

Lay leadership development, ministries, and district updates

Jun 1, 2026 • 11:26 AM • 51 minutes, 6 seconds

Overview

Multiple speakers shared updates and appeals centered on lay leadership development, women's ministry, the deaconess/home missionary vocation, discipleship through accountable small groups, church-scouting partnerships, and district-level challenges and ministries. The conference now operates with four geographically large districts, prompting discussion of training delivery and expanded lay involvement. Numerous local ministries were highlighted, including food distribution, prayer shawls, GED support, substance-abuse recovery support, mobile dental care, and campus ministries.

Lay Servant Ministries and LACE (Tim McGraw)

- Framed lay ministry as a calling for all baptized believers to serve as disciples of Jesus.
- Clarified that LACE (a lay leadership/formation track) is not merely a recruitment program but a space for fellowship, learning, and deepening faith.
- Outlined steps for lay engagement, including becoming a lay servant minister (learning core theology and practice) and progressing to lay speaker, emphasizing putting the gospel into action and maintaining a strong, collaborative relationship with one's pastor.

United Women in Faith (UWF) updates

- Mission: "to inspire, influence, and impact communities through persistent spiritual formation, leadership development, and education," centered on women driven by God's love and committed to improving the lives of women and children.
- Reported 53 local units across the conference; encouraged churches without an active unit to start one.
- Activities mentioned included donations and volunteer support, classes and activities at camps, flood relief, children's homes, community centers, and engagement with "rare-age youth."
- Recent and planned participation included prayer services, a worldwide offering service, "Children's Advocacy Week in Frankfurt," and health care agency engagement; noted attendance at an assembly in Indianapolis (including first-time attendees).
- Announced upcoming gatherings, including a next-year meeting "held at Minnesota University in Columbia on July 17th, 2018," a book study "to help participants explore how cross-precious shapes leadership, service, and daily life," and a campaign on "Saturday, October 24th, beginning at 9 o'clock Central Time at Broadway and High Methodist Church in Lone River County," with the theme "Matinee Way Forward, Every One is a Go."

Deaconesses and Home Missioners (Deaconess Jenny Wayhouse)

- Described the fastest-growing order in the United Methodist Church: laypeople "set apart" for a lifetime commitment to love, justice, and service (not clergy).

- Historical notes included origins “since 1888” and that home missionaries were included “as commissioners in 1998.”
- Professions represented: teachers, nurses, counselors, doctors, artists, caregivers, chaplains, social workers, and other professionals.
- Ministries cited included: working with families of premature babies in NICUs in Indianapolis; opening mid-institutes and teaching sustainable farming in Kenya; running Bible studies and supporting women’s Alcoholics Anonymous in Colorado; operating a team of professional clowns in New York City; and teaching special education.
- Stated aims: make Jesus known by alleviating suffering, eradicating causes of injustice, facilitating human potential, and building a global community through church and service; invited interested persons to connect.

Discipleship and accountable communities

- Challenged attendees to consider whether they are truly making disciples or merely maintaining church operations.
- Shared seven years of work among discipleship groups and “Kingdom community” efforts, including pandemic-era gatherings that sustained connection and spurred renewal.
- Emphasized the Wesleyan DNA of class meetings and bands, focusing on spiritual disciplines, accountability, discipling, and engaging mission in everyday life.
- Current study mentioned: “The World of All Water. You’ve got to get out of the bubble.”
- Core convictions: avoid duplicating efforts; build connection and purpose; leverage existing groups; and ground discipleship in relationships, accountability, personal practices, prayer, and shared mission. Affirmed that “discipleship is never meant to be lived alone.”

Church–Scouting partnerships

- A long-time Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts leader advocated for robust church partnerships with scouting to serve youth and families.
- Framed partnerships as mission opportunities rooted in relationships, allowing churches to share Jesus Christ authentically while supporting community development and citizenship.
- Encouraged churches to sponsor units, host meetings, and invest in relationships beyond Sunday programming; offered to provide more information in the lobby and to assist congregations.

District structure, training delivery, and lay involvement

- Conference is now organized into four districts, each covering large geographic areas. Many churches remain, but distances have grown significantly.
- Two district conferences were held per district to reduce travel burdens; this increased travel load for district leaders.
- Proposed blended training: centralized/standardized instruction delivered via live streaming/Zoom with in-person qualified instructors available for Q&A, ensuring consistent curriculum across locations.
- Reiterated that clergy alone cannot carry the ministry load; lay involvement is essential to sustain and grow church mission.

Kentucky Annual Conference plenary on leadership, justice, and discipleship

Jun 1, 2026 • 4:09 PM • 2 hours

Overview

The afternoon plenary of the Kentucky Annual Conference centered on organizing business, inclusion and monitoring practices, a call to racial justice and reconciliation, updates from affiliated ministries (higher education and senior living), deployment of conference discipleship priorities and resources, celebrations of clergy milestones, and development of young leaders. The evening service would include commissioning, ordination, licensing, honoring retirees, and a memorial.

Welcome, Theme, and Local Recognitions

- Theme affirmed: “Fan the Flame; Rekindle the gift.”
- Gratitude for hospitality from the local host team led by Jessica Wells, the North District and surrounding districts, and Christ United Baptist Church.
- Host District Superintendent Kevin Burney welcomed attendees to Louisville, sharing city history and a Lewis and Clark metaphor for preparing together to fulfill mission.
- Recognitions and gifts: appreciation to Mrs. Graves and Mrs. Wynne; thanks to host committee co-chairs Mark Coyle and Mark Vanderwerf; Bishop Graves received a Churchill Downs photo of “Golden Tempo” taken by Raquel Nelson (spouse of Corey Nelson).

Conference Organization and Business

- Key leaders introduced: Conference Lay Leader Joanna Carter; Conference Chancellor Courtney Kellner; Conference Secretary Darren Brandon.
- Elected/appointed roles approved by show of hands: Courtney Kellner (Conference Chancellor); Secretarial staff—Takiyah Talbert (Assistant Secretary for Data and Proceedings), Elizabeth Smith (Assistant Secretary for Motions), Gary Graves (Parliamentarian), William Herndon (Head Teller), Sylvia Baker-Norin (Journal Committee Chair), Jan Brown Thompson and Dale Cardin (Courtesies).
- Tellers elected: Donald Williams, Julia Basil, Jeff Brammel, Erica Leak, Anthony Marks, Derek Robinette, Katherine Sherard, Wallace Coteau, and Steven Wells.
- Bar of the conference set for credentialed lay/clergy seated in plenary; only those within the bar vote; guest seating on both sides.
- Attendance roll established via registration; bishop to grant excused clergy absences.
- Single QR code links to all conference resources; agenda adopted as printed (adjustments as needed).
- Parliamentary guidance: Robert’s Rules overview in the Pre-Conference Report Book (page 12); Standing Rule 8 speech limits—3 minutes per speech, up to 3 speeches for and 3 against, no member speaks more than twice; makers may offer a closing speech within time limits.
- Consent calendar adopted (page 18); no items removed; prayer of thanks for the work

represented.

- Courtesies process: forms available via Jan Brown Thompson and Dale Cardin for greetings, prayers, and acknowledgments to be shared at appropriate times.
- Seating at round tables noted; feedback requested on this arrangement.

Inclusion Monitoring and Requests to Speakers

- The Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) and the Kentucky Commission on Religion and Race outlined their monitoring work across worship, plenary, and clergy/laity sessions, tracking representation and interactions by gender, race, and ethnicity.
- Requests to speakers: upon recognition, state name, district, gender, age, and race to improve data accuracy.
- Reflections from last year: concerns about racial diversity in opening worship; harmful conversations around race; some plenary sessions with exclusively white presenters, typically male; positive feedback for the memorial service highlighting women in ministry.
- Celebrations noted: ratification of Article 5, Amendment 3 and Amendment 2 related to eradicating racism and expanding non-exclusion categories (including gender and ability).

Keynote Call to Racial Justice and Discipleship

- Rev. Dr. Giovanni Arroyo (he/him), General Secretary of the General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR), urged courageous discipleship that confronts inequity, builds beloved community, and bridges differences across race, ethnicity, language, culture, and experience.
- He emphasized moving from intention to action—examining resource sharing, access, and belonging—and living diversity as a witness rather than a slogan.
- He referenced a prayer by Lecrae Moore published in Christianity Today, hoping the church would choose conviction over comfort, lament and repent, elevate silenced voices, act justly, and look like Jesus.

Higher Education Updates

- Dr. D.J. Washington, President of Union Commonwealth University (formerly Union College), recognized sector headwinds and shared encouraging Kentucky trends (AIKCU: undergraduate enrollment +6%; full-time first-year +9%).
- Lindsey Wilson University: surpassed 3,000 students; 100% nursing pass rates; extensive service via Bonner Scholars (380,000+ hours); program growth and significant grants/facilities investments.
- Kentucky Wesleyan College: launched MBA and a Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling; KWC Online ranked #1 among the state's private colleges for online bachelor's programs; new civic/workforce/dual credit initiatives (Center for American Civics, Health Force Kentucky, Wesleyan Academy).
- Union Commonwealth University (renamed 2024): third consecutive year of enrollment growth; on-campus housing maxed; \$3M+ in grants with \$5M in new requests; tuition-free Knox Initiative for nearly 100 Knox County graduates (class of 2026); new programs in AI management, cybersecurity, data science, business analytics, and healthcare administration.

- Campus investments: chapel tower restoration; residence hall upgrades; signage; renovated basketball floor; new video scoreboards (football and basketball); softball pavilion; premium event space; modular student housing village.
- Spiritual life: first post-COVID prayer walk (50+ participants); community-wide chapel services; student chaplain program (funded by UMC Good Samaritan funds); strengthened church/community partnerships.

Wesley Village Ministry Highlights

- Linda Creech (she/her, Caucasian, age 81) presented Wesley Village as a faith-driven senior living community delivering a true full continuum of care on one campus— independent living, personal care, memory care, and 24-hour nursing—so residents never need to transfer due to increased needs.
- Mission commitment: in 25 years, no resident has been discharged for inability to pay; this requires higher staffing/clinical costs and donor partnership to bridge gaps.
- Testimonies included a staff-written tribute to resident Richard “Dick” Reyes (original advocate for Wesley Village), who remained in the community through all stages of care until his passing at age 97.

Conference Discipleship Priorities and Resources

- Priorities: culture of call; dismantling/disrupting racism and discrimination; mental health and well-being; professions of faith; spiritual leadership development.
- Examples in practice: Breaking Bread Fellowship (African, African-American, and Anglo congregations share worship/meals/stories); camps (LUCON and Aldersgate) cited as top tools for leadership development; 10 new licensed local pastors to be recognized; sensory-friendly ministry at Crestwood UMC for neurodivergent children and families; baptisms (e.g., at Claywick).
- Leadership development: Priorities Summit fostered collaboration and produced a 5-week worship/sermon series resource (hymns, contemporary songs, liturgy, calls to worship, graphics, slides, videos, small group materials, original-language translations, words of note, extended commentary, bibliographies, and suggested sermon outlines). Southern Hills UMC will use the series in July alongside its “Coffee at” podcast discussions.
- Table discussions invited input on where individuals, local churches, and the conference can most meaningfully embody the priorities; attendees were asked to submit ideas via the QR-linked resource.

Statement on Racism: Confession, Repentance, Apology, and Resolve

- Leanne Maynard read a statement (emerging from the March Priorities in Practice day) calling the conference to discipleship-driven anti-racism.
- It referenced the February 4th, 2025 unveiling of the five priorities and invited reaffirmation of baptismal vows to renounce/resist racism and discrimination in all forms.
- Confession and lament included: inadequate development/support of Black clergy and leaders; allowing African American churches to wither/close; prioritization of majority churches and leadership; contributing to attrition of Black leaders; complicity and, at times, direct culpability in harm.

- Repentance named: cautious inclusion; status-quo hiring; fear of giving disruptions; elevating any race/ethnicity and English as “norm,” marginalizing others’ belonging.
- Apology: for silence and for denying racism as present sin; commitment to immediate acknowledgment of harm when it occurs.
- Resolve: resist legislation/rulings that suppress voting rights/representation, especially of Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC); listen to different lived experiences; speak against injustice across all contexts; embody justice as prerequisite for peace.
- Bishop Graves apologized to people of color for not leading well during last year’s Amendment 3 discussion and for failing to acknowledge harm in the moment; he sought forgiveness, committed to continued learning and relationship-building, and cited wisdom from Dr. James Lawson that nonviolence seeks “justice and reconciliation, not victory.”
- Next day’s plan: a “three practice circles” exercise to equip healthy conversations on divisive issues.
- By acclamation, the body voiced a resounding “yes” to receive the report; the full statement will be posted online.

30 Years of the Order of Deacons

- Chair Brandon McGinnis marked the 30th anniversary of the permanent Order of Deacons (established at the 1996 General Conference in Denver) as a full and equal order of clergy.
- Deacons are called to word, service, compassion, and justice—bridging church and world, equipping laity, and embodying servanthood (stole worn like a towel).
- Milestones: 2012 language explicitly adding compassion and justice; 2024 sacramental privilege and recognition as pastors. The first class of deacons in the conference was honored.

70 Years of Women’s Full Clergy Rights

- On May 4, 1956, General Conference granted full clergy rights to women; this year marks the 70th anniversary.
- All clergywomen (local pastors, deacons, elders, associate members, retired) gathered up front; this year features the first all-women ordination and commissioning class.
- A call-and-response liturgy from COSROW was shared; the bishop offered prayer and blessing.

Isaiah Project Internships: Expansion and 2024 Cohort

- In Courtney Garrett’s absence, Caleb Wheat reported on the Isaiah Project, a paid internship for young adults discerning call to ministry.
- Program expansion now includes spring and fall internships; interns engage in connectional experiences (discipleship training, Annual Conference engagement, service at the Central Appalachian Missionary Conference, and a week at a UMC camp).
- Alignment with conference priorities: assessing culture-of-call outcomes; mentors emphasizing spiritual leadership development; each intern designing a summer project focused on one of the following—dismantling/disrupting racism and discrimination, mental health and well-being, or professions of faith.
- 2024 interns: Cameron King (Broadway UMC, Bowling Green), Isaac Wells (Southern Hills

Celebrating diversity as transformative discipleship and institutional equity

Jun 1, 2026 • 8:30 PM • 27 minutes, 45 seconds

Overview

The speaker, a General Secretary involved in the Preacher Ordinations Service, calls the church to celebrate diversity as a core element of discipleship rooted in Scripture, not a modern trend. They emphasize intercultural competency, institutional equity, and honest, reconciling conversations as interconnected discipleship practices. The message urges humility, learning across differences, structural examination for equity and access, recognition of whole-person identities, and creating true belonging at the table of Christ.

Acknowledgments and context

- Gratitude for leaders, including “Stevie Hande,” and the gathered community whose cooperation is required for the work.
- Preacher Ordinations Service: “Dr. Taylor and me is part of the full-time general secretary. He serves as the vice president.” The speaker notes that he “has journeyed with me since 2012 as part of the work of the commission” and expresses hope they “would end up in the same conference that we bid our tours this year.”
- Role and travel: The speaker, as General Secretary, travels throughout the “United Nations Church”: “Look where I’m at, Kentucky today. Wednesday I’ll be in San Antonio. Sunday I’ll be in Atlanta.”

Theological foundation for diversity

- Diversity is rooted in God’s creation from Genesis; it is not a modern problem. The key question for the church is whether we are willing to be transformed by diversity.
- 1 Corinthians 12 teaches “many gifts, but one Spirit; many members, but one body.” The body of Christ is strengthened not by uniformity but when every member offers their God-given gifts.
- Discipleship is “not about making everyone to see”; it is learning to follow Jesus and grow beyond ourselves.

Discipleship as transformative intercultural learning

- Transformation requires humility, curiosity, courage, regret, and, above all, love. The conference’s shared public statement demonstrated creation, repentance, and love present among participants.
- The commission’s work (framed by the speaker as G.Core—name used by the speaker for the General Commission) is about discipleship: becoming more interculturally competent, ensuring institutional equity, and facilitating bonding conversations about religion, race, and culture.
- Intercultural learning is spiritual maturity, not “political correctness.” It is learning to see

God within and beyond our own culture and allowing the Holy Spirit to expand our understanding of God's family.

- Acts 10 (Peter and Cornelius): God disrupts assumptions about who is clean/unclean. By the end, Peter says, "I truly understand that God shows no mercy on us." This illustrates that transformation may change how we understand familiar Scripture.

Institutional equity: examination of structures and access

- Core biblical question: Are all members of the body able to fully participate in the life of the church? If every person bears God's image, is gifted by the Spirit, and has a role, disciples must examine whether structures reflect these truths.
- Guiding questions for equity: Who is missing? Who is my herd? Who lacks access? What barriers prevent flourishing? These are invitations to align practices with theology, not accusations.
- Equity is "not about purpose. It's about participation." Ensure opportunity for every child of God to fully engage in life, leadership, and ministry.
- Accessibility matters: some have mobility realities; the church must ensure access so people can be fully part of the body of Christ. Removing barriers at the table is essential to being a welcoming church.
- Self-examination includes recognizing our privileges and how showing up in certain ways can marginalize other family members in Christ.

Whole-person recognition and "intersexuality"

- People do not experience life through a single identity: "A woman does not experience life only as a woman. A Latino or Paso does not experience life only as a Latino. A person with a disability does not experience life only through disability. An immigrant does not experience life only through immigration." Some refer to this as "intersexuality."
- Jesus' encounters show whole-person recognition: the Samaritan woman (her story and pain), "Barneas," and Zacchaeus are seen not as categories but as beloved, transformable persons.
- Experiences vary across identities: a young immigrant woman differs from an older immigrant man; a black clergywoman's reality differs from black men or white men; disability combined with poverty creates distinct obstacles.
- Observed realities: immigrant pastors face cultural, language, racial, and immigration barriers, and some congregations have told them, "go back to the country"; leaders' kids have been strengthened by the church while leaders still face barriers to representation; persons with a disability remind the church that accessibility is about belonging.
- Belonging requires spaces where people bring their full selves; "We cannot love our neighbors if we refuse to know them fully."

Belonging, hard conversations, and reconciliation

- Intercultural competency, institutional equity, and bonding conversation are interconnected because people are interconnected.
- Disciples are called to encounter one another in our full humanity. To reach hard conversations, we must lower our "cards," come to the table, and be in discourse even

Kentucky Annual Conference ministry reports and Aldersgate campaign

Jun 2, 2026 • 11:39 AM • 2 hours, 8 minutes

Overview

Session featured inclusivity updates, courtesies and greetings, first reading of conference nominations, reports from key conference ministries (United Methodist Mountain Mission and Kentucky United Methodist Children's Homes), a United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) video, higher education and campus ministry strategy and appointments, a camping and retreat ministry update, and a detailed Aldersgate Camp "Welcome Home" capital campaign and mission celebration.

Inclusion, Confession, and Monitoring

- The Commission on Religion and Race celebrated teams addressing historic harms and highlighted a statement of "confession, repentance, apology, forgiveness, and resolve," along with an apology by the Episcopal leader -- offered as a sign of a new beginning for the Kentucky Annual Conference, unity, and healing.
- Conference monitors (report by Tess Welch) noted increased racial/ethnic diversity from the first plenary to worship services and improved gender representation over last year, while emphasizing room for growth.
- Age categories were clarified per the Book of Discipline (Paragraphs Q49.7 and Q56.3): "A youth is a person under 18. A young adult is 18 to 30. An adult is 31 to 64. And an older adult is 65 and 50."
- Reminders: conferencing is an outward sign where the body receives God's grace; three simple rules cited—do no harm, do good, and attend to the ordinances of God.

Courtesies, Greetings, and Prayer Requests

- Prayer requested for Phil Young, recovering from heart surgery.
- Greetings conveyed from an ecumenical coalition ("the United Movement": 41 ... representing 16 faith traditions) including the Kentucky Annual Conference, Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference, and CAMC; greetings also requested for longtime Central Appalachian Minister Conference members Dr. Robert Beeders, Dr. Ken Beeders, and Triton O. Powers.

Nominations Report (First Reading)

- Dr. Patterson presented the first reading; the full report is available via on-screen QR code; final reading set for tomorrow. Additional nominations could be made; none were voiced on the floor.
- Corrections announced:
 - Black church committee: remove Belinda Duncan; add William Burris and Lindell Blackwell.

- NCD Directional Team: add cultivators who will also serve on the NCBT; names cited included Adam Shorts (lead cultivator for the South), Adam Sparks (North), Eric Espada (East), and Collin Fullwood.

United Methodist Mountain Mission (83rd Year)

- Report by Executive Director Karen Bunn (with operations lead Andy Mitchell). Mission operates seven “opportunity stores,” employing 60+ people and reaching 200,000+ annually through affordable goods sourced from church donations and routed via weekly truck pick-ups to the Jackson, KY processing center.
- COVID forced a 3-month closure of all stores, creating an acute financial strain that was overcome through community generosity; thanks expressed to churches for continued support.
- Mission remains deeply engaged in ongoing recovery from historic flooding in southeastern Kentucky (e.g., rapid distribution of drywall for home rebuilding). Appreciation expressed for UMCOR and volunteer efforts.
- Donation/coordination phone: 606-666-7795. A video showcasing the work was shown; a question was asked about YouTube availability for congregational use.

Kentucky United Methodist Children’s Homes

- Report shared with stories of impacted youth (e.g., “Anna” and her first meaningful birthday celebration) to illustrate trauma-informed care and the ministry’s reach.
- In 2025, 2,486 children, youth, and adults were served across programs—quadruple the number from 10 years prior. For every 1 residential client, 11 are served in the community.
- Programs include counseling, case management, Department of Juvenile Justice work, adoption, post-release services, and Camino shelters.
- Strategic aim: be a preferred place to work and then a preferred provider—contributing to Kentucky becoming a preferred place for children; urgent need underscored due to Kentucky’s high abuse/neglect rates.
- 155th anniversary celebrated: incorporated March 18, 1871; first building at end of 1882; first child received early 1883. Early funding came from local-church “special agents” on rally days (now “ambassadors” and fifth-Sunday offerings).
- Transitions: Vice President of Advancement Melinda Ross-Smith retiring after 36 years; Melissa Brown named as next VP of Advancement.
- Partnership with the Conference Board of Pensions: licensed clinicians continue to provide confidential mental health care for clergy families via telehealth and in-person.
- Invitations: prayers; presence (tours of the Nicholasville campus); gifts (financial support); service; witness (share the ministry, invite staff to speak). Ideas included supporting birthday celebrations for local schoolchildren through Family Resource Centers.
- Independent living program (for youth from foster care, up to age 21): four youth recently finished their first semester or year of college. Noted benchmark: only 8–12% of foster care youth earn a two- or four-year degree by their mid-20s (vs. 49% nationally).

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)

A video affirmed global disaster response and recovery ministries—hurricane, wildfire, and flood

relief; support for migrants and refugees; conflict-area relief (food, water, essentials); and long-term community recovery highlighting the UMC's worldwide connection.

Higher Education and Campus Ministry

- Chair Dean Merrick emphasized two realities: the Conference values campus ministry and traditional funding is insufficient.
- A higher education task force convened (Tina Patterson, Tammy Coleman, David Garvin, Dean Merrick; campus ministers Jamel Jones and Drew McNeil; CFNA member Todd Nelson; Conference Trustees member Mike Bishop; Wesley Foundation board members Ted Kaur and Pam Compton) to deepen shared understanding and propose pathways.
- Jamel Jones highlighted the team's insight, genuine care, and forward focus; challenged churches to build visible, relational connections with one of the seven Wesley Foundations (beyond simply giving funds): learn the leader's name, visit campus, write encouragements, and avoid complacency.
- Resource produced: "Serving the Next Best Steps," outlining seven possible campus ministry models (e.g., traditional, church-based, ecumenical, and "rest, lie fallow, and replanted"). It is meant to empower Wesley Foundation boards to choose context-appropriate models.
- Example collaboration - UK Wesley Foundation: Rev. Kayla Maddox Frye becomes campus minister while continuing as pastor of the Offerings community (First Church, Lexington); Southern Hills UMC will assist with administrative duties; the board will hire a head resident to oversee the residence hall and building - described as a first-of-its-kind partnership.
- Campus ministers and status updates (selected, as presented):
 - UK Wesley: Kayla Maddox Frye (transitioning in); appreciation for Casey Neely's service.
 - EKV Wesley: Elias Love (two years of service; departing); Devin Rowe stepping in part-time.
 - UofL Wesley: Jamel Jones (served); Marcus Price stepping in; a Revolution Church partnership noted.
 - Commonwealth University (Barbourville partnership): Tom Brown served; Abraham Livingston taking on appointment.
 - "Jay": served by Jessica Neely; board searching for next leader.
 - Lindsey Wilson College: Tyler Brumfield.
 - Northern Kentucky University: Don Guido (ecumenical model; ordained in another denomination).
 - Western Kentucky University: Landon Harding.
 - Morehead State: Drew McNeil.
 - Georgetown College: Brian Langlands.
 - Kentucky Wesleyan College: Jim Coleman served; board exploring next steps.
- Thanks for last year's mission offering funding coaching for newer campus ministers. Campus ministries remain in the conference budget, though allocations have declined year-over-year.

Camping and Retreat Ministry Task Force

- A bishop-appointed task force (work began early 2025) conducted site visits, met with

boards/committees/staff, and reviewed finances; found camps integral and central to multiple discipleship priorities.

- The task force concluded and recommended an ongoing, renamed Camp and Retreat Team (appears in the nominations report).
- Conference engagement exercise affirmed camps' impact on discipleship and calls to ministry; leaders urged regular prayer, work teams, consistent financial support, hosting retreats, sending campers and volunteers, direct communication with camp staff, and inviting camp representatives to speak.

Camp Lucon Update

- Executive Director Eric Van Meter described the distinctive, formative role of camp amid church change—helping young people and staff develop gifts and discipleship on a “rope bridge” toward a faithful future. A staff video highlighted transformations, community without phones, inclusion, leadership growth, and accessibility in programs.

Aldersgate Camp “Welcome Home” Capital Campaign

- Executive Director Zane Johns Morrison and team recounted the August fire that destroyed the O.P. Smith Lodge and presented a plan to build a new lodge/dining hall—long envisioned in master plans—to meet current and future ministry needs.
- Facility vision and features:
 - Prominent siting at camp entrance (left side before chapel) to orient guests.
 - Dining hall seating 220+, large windows with mountain views, fireplace, and deck overlooking Banana Island and the front fields.
 - Kitchen and service core designed for function: external serving line, dish room, dry storage, walk-in refrigerator and freezer, laundry, and accessible restrooms.
 - Second-floor Lucy Kinser lobby (named for prior donor gift) with fireplace and soft seating; connected administrative shared office with private room; infirmary with two private rooms and restrooms.
 - Fully accessible design, unifying mealtimes (eliminating split seatings), expanding retreat capacity, and enhancing hospitality.
- Campaign details (Amy Bridges, Leandra Padgett-Thompson):
 - Total project budget: \$2.7M (construction estimated at \$2.4M; campaign costs \$84k; 10% contingency \$240k).
 - Funds on hand: \$1.6M (prior donor gifts stewarded by the conference plus insurance proceeds).
 - Gap to raise: \$1.1M.
 - Timeline: Campaign runs now through September 2027. Three-year pledges requested (calendar years 2026, 2027, 2028). Groundbreaking targeted for September 2027, contingent on receiving the full \$1.1M in cash and pledges.
 - Transparency commitments: campaign website and QR code with detailed financials, plans, timeline, and FAQs; board members available for questions; renderings on display at the ministry fair.
- Motion and floor exchange:
 - The chair of the Aldersgate Camp Committee, citing Paragraph 614.5 of the Book of Discipline, moved that the Kentucky Annual Conference approve a conference-wide

appeal for \$1.1M via the Welcome Home Capital Campaign. A question was raised about demographic analytics (race/gender) of workers; response: limited data at present, to be explored.

- Gifts and challenge:
 - David Bowles (Kentucky United Methodist Foundation president) announced a \$25,000 gift from the Foundation to launch the rebuilding effort and challenged others (e.g., 24 gifts of \$25,000) to accelerate progress. He shared an anecdote about his 8-year-old granddaughter Lucy giving \$25 from a lemonade stand to help “people that don’t have a home.”
- Mission celebration highlights (Aldersgate):
 - Operations and readiness: temporary cooking trailer feeding campers in the chapel; bathhouse operational; HVAC upgrades; new accessible trails; pool filled; steady retreat bookings with larger groups expressing interest.
 - Participation: 413 campers served last summer (higher than previous year); current registrations tracking ahead of last year at the same point.
 - Worship and witness: summer staff led camp songs and “Creekside Song” (Firm Foundation); on-site donation baskets circulated.

Announcements and Logistics

- Ministry fair at noon (visit booths for a chance to win a large prize basket); consider visiting the fair first if lunch lines are long.
- Boxed lunches: front three rows line up in front of the stage; back two rows queue at back right door; Alex available to resolve order issues.
- Hospitality updates: added coffee, water, iced tea, and lemonade at tables left of the kitchen and in the gathering hall.
- Restrooms: through the left-side double doors and then left down the hall; also behind the gathering hall to the left; and across from the parking lot.
- Camping task force handouts (“guided notes”) on tables: complete and bring to Lucon and Aldersgate tables at the ministry fair for prize entry.

Next Steps and Actions

- Nominations: review the QR-linked report; submit corrections to Dr. Patterson and Kim Kellogg; expect the final reading tomorrow.
- Prayers: remember Phil Young’s recovery; continue praying for healing, unity, and for ministries serving vulnerable communities.
- Mountain Mission: coordinate donation pick-ups via 606-666-7795; share/show the video locally (inquire about YouTube availability).
- KY United Methodist Children’s Homes: support through prayers, presence (tour Nicholasville campus), gifts, service, and witness; identify/empower church ambassadors; observe fifth-Sunday offerings; consider local birthday-support initiatives with school Family Resource Centers.
- Campus ministry: choose one of the seven Wesley Foundations to personally connect with; learn the leader’s name, visit the ministry, and provide ongoing relational support (beyond funding); utilize the “Serving the Next Best Steps” models as a board resource.
- Camps: pray, send work teams, give financially (regular gifts encouraged), host retreats, send

Kentucky Annual Conference updates on ministries, budget, and initiatives

Jun 2, 2026 • 3:37 PM • 1 hour, 36 minutes

Overview

This session featured ministry updates, ecumenical and advocacy reports, administrative actions (trustees, pensions, finance), an anti-racism training plan, and an introduction to Three Practice Circles. Leaders shared concrete outcomes, timelines, funding decisions, and participation invitations across the Kentucky Annual Conference.

Wesley Manor Retirement Community update

- President/CEO reported on resident and family satisfaction findings from a comprehensive survey across independent living, assisted living, memory care, and skilled nursing:
 - 95% satisfaction with staff; 99% sense of belonging/acceptance; 90% feel well informed/connected; quality of care score: 91; Net Promoter Score (NPS): 55.
 - Feedback consistently described Wesley Manor as welcoming, supportive, compassionate, and “home.”
- Culture and care examples: admissions/social services director Trina provided family reassurance during a transition; Care Services Administrator Terri teaches a resident smartphone use weekly; Director of Nursing Katie helps a long-term resident organize his room.
- Recognitions and workforce: earned “world’s best culture certified” status for the second consecutive year; 182 diverse employees aligned with organizational values in a nurturing Christian environment.
- Facilities and growth:
 - Major healthcare center renovations underway: updated rooms, new furniture/equipment, enhanced dining/gathering spaces, memory support areas, outdoor access, and improved staff workspaces. Target completion: mid-2027; rededication planned.
 - Independent living expansion: engagement with a leading developer following master planning to add a first-phase of 147 apartments plus dining, wellness, arts, music, and lifelong learning spaces, nearly doubling capacity. Zoning/entitlement phase to conclude in a few months; more news expected next year.
- Mission emphasis: remain grounded in United Methodist values, creating dignified, welcoming environments where people feel connected and cared for.

Advocacy and ecumenical ministries

- Todd Smith (chair, Advocacy Team) outlined work areas: Peace with Justice, Church and Society, Native American Ministries, Creation Care, and Humanism.
- Peace with Justice Sunday offering supports global and Kentucky ministries. The team organizes against racism, challenges harmful actions (including actions by ICE), and opposes unjust laws affecting the poor (e.g., cutting staff, deregulating water testing).

- Encouragement to partner locally and ecumenically—through the Kentucky Council (KCC)—as the “Christian conscience of the Commonwealth.” Invitation to rededicate congregations to joint ministry across denominations and to engage legislators on policy impacts.

Ecumenical and inter-religious ministries (Council of Bishops)

- Rev. Dr. Jean Hawkshurst described United Methodist ecumenical/inter-religious engagement, noting unity as a biblical and missional priority.
- Formal dialogues and conversations: 60-year dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church; a conversation with the United Church of Canada (beginning); dialogue with the Episcopal Church (prayed outcome: a more formal connection in coming years).
- Resources: at www.unitedmethods bishops.org (guidance on congregational mergers; leading multi-faith or multi-religious weddings/funerals).
- Representation: Religions for Peace, World Council of Churches Executive Committee, Global Christian Forum, National Council of Churches Governing Board.
- Trainings: United Methodist Ecumenical and Interreligious Trainings (seven offerings), including a two-year Young Adult Network (Zoom monthly, annual in-person, context projects). The first young adult from Kentucky was recognized for completing the network (worked with young girls from Nigeria, the Philippines, England, and the U.S.).
- Churches Uniting in Christ (CUIC) Institute on Ecumenism: first Kentucky young adult (Melissa Brown) recognized for completing the second cohort alongside peers from denominations including AMEZ, CME, PCUSA, Episcopal Church, and others.

Interdenominational Cooperation Fund (ICF) highlight

- A video described how the ICF supports ecumenical and inter-religious partnerships, strengthens shared discipleship and service, and builds bridges across divisions. It featured Pastor Eliza Vogt (Kentucky) representing the United Adventist Church at a gathering in Switzerland.

Conference interlude

- Director of Communications Kim Keller led a brief stretch and coordinated a group photo/video with attendees.

Anti-racism training initiative

- Report by Courtney Garrett and John Carter: a 2020 motion requires anti-racism training once each quadrennium for active clergy and conference leadership.
- An Anti-Racism Task Team (formed in 2021) led the first conference-wide training in 2022 and identified priorities: cultural competency, leadership development, accountability, and creating communities where all people can flourish.
- 2024–2028 team members were recognized.
- Fall plan: four anti-racism training sessions across the conference (district-hosted) with Saturday and evening options; mandatory for clergy; laity encouraged.
 - Facilitator: Rev. Dr. April Patterson (also referenced as Dr. Casperson), with extensive

- experience in diversity, inclusion, organizational leadership, and ministry education.
- Focus areas: cultural competency; building bridges across difference; inclusive leadership; mission/ministry in diverse contexts; creating healthy communities of belonging.
- Registration opens next week via the Connections newsletter and conference website.

Administrative services block

- Board of Trustees (Gary Gibson):
 - Episcopal residence sold last fall; proceeds set aside for episcopal housing/office expenses not covered by the General Conference.
 - Sale of the conference office building is listed and seeing active interest. Transition efforts repurposed furniture/equipment/kitchen supplies to 20+ churches/ministries. The stained glass lobby window has been removed and stored pending next steps.
- Good Samaritan Ministries (Rev. Tom Greve):
 - Originated from the sale of Good Samaritan Hospital (Lexington). Distributes over \$1 million annually via a new model limited to Kentucky United Methodist churches/ministries.
 - For 2026, awarded just over \$1 million to: 43 churches; 8 conference ministry teams; 8 campus ministries; 7 urban missions; 2 camps; 2 retirement communities; and other efforts (notably feeding programs, community outreach, leadership/discipleship development, camp scholarships for Lujan and Aldersgate).
 - Annual tithes: 10% of distributions to the annual conference budget/Our Mission Together.
 - Priorities: new ministry initiatives. Thresholds: up to \$40,000 for United Methodist ministries; up to \$10,000 for United Methodist local churches.
 - Application timeline: Sep 1–Oct 31 (online); webinar in early September; award notifications in early December; funds distributed in January.
 - Reporting: mid-year report due July 31; spend funds by Dec 31; final report due Jan 31 (timelines specified for current and future grant years).
- Board of Pensions (Keith Schweitzer):
 - Milestones: 25 years – Martina Ockerman; 50 years – Monty Fugate, Robert Gifford, George Strunk, Frederick Wiles (certificates available in room 156).
 - Since 2020, over \$4 million committed to supplemental support (e.g., retiree medical, VAP services, premium and CPP holidays, staff support); in 2027, estimated ~\$882,000 in continued support (health grants to local churches, staff support, ACH discounts, and more).
 - Past Service Rate (pre-1982 service): recommending a 3% increase in 2027.
 - Retiree HRA changes (effective Jan 2027): cap expanded from 20 to 30 years of service; per-year funding increased by 2%; maximum annual HRA increases from \$2,500 to \$3,660.
 - Active health plan: health costs rising; WestPath reducing and redesigning plan options for 2027. Kentucky's projected 16% premium increase (\$190/month) will be limited to 5% (\$60/month) for churches, with the Board subsidizing the difference. Participant costs will vary by selected plan; communications coming this fall. Contact Leslie Williams for support.
 - Well-being: encourage preventive care, use of QAN care coordinators, Health Chat

- (online), Blueprint for Wellness (earn up to \$100), and Personify Health Account (up to \$400).
- Mental health: partnership with the Kentucky United Methodist Children's Home provided 300+ hours of no-cost professional services to clergy, spouses, and clergy children; ~45% of users were clergy family members.
- Council on Finance and Administration (Becky Jones):
 - 2027 proposed budget: \$4.43 million (1% decrease from 2026); balanced; Our Mission covenant rate remains 10%. Adopted by the conference.
 - Revenue: approximately two-thirds from apportionments; remainder from designated funds, ministry partnerships, districts, Sustaining Ministries Fund, and other sources.
 - Expenses: ~25% to general church and Southeastern Jurisdiction apportionments (funded at 100%); ~21% direct ministry (increases for new church development grants, Commission on Religion and Race, ethnic global church concerns; new conference missions team; disaster response via designated/grant funds; full funding for camp directors and camp insurance; higher education team funded at 100% of request); ~45% personnel (includes 3% COLA; staffing changes including district research development cultivators and coordinators for African American and Hispanic ministries); ~9% administrative (annual conference, finance/legal, insurance, technology, office support). Conference office expenses anticipated to be fully supported by proceeds connected to the Crestwood property sale.
 - Giving: gratitude to 108 churches that paid 100% in 2025 and 112 that increased giving; encouragement to non-participating churches to begin giving; online payment option recommended. If all churches paid 100%, the budget would have about \$1 million more for ministry.
 - CFA grants: since 2020, \$91,500 awarded for technology, stewardship, and leadership development projects; churches invited to apply and to seek budgeting/stewardship support from CFA.

Three Practice Circles (listening practice)

- Introduced as a structured conversation tool to practice respectful curiosity over debate/defense.
- Core commitments: be unusually interested in others; stay in the room with difference; stop comparing my best with your worst.
- Use cases already emerging in the conference: campus ministries, Sunday school, leadership retreats/meetings; supports discipleship priorities (culture of call, spiritual leadership development, dismantling racism/discrimination, mental health/well-being, and nurturing professions of faith through authentic relationships).
- Session logistics: attendees assigned to rooms (on name tags), with volunteers guiding (200-rooms upstairs; 100-level main; others lower level via the indicated door). Two framing questions will guide the circles, including why one said "yes" to being a disciple of Jesus within the United Methodist Church and how God has called them. Circles begin in 15 minutes.

Upcoming steps and actions

- Wesley Manor:

Kentucky Annual Conference updates on mission, justice, and church development

Jun 3, 2026 • 11:06 AM • 1 hour, 51 minutes

Overview

Session featured mission impact updates, administrative approvals, justice and inclusion reports, church planting and revitalization funding, a new district cultivators model, immigration ministry advocacy, cabinet/charge changes, clergy appointments, recognition of service, and planning for a global leadership gathering and the next annual conference.

Africa University impact and gratitude

- Video celebrated “Africa University,” funded by the Africa University Fund apportionment; local churches invested 88.6% in 2025, ranking this fund number one with 26 annual conferences giving above 99%.
- AU self-funded a solar power plant now supplying 100% of campus electricity; emphasis on forming principled servant leaders across church and society.
- Personal testimony: a graduate connected AU’s impact to a cornerstone-laying visit in Tanzania (2018) and shared plans to attend Wesley Seminary in the U.S.

Administrative business and acknowledgments

- Journal Committee motion (Sylvia Baker-Norrin): Conference approved minutes from June 2, 2026, and authorized continued review/approval of the current day’s proceedings by the Journal Conference Committee.
- Courtesy Committee: A member publicly apologized to “Dale” and the body for overextending comments last year, acknowledging they were perceived as disrespectful.

Global mission, hope, and response (video)

- Roland Fernandez (general secretary for Global Ministries and Higher Education) highlighted unified responses in agriculture/food security, education, global health, migration, peace/justice, disaster response, mission support, clergy formation, and ethnic ministries.
- Call to choose hope, connection, and response in a fearful, divided time: “Together, we will alleviate human suffering... connect the Church in mission... foster learning that deepens faith and transforms the world.”

Inclusion and equity monitoring (CORR and COSROW)

- Commission on Religion and Race (chair: Deborah Thompson) and Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW; Tess Welch) reported a small percentage of diverse participation; urged building systems that invite all persons to the “open table.”
- Dr. Giovanni Arroyo (General Secretary, GCORR) engaged the conference; quoted:

“Inclusion is our heart. Equity is our work. Justice is our calling as disciples of Christ.”

- Feedback channel: Chairs’ emails are listed atop their reports in the pre-conference book; members were asked to share observations to improve monitoring.
- Example feedback: In this historic year for women’s ministry, no woman preached at annual conference; COSROW will work with the worship team to avoid such unintentional oversight in the future.
- Monitors were recognized and thanked.

Nominations report and honoring service

- Tina Patterson presented the second reading of the Nominations Report (available via QR, including prior revisions), noted a correction from Westwood Village Board of Directors to be reflected in the Journal, and thanked the nominations team—especially Courtney Garrett and Kim Keller—after delays due to emergency surgeries, a death, and illnesses.
- The bishop honored Tina Patterson’s ministry (campus, local church, district superintendent, Director of Connectional Ministries) as she moves back to the local church in Indiana; prayer included gratitude and comfort following the death of her daughter.

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) training and resources

- Video (Matt Asick, Executive Director, SEJ): UMVIM equips/deploys mission teams globally; offers first-time and refresher Team Leader Trainings (online/in person), a Mission Team Leader Handbook, safety and accountability guidance, and team insurance (international/domestic).
- Recognition: Gary Reker (trainer) and Jim Savage were thanked for their roles supporting mission and discipleship.

Immigration ministry advocacy and congregational responses

- John Gallagher (pastor, Embrace Church, Lexington) introduced the Neighbors Immigration Clinic, an affiliate of the Immigration Law and Justice Network (16 affiliate sites nationwide), providing low-cost immigration legal services.
- He urged Christians to “know where Jesus stands, and stand there,” affirming Jesus stands with immigrants, the incarcerated, those on the margins, separated children, refugees, and those losing hope.
- Executive Director remarks: The clinic leader reported conditions worsening since last year: detention sites expanded from 2 to 8 statewide and 287(g) law-enforcement agreements increased from 12 to 35; shared a detained neighbor’s story illustrating isolation and fear, invoking the quote, “I was not afraid of Hitler, I was afraid of my neighbor.”
- Congregational support gratitude: First UMC Lexington and Offreds; Crestwood UMC (Pastor Derek’s op-eds on Oldham County detention center); Wilmore UMC; Southern Hills UMC (Lexington); and Julie Bluff and her team at the Kentucky United Medical Establishment Home (support for more young people). The clinic invited continued partnership, education, and tangible neighbor-love.
- The bishop encouraged “three practice circles” with diverse viewpoints on how to lead as Christians and love neighbors amid disagreement.

New Church Development (NCD) and revitalization funding

- Report (Adam Sparks, NCD co-chair): 15 applications received; 14 projects funded for 2026–27, including ethnic/multicultural starts, focused worship to reach new people, starts in low-UMC-presence areas, fresh expressions, and revitalizations.
- Funded projects by district:
 - North District: North Oldham UMC; Olive Branch UMC; Korean Elizabeth Town; Garden on the Mount (Mount Washington UMC); Christianos in Crestwood (spanning ministry of Crestwood UMC); Radcliffe EOCM Brave UMC.
 - South District: Broadway Focus Worship; Broadway Open Door Ministry; Greensburg UMC.
 - West District: Life Ridge (Trigg County).
 - East District: Southern Dulce (Hispanic Ministry); Volcan Walker Parish; Common Grounds (through Ashland First UMC); Adventure United Methodist Community.

Fresh Expression highlight: Adventure UMC

- Rev. Teddy Poore shared that Adventure UMC gathers outdoors (hiking, canoeing, rock climbing, caving) for worship, Scripture, and prayer, creating bridges for spiritually hungry people often disconnected from traditional worship.
- Leadership DNA from Aldersgate Camp informed relationship-based discipleship; Greenhouse Leadership Academy (via a Good Samaritan Foundation grant) strengthened leadership development and sustainability planning.
- Announcement: Adventure UMC moves from monthly to weekly worship this Sunday.

New district cultivators model

- Each district will have a part-time New Church Development “cultivator” (while remaining in local church appointments) to identify opportunities, develop leaders, and spur innovation close to communities, connected to a shared vision and support.
- Appointed: Lead Cultivator and South District Cultivator — Dennis Schwartz; East — Eric Espada; North — Adam Sparks; West — Carl Fullwood.

Mission Fair and camp drawings

- Mission Fair hosted 32 ministries/teams; strong engagement and connections reported. A grand prize basket winner was drawn from completed “passports.”
- Guided-notes drawings: Aldersgate — Stacy Leonard (River City), Jill Lancaster (Lawrenceburg). Lucon — Jordan Hines.

Global leadership gathering in Calgary (October 2024)

- Theme: “Emboldened by the Spirit, Imagine a Church Yet to Do.” First-of-its-kind representation (bishops, general secretaries, clergy, laity, and at least one young adult under 35 from each episcopal area).
- Area representatives: Young adult — Whitley Hinson (Central Appalachian Missionary Conference); Clergy — Rev. Dr. Steven Handy; Laity — Sarah McGinnis (Director of

Communications, Lexington First UMC).

- Grounded in Wesleyan conferencing questions: What are we teaching? How are we teaching? What are we doing? Added: How do we support it? Why do we do it?
- Workgroups (discipleship, leadership, impact, stewardship, accountability) will use lenses of engaging younger generations, deepening disciple formation, and elevating global/connectional voices.
- Outcomes sought: Reports of core realities/root problems, renewed Spirit-led vision, and bold experiments for the next 2–3 years. Not legislative; requests to the church: pray, have hope, be engaged.
- The bishop hopes to model celebratory, witness-focused general gatherings, with regional bodies handling legislative business.

Discipleship priorities: themes and next gathering

- Key themes from conference table conversations (report by Tammy/Tandy Coleman):
 - Culture of call: Help people discover, discern, and live God's call; encourage gifts and confident faith-sharing.
 - Developing spiritual leaders: Mentoring, training, and intentionally cultivating future leaders.
 - Ministry beyond church walls: Mission, advocacy, camps, and presence where people are.
 - Professions of faith: Pathways include VBS, camps, Alpha, youth ministry, and testimony.
 - Mental health: Desire for more resources and training to support communities.
 - Disrupting racism and discrimination: Listening, diversifying leadership, advocacy, and creating welcoming communities.
- Three practice circles were impactful; training opportunities will follow.
- Clergy Day Apart: Saturday, August 29 at Camp Lucon; family-friendly; spouse session with Nancy Graves; registration coming.

Charge line changes (information only)

- East District: El Bethel removed from Camargo to form El Bethel Charge and Camargo Charge; New Beginnings Charge becomes Stanford Charge; Rich Springs–Stevensburg Charge becomes Rich Springs Charge; remove Genesis from Crescent Hill to form Genesis Charge and Crescent Hill Charge; add Radcliffe to Vine Grove to form Radcliffe–Vine Grove Charge.
- South District: Remove Greensburg from Sulphur Well–Greensburg (Sulphur Well remains station); add Greensburg to Summer Shade to form Summer Shade–Greensburg; add Fairview to St. James to form St. James–Fairview; divide Taylor County–Casey County Quadrant Parish to form St. Andrews–Jones Chapel and Salem Bethlehem.
- West District: Rosetta and Eulaville merge to form Eulaville Charge.

Church closures and vote

- Closures read: In the East District, Mount Gilead. In the North District, Spain Park. In prayer, the bishop named “Mount Gilead, Stevensburg, and St. Mark.”

- The conference approved the closures by vote, with thanksgiving for the ongoing witness through lives touched.

Next annual conference

- Annual Conference 2027: June 6–9, 2027, at Christ Church, Louisville, KY. Invitation extended by incoming North District Superintendent, Ashley Tackett Evans; the body affirmed.

Recognitions and thanks

- Thanks to GNTV (Laura, Jason, team); Christ Church hosts (including Josiah Brock and David Williams), volunteers, clergy, staff, and local arrangements; Program and Arrangements; Worship and Design Team (chair: Chris Fascl).
- Secretaries: Akia Talbert, Lizzie Smith, Klaffon; Head Teller: William Herman; Chancellor: Courtney Kellerman; Conference Secretary: Darren Brandon; Associate Secretary: Jessica Wells.
- Registration: Gary and Jennifer Graves, Ryan Barr, Jill Starlin. Conference staff: Annie Coleman, Mr. Head, Ken Keller, Jessica Wells, Heather Duvall, Leslie Williams, Dave Garland, Courtney Garrett, Darren Brandon.
- Special gratitude to Bill and Liz for forming a prayer team; appreciation to the Kentucky Annual Conference for spirit and patience.
- Bishop recognized spouse Nancy Graves; they celebrate 45 years on June 20.

Clergy appointments (first-year at new appointments)

- East District (effective July 1): Danville United Methodist Community — Tom Brown; Williamsburg First — Mike Brees; Jackson First — William Tokka; Lexington First — Tyler Maddox Frye; Lexington Wesley — Jamel Jones; Mount Olivet — Steve Speigert; Mount Sterling First — Connor Berg; Pikeville First — Sundae DeLange; Crestonsburg First — Patrick Davis; Southern Hills — Parker Alton; Stanford — still Tom Brown; Wayland — Joey Waddell; Wilmore — Jay Yoon; University of Kentucky Wesley Foundation — Kayla Maddox-Frock. Lay supply pastors, all clergy, and laity were recognized.
- North District: Elizabeth Smith — African American Ministries Coordinator; Michael Rojas — Hispanic Ministries; Campbellsburg — Sarah Burrus; Crescent Hill — Kevin Johnson; Elizabethtown Memorial — Sean Ryan; Mount Tabor — Bobby Tackett-Bevins; Pine Grove Mead — Kathy Illefritz; Revolution — Marcus Price; St. John (Oldham County) — Trent Lloyd; St. Matthew's — G. Noel Saunders. Lay supply pastors, clergy, and laity recognized.
- South District: Barbara First — Abraham Livingston; Broadway — Rachel Wallace; Franklin First — Sam McConkie; London First — Daniel Henson; Rockfield — Beth Fisk; Scottsville First — “a life of love”; St. James–Fairview — “made in Miami.” Lay supply leaders, clergy, and laity recognized.
- West District: Christian Heitk — Ross Peterson. Numerous lay supply pastors, clergy, and laity recognized.

Retirements and service milestones