

THE COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY

Purpose:

We support the Bishop in the oversight of spiritual and temporal affairs of the church:

- Interpret nature, function of episcopacy office
- Determine, communicate episcopal needs
- Advise about concerns that affect relationships and people of the conference
- Consultation, appraisal of Bishop's relationship & responsibilities
- Report episcopal leadership needs to SEJ COE

Key moments from the previous year:

The COE agrees that Bishop Holston has continued to lead this conference by example and provided insight, encouragement and motivation for our congregations to grow spiritually. He has continued to lead the conference in prayer each morning and has remained faithful to the leadership of the clergy and laity by participating in laity retreats and in-person visits to each district as well.

Through positive, consistent alignment, Bishop Holston has kept SC's focus on ministry more than controversy. We support his encouragement to churches to remain focused on mission and ministry.

The Bishop's involvement includes:

- Council of Bishops, Officer, secretary
- SEJ College of Bishops
- Columbia College Board of Trustees
- Duke Divinity Board of Visitors
- Emory University Board of Trustees
- Gammon Theological Seminary Board of Trustees, chair
- Africa University Development Board
- Fellowship of SC Bishops
- Lake Junaluska Board of Trustees
- Pan-Methodist Commission
- Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century, chair
- COB Leadership Team on Ecumenical & Interreligious Relations, chair

Objectives for the coming year:

We will continue to support Bishop Holston in the oversight of the spiritual and temporal affairs of the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church by interpreting to our church members the nature and function of the episcopacy office. We are to advise the Bishop concerning conditions in the conference as they affect the relationships and the people of the conference.

We will continue to present to the SEJ COE about Bishop Holston's success over the last 11+ years in support of his continued assignment in the South Carolina Conference. We will facilitate appropriate receptions at the change of quadrennia.

As is stated in the theme of the 2024 Annual Conference, we will continue seeking a more excellent way on the leading edge of ministry.

Action(s) required from the 2024 Annual Conference:

If you take away nothing from this report, know this:

This committee, which includes the two SC members of the SEJ COE and the conference lay leader, meets two to four times per year to provide support for the resident bishop's work in our conference and to interpret the work of the bishop and the conference staff to our conference church members. For 2024, the COE will continue to implement succinct, directed conversations on the work being done, with a summary report being sent to the SEJ COE.

The COE offers its unanimous support of Bishop Holston's ministry in SC and his continued assignment to this conference.

Narrative:

Respectfully submitted:

Rev. J. Jeannette Cooper, Chair

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Jennifer Pettit, Rev. Dr. George Ashford, Rev. Calvin Lee Smith, Genevieve F. Burgess, Ken Jenkins, Rev. David Taylor, Dr. Loretta McKelvey, Ronnie Norton, Dorothy Harrison, Herman Lightsey, Barbara Ware, Rev. Ken Nelson & Jackie Jenkins