center, Inc.</b> Greensboro Office: 4469 Rehobeth Church Rd, Greensboro, NC 27406   336.852.0626 High Point Office: Covenant UMC, 1526 Skeet Club Rd, High Point, NC 27265	<a href="http://www.chrysaliscenters.org">www.chrysaliscenters.org</a>
<b>Crossnore Communities for Children</b> Crossnore Campus: 100 DAR Dr, Newland, NC 28657   PO Box 249, Crossnore, NC 28616   828.733.4305 Winston-Salem Campus: 1001 Reynolda Rd, Winston-Salem, NC 27104   336.721.7600 Hendersonville Office: 709 5th Ave W, Hendersonville, NC 28739   828.301.4622	<a href="http://www.crossnore.org">www.crossnore.org</a>
<b>Givens United Methodist Communities</b> Givens Estates (Asheville)   Givens Highland Farms (Black Mountain)   Givens Gerber Park (Asheville)   Givens Great Laurels (Waynesville) 2360 Sweeten Creek Rd, Asheville, NC 28803   828.274.4800	<a href="http://www.givenscommunities.org">www.givenscommunities.org</a>
<b>Sanctuary Counseling Group</b> With locations in Charlotte, Boone, Cornelius, Davidson, Harrisburg, High Point, Huntersville, Monroe, Pineville, Salisbury, Winston-Salem 2129 E 7th St, Charlotte, NC 28204   704.375.5354   info@scgnc.org	<a href="http://www.sanctuarycounselinggroup.org">www.sanctuarycounselinggroup.org</a>
<b>UMAR Services, Inc.</b> With Art Centers in Charlotte, Lincolnton, and Reidsville PO Box 480291, Charlotte, NC 28217   866.272.7826	<a href="http://umarnc.org">umarnc.org</a>

### AFFILIATE INSTITUTIONS AND MINISTRIES

<b>Camp GuilRock</b> 531 Beville Rd, Reidsville, NC 27320   336.342.1951   campguilrock@gmail.com	<a href="http://www.campguilrock.org">www.campguilrock.org</a>
<b>Camp Tekoa</b> 211 Thomas Rd, Hendersonville, NC 28739   Mailing: PO Box 1793, Flat Rock, NC 28731   828.692.6516	<a href="http://www.camptekoa.org">www.camptekoa.org</a>
<b>Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center</b> 91 N Lakeshore Dr (PO Box 67), Lake Junaluska, NC 28745   800.222.4930   information@lakejunaluska.com reservations@lakejunaluska.com	<a href="http://www.lakejunaluska.com">www.lakejunaluska.com</a>
<b>Mount Shepherd Retreat Center</b> 1045 Mount Shepherd Rd Ext, Asheboro, NC 27205   336.629.4085   office@mtshepherd.org	<a href="http://www.mtshepherd.org">www.mtshepherd.org</a>
<b>Tekoa Foothills</b> 258 Hull Rd, Casar, NC 28020   Mailing: PO Box 377, Casar, NC 28020   704.538.3866	<a href="http://www.tekoafoothills.org">www.tekoafoothills.org</a>
<b>The United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc.</b> 13816 Professional Center Dr, Suite 100, Huntersville, NC 28078   704.817.3990; Fax 980.422.0390	<a href="http://www.umfwnc.org">www.umfwnc.org</a>
<b>Wesley Community Development</b> 13816 Professional Center Dr, Suite 200, Huntersville, NC 28078   980.441.5123   info@wesleycdc.com	<a href="http://www.wesleycdc.com">www.wesleycdc.com</a>

**Stories of Faith**  
FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
**Aimee Yeager**

**GRACE CONNECTION HOLINESS**

Graphic made by Aimee Yeager

**THIS IS OUR STORY; HOPE**

As we gather once again in the pages of our annual magazine, I find myself reflecting back to the incredible spirit of unity, connection, and worship that enveloped during the Western North Carolina Annual Conference in June. It is certainly a powerful testament to the strength and resilience of our community!

In this year's magazine, we utilize the theme of 2023 Annual Conference. In the theme "Grace, Connection, Holiness," we find not just words but a reflection of the journey we've collectively undertaken throughout the year. 2023 has brought its share of challenges and heartaches, but in the midst of it all, the light of God's grace has shone through our Confessions, ministries of churches. The commitment of United Methodists to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world, has never more evident than it has been through all these

**MOG STORYTELLING SERIES**  
BY REV. KIM INGRAM & REV. JESSE EN

Check out the MOG Podcast

**The Power of Storytelling**  
Jesse Ennis and Kim Ingram talk with Rev. Dr. Myer Dahm about rediscovering the Evangelistic Power of Personal Redemptive Storytelling, the title of his Doctor of Ministry dissertation. Myer talks about how he used storytelling as a primary foundation for empowering laity to share their faith and start a Dinner Church. In this podcast, Myer also shares his story and how it has shaped his call and leadership.

**Vitality Through Storytelling**  
"Creativity, innovation, and collaboration are at the heart of rural churches and in this episode of the Means of Grace podcast, Rev. Dr. Nicole Jones and Kim and Jesse about her Vitality Storytelling initiative that is developing connections and amplifying the rural churches and community learning from her Doctor of Ministry dissertation. As limited to rural churches. As stories bring "shared delight"

**Video Highlight from AC23**  
Rev. Dr. Candace Lewis preaches the Opening

**Vital UMC, Lighthouse, & Duke Endowment**  
BY AIMEE YEAGER  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

In 2023, the Western North Carolina Conference faced the challenges of disaffiliations and a changing climate with loads of innovative ministries! Two of the most exciting new ministries to come from this year were the commissioning of 118 Lighthouse Congregations and 18 Emerging Community Pastors.

"The Lighthouse churches are safe places, literally sanctuaries for those who may have lost their churches through votes of disaffiliation or been harmed by previous experience of church," shared Bishop Ken Carter, resident bishop for the Western North Carolina Conference.

During Annual Conference 2023, we celebrated a **Duke Endowment grant of \$5.25 million** over the next five years to reinvest in areas of disaffiliation with a commitment not to abandon our members in these

**STORIES of Faith**

Rev. Dana McKim poses in front of First UMC, Morganton, a Lighthouse Congregation.  
Photo by Rev. Dana McKim

John and Joan Shamp were here from the start, 1966. They loved their old church. They love the new one. The parking deck, not so much. Give them a good, old church parking lot. Even with Joan's health issues, Joan says, "We still get there." This is where they raised their five children. Where they turn to Christ and their friends in times of joy and sorrow.

**OUR CHURCH HAS COME BACK TOGETHER**  
From the rubble, Franklinville finds renewed purpose

BY MATT GARFIELD  
UMF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Something remarkable is happening at Franklinville United Methodist Church.

Six months after a wall collapse left the sanctuary in ruins, the 100-year-old congregation finds its most unlikely season of revival.

Members have found new energy in making rebuild. Former regulars have returned – not the first time in years – to support a community which they remain loyal.

And newcomers are showing up on Sunday mornings, filling the chairs in a temporary space in the fellowship building. There, the new pastor is preaching about hope and to a flock that doesn't have to look far for

For now, what's left of the historic sanctuary is protected behind a fence. A gaping hole where the pulpit once stood. It won't be long. Church leaders are working with the North Carolina Conference on a rebuild that will restore the original beauty while to modern needs.

The United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina collected gifts from people ac

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**2023 In Review**

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**EXPRESIONES DE AMOR**  
BY REV. LUKE EDWARDS  
WNCC ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

That will be left without a United Methodist nearby, we sent forth a new cadre of community pastors who will serve them, emerging community pastors are appointed not churches, but to a community or geographic new initiative harkens back to the origins of Methodist movement in the United States and "circuit riders."

Photo by Pic'n' Table Productions

**33**

...these individuals actively stand up for L

Overall, the presence of neighborhood church Parade was a powerful that being persons of faith supporting LGBTQ+ rights mutually exclusive. It challenged stereotypes, fostered contributed to a more inclusive and compassionate society.

In the end, the 2023 Church Parade became more than a procession; it became a testament to the power and love by eight churches together to make this possible. UMC Charlotte, Dilworth Matthews UMC, Light of Inclusion Community, H Lane UMC, Calvary UMC, and Park UMC.

Healing and Reconciliation: For LGBTQ+ individuals who have experienced rejection or discrimination from religious communities, the presence of welcoming churches is often a source of healing and reconciliation. It offers a chance for them to see that there are faith communities that embrace them for who they are.

Visibility and Representation: The participation of these churches in the Pride Parade provided visible representation of the diversity within the religious landscape. They proclaimed that there are clergy members and congregants who

"A safe place, love, support, inclusion, and grace – that's why we serve."  
-Rev. Michelle Hill

Learn more about Project AGAPE

**Project AGAPE 30 Year Anniversary Celebration**

On October 21, individuals from the WNCC and the NCC convened in Greensboro for a jubilant commemoration of 30 years of Project AGAPE. It was a time of sharing memories, vibrant Armenian dance lessons, delicious food, and compelling narratives highlighting the profound impact of Project AGAPE in Armenia throughout its three-decade journey.

the city from where else in which was entitled "Relations," and a landing-on-nerver Pleiffer

we were actively counter sit-ins in participating with the City of North Carolina 1960, Bennett and Associates for trespassing Kress & Co. lunch 22, 1960, The Daily broke the story of it, with front-page picture of well-dressed entering the back of a without any help from the surrounding it. It reports that Belles' had protested considered refined young elitist finishing school

to change the light of the future and to see the light of the future

**STORIES of Faith**

be hubs for disaster response including extreme heat. The churches will also serve as host sites for future eco-mission teams.

"I'm happy to share with anyone willing to listen," Jarrod says. "I'd love an opportunity to speak at your church, small group, Bible study, whatever it is. I want to help Christians and help churches love their neighbor better by taking care of this place we call home."

Photo used with permission from Jarrod Davis

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Learn More About Creation Care Ministry