

Section IV

**The Fiftieth Session of the
SOUTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
The United Methodist Church
Organized 1972**

Continuing in South Carolina Conference (1785) and the South Carolina Conference (1866)

June 6-7, 2021

Broadcast Virtually

from

The Florence Center
Florence, South Carolina

Bishop L. Jonathan Holston, Presiding

**“Seeking a More Excellent Way:
Taking the Next Faithful Step”**

Registration: The South Annual Conference of the United Methodist benefited from an online registration process for clergy and lay members to the annual conference session to help diminish the risk of the spread of the COVID19 virus.

Lay Session: In light of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the 2020 and 2021 in-person lay orientations were cancelled. Virtual training on participating and voting during annual conference was provided by GNTV prior to Annual Conference.

***2020 Clergy Session** - Due to a global COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Clergy Session of the SC Annual Conference was live streamed by GNTV on August 1, 2020 from Journey United Methodist Church in Columbia, SC. The 2020 Service of Commissioning and Ordination was held at St. John's United Methodist Church in Aiken, SC on August 10, 2020. Bishop James Swanson, Resident Bishop of the Mississippi Annual Conference served as the preacher. This information was unintentionally omitted in the *2020 South Carolina Conference Journal*.

The First Day Sunday Afternoon, June 6

2021 Clergy Session: Bishop L. Jonathan Holston called the Clergy Session to order at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 6, 2021. The service was live streamed to members of the clergy session from Grand Ballroom of the Florence Civic Center. Bishop Holston opened the session with a prayer and then called on the Rev. Morris Waymer, Vice Chair of the Conference Board of Ministry. Rev. Waymer thanked those who served on the Conference Board and District Committees on Ministry. He also expressed gratitude to the Rev. Mel Arant, Coordinator of Clergy Services and Mr. Sharome Henry, Executive Assistant, for their extraordinary support. He emphasized the need to help foster a “culture of call” in the conference and invited each of local congregation to continue identifying persons for the work of licensed, commissioned, and ordained ministry. As there were no involuntary changes of status, there was no report from the Administrative Review Committee. Bishop Holston then called upon the Rev. Leatha Brown, the new registrar for the Board of Ordained Ministry, to present the Business Questions on behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry. The Business questions were sent out to all clergy member for review prior to the session.

Business Questions 19, 20, 22, and 24 were presented as information and moved to Record as no vote was required.

The following motions were then offered by Rev. Leatha Brown:

MOTION 1: In accordance with Paragraphs 604.1 and 605.7 of the 2016 *Book of Discipline*, the following enabling motion is offered to allow the 2021 Clergy Session/Executive Session to do the business of this body virtually. I move that the bar of the Clergy Session will be those registered, signed in and present on this Virtual Meeting and that voting be done electronically using the GNTV Voting platform with the understanding that only Clergy in full connection – both elders and deacons – and all members of the Board of Ordained Ministry, both lay and clergy - may vote. (§602.1a,6 and 605.7).

The motion was approved by more than a two-thirds margin of the Clergy Session.

MOTION 2: The Consent Calendar is found on page 1 through the most of page 2. The Consent Calendar exists to help us better manage our time. The consent calendar contains items that are informational, statistical in nature, considered routine, do not require a vote, have no answer this year or will be shared and/or adopted in the Report of the Board of Ordained Ministry in the Annual Conference session. The following items were acted upon as a part of the consent calendar:

18a, 18b, 18c, 19a, 19b, 19c, 22, 23, 24a, 24b, 25, 26a, 26b, 29a, 29b, 29c, 29d, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40b, 41, 43a1, 43a2, 43b, 43c1, 43c2, 43c3, 44a, 44b, 47, 49, 50a5, 51, 52, 53a, 53b, 53c, 53d, 54a, 54b, 55, 56a, 56b, 57, 58-71, 72b, 73, 74, 75, 76a, 76b, 76c, 77a, 77b, 78, 79, 80, and 81.

The motion was approved by more than a two-thirds margin of the Clergy Session.

MOTION 3: Following their introduction and examination all provisional candidates in questions 28a, 28b & 30, and all full member and ordination candidates in questions 32b and 34a, will be considered by the body and voted upon as groups in each question.

The motion was approved by more than a two-thirds margin of the Clergy Session.

MOTION 4: I move that at close of this clergy session that the clergy session authorize the Registrar and Office of Clergy Services to make editorial changes to the Business Questions where necessary for the annual conference Journal.

Following the reading of the names of the clergy who had died during the past year, and listed under Question 48, Bishop Holston offered remembrance and thanksgiving for their service to the Annual Conference. There being no further business, Bishop Holston offered the closing prayer, and reminded the members of the evening service of Commissioning, Ordination, and Retirement Recognition at 7:00 p.m. Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett, Resident Bishop of the North Alabama conference will serve as the preacher. Bishop Holston declared the clergy session adjourned.

The First Day Sunday Night, June 6

A Service of Commissioning, Ordination, and Retirement was hosted in person from the Florence Center, Florence, South Carolina on Sunday, June 6, 2021. GNTV offered a livestream connection for the service. Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett, Resident Bishop of the North Alabama Conference, was the preacher for the service.

The following persons were commissioned for ministry in the United Methodist Church as provisional members preparing for ordained ministry as elders:

Peter Kent Berntson, Carsten Aubrey Bryant, Mason Heyward Cantey, John Clarence Elmore Jr.*, Alisha Christine Hansen, Joseph Daniel Kovas, Amanda Geddings Richardson, James Brunson Rogers, James William Smith, and Thessa Goodwin Smith.

* previously ordained in another tradition who's orders are being recognized and is being received as a Provisional member of the South Carolina Annual Conference.

The following person was commissioned for ministry in the United Methodist Church as a provisional member preparing for ordained ministry as deacon:

Margaret Rosa Cantey.

The following persons were ordained for ministry as elders in the United Methodist Church:

Wanda Diane Altman-Shirah, Shannon Renee Bullion, William Isaac Dusenbury, Tammy Nicole Grey, Susan Marie Pennock, Nicholas Daniel Perez, and Justin Lee Ritter.

The Retirement Recognition followed the Commissioning and Ordination Service. The names of all the retirees from the years 2020 and 2021 were read by Rev. Christopher Lollis. **The Passing of the Mantle** was led by Bishop Jonathan Holston. Rev. Patricia Parrish, retiring representative, transferred the mantle to Rev. Isaac Dusenbury, representative of the new class.

The Second Day Monday Morning, June 7

At 11:00 a.m., Bishop Jonathan L. Holston called the Business Session of South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church to order. Bishop Holston discussed adjustments that we have all had to make as a result of the pandemic. He expressed his gratitude to GNTV, the Rev. Terry Fleming, District Superintendent of the Florence District, and the Rev. Dr. Frederick Yebuah, Pastor of Cumberland UMC for hosting the Annual Conference. Bishop Holston then led the

Conference in prayer. Following the prayer, Bishop Holston invited the Rev. Terry Fleming and the Rev. Dr. Frederick Yebuah to offer greetings. Bishop Holston then invited the Rev. Kenneth Nelson to offer the 2021 Organizational Motions & Closing Motions. The Rev. Nelson offered the following organizational motions for consideration (note: in the background while votes were being calculated, GNTV displayed mission agency related information):

- 1) That the 2021 SC Annual Conference Session conduct the business of the conference virtually, and that all voting be done electronically using the GNTV Voting platform, with only the clergy and lay members who have officially registered and been assigned unique voter id numbers identified as the voting members.
 - a. The motion was approved.
- 2) That the official roll and record of attendance for the 2021 Annual Conference session be designated as those who officially registered.
 - a. The motion was approved.
- 3) That the conference program printed and distributed in the pre-conference materials, the registration packet, and actions items report-along with such scheduling adjustments which the President and Secretary have since made-be adopted as the Agenda for the 2021 Annual Conference Session; provided that the President may adjust the schedule as necessary to expedite the business of the Session.
 - a. The motion was approved.
- 4) That bar of Annual Conference Session be the voting lay and clergy members present on this webinar.
 - a. The motion was approved.
- 5) That the body vote on committee, board, and commission reports in their entirety instead of individual sections.
 - a. The motion was approved.

The Rev. Ken Nelson reminded the Body to use the 'get recognized' button only when a person needs to be recognized by the Bishop.

The Reverend Michael Hood was called upon to present on behalf of the Committee on Standing Rules - page 1-3 of the Action Item Report. Bishop Holston called for a vote on the report of the Committee on Standing Rules in its entirety. The Rev. Ken Nelson advised that there were no questions in the chat rooms. As such, Bishop Holston called for a vote on the ballot. Bishop Holston advised that the motion was approved.

Bishop Holston called upon the Reverend Ken Nelson to present The Consent Calendar - The consent calendar can be found on page 4, of the Action Items Report.

SR 22-The Consent Calendar provides for the adoption by "consent" of the reports and other items which do not necessarily require deliberation by the Annual Conference in open session and which can be adopted or "moved to record without reading" by a simple majority vote. We will act on the consent calendar at the end of the session today. Prior to the consideration of the Consent calendar scheduled for approximately 3:45, any fifteen members of the Annual Conference may request the removal of a specific item from the Consent Calendar, and it shall be removed and considered at an appropriate time by the President and the Secretary. The Consent Calendar shall be adopted by a majority vote.

To remove an item from the Consent Calendar, complete, and secure the required 15 signatures on the form found on page 6 in the Action item report and email the completed form to the Secretary of the Annual at conferenceseecretary@umcsc.org prior to consideration of the Consent calendar. A separate petition is required for each item to be removed.

Adoption of the Consent Calendar-The consent calendar may be found on page 4 in the Action Items Report. Being that the body, Bishop, has acted upon any items removed from the consent calendar, I moved the adoption of the consent calendar. The Rev. Ken Nelson referred the Consent Calendar to Bishop Holston to be adopted in its entirety.

The Reverend Joseph James presented the Nominations Committee Report beginning on page 8 of the Action Items report. Report 1 – Nomination of Mission Partners, Report 2 – Wesley Foundations and Fellowship, Report 3 – District Nominations. Because of the extension of the quadrennia, Report 4 is as it was last year. As such Report 4 is for information only. Bishop Holston called for a vote on the motion. The motion was approved.

The Reverend Ken Nelson requested that the Body review the report on Connectional Ministries before our next session. Bishop adjourned the morning session at 11:45 and asked that the Body return at 1:00 p.m. instead of 1:30 p.m.

**The Second Day
Monday Afternoon, June 7**

The Bishop reconvened the Conference at 1:06 p.m. The Rev. Kenneth Nelson advised that the Board of Trustees of the Oaks was omitted from the conference materials. GNTV placed the roster of the trustees on the screen.

THE TRUSTEES OF THE METHODIST OAKS, ORANGEBURG

Clergy Members

Class of 2022: George F. Manigo (14) (UM)

Class of 2023: Grayson Blackwell (15) (UM)
Pattie Gordon (15) (UM) -

Class of 2025: Dr. Tim McClendon (17) (UM)

Class of 2026: Barbara Reid (18) (UM)

Class of 2027: Joseph James (19) (UM)

Lay Members

Class of 2024:

William K. Brumbach, Jr. (16) (UM), 1532 Milford Road Columbia SC 29206
Steven Moir (16) (Presbyterian) 11770 James Richard Drive Charlotte NC 28277
Robert Scarborough (16) (UM) 222 Birchwood Court West Columbia, SC 29169

Class of 2025:

Charlie Williams III (17) (Baptist) 499 Wild Hearts Road Cameron, SC 29030

Class of 2026:

Robert F. McCurry, Jr. (18) (UM) 1248 Lee Blvd. Orangeburg, SC 29115

Ex-Officio: Bishop Jonathan L. Holston

Ex-Officio: Rev. Ken Nelson, Orangeburg D.S.

Ex-Officio Nonvoting Members as Designated in the Bylaws

The Rev. Ken Nelson presented the motion to the Body for approval. The Bishop called for a vote on the motion. The motion was approved.

A question was presented from the Rev. Jane Ulmer: "has the Oaks been sold." Per the Bishop, yes it has; however, the PACE program remains as such the Trustees are still required.

Reverend Millie Nelson Smith presented the report of Connectional Ministries on page 31. She extended thanks to her team with special thanks to the Rev. Jim Arant for his service, and a thank you to the staff and leadership team was extended. Thank you to the Congregational Specialists was extended. A reminder to reach out for assistance was extended. The first virtual meeting was held in February 2021 to handle the business of the ministry. 4 priorities for ministry were presented by Rev. Millie Nelson Smith: 1) Developing Leaders, 2) Engaging Our Communities, 3) Connecting with and Growing Disciples, and 4) Measuring and Evaluating Current Realities and Missional Possibilities. After the report was presented, Bishop Holston called for a vote. The motion was approved.

Bishop Holston called upon the Rev. Mitch Houston to provide the Committee on Finance and Administration report - page 39. He thanked Beth Westbury and her team as well as the Ministries of the SC Annual Conference being good stewards. 87.07% of apportionments were given even during a pandemic! He thanked the pastors, laity, and charges of SC Methodism. He presented a plaque to the Rock Hill District for the highest apportionment giving (97.54%). The Orangeburg District increased in giving by more than 2%. The 2022 Budget will reflect slightly over 3% decrease - \$529,913 less than the 2021 budget (13.9% average net funds). The Rev. Mitch Houston presented the report for information only at this time.

Bishop Holston invited the Rev. Morris Waymer to present the report of the Board of Ordained Ministry pages 46-47. The Rev. Waymer remembered the Rev. Harold Scipio who passed away in June 2020 with a moment of silence. Rev. Waymer moved the report to record. Bishop Holston called for a vote. The motion was approved.

Bishop Holston thanked the Rev. Waymer and Rev. Fran Elrod and their team for their work.

The Board of Pension and Health Benefits report was presented by the Rev. Chris Lollis and Mrs. Valerie Brooks-Madden - Page 47. Bishop Holston called for a vote. The motion was approved. Bishop Holston extended thanks to Rev. Lollis and Mrs. Brooks-Madden.

The report on The Commission on Equitable Compensation was presented by Mr. Skipper Brock. Action Items report pages 67-73 moved to record. Bishop Holston called for a vote. The motion was approved.

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Love presented the Cabinet report found on page 64. Psalm 167 how do we sing the Lord's song in a strange land? We've been asking this question as a Cabinet. He thanked the Rev. Dr. Robin Dease for her service and welcomed the Rev. Telley Gadson who will be joining the Cabinet. The Rev. Dr. Love asked the Bishop and the conference to accept the report. Bishop asked for a vote. The motion was approved.

The Bishop remembered the Rev. Thomas Pearson and the Rev. John Hipp, former cabinet members who passed away since our last time together.

Ms. Barbara Ware presented the Report of the Conference Lay Leader. She expressed that UMW, UMM, and Lay Servant Ministries all found a way to stay in touch. She urged the Body to get to know their District Lay Leaders and to call on them. She thanked the Laity and Clergy for their dedication, and Mrs. Felecia Holston for her support. She expressed that we are thrilled that Bishop Holston will be returning to the SC Annual Conference for another year. She requested that the report on page 65 be moved to record. Bishop Holston presented the motion for vote. The motion was approved.

Bishop Holston called for a 15-minute break.

The Rev. Kenneth Nelson asked the Body to review the listing of appointments on the Conference Website before we reconvene.

At 2:05 p.m. the Bishop reconvened the Body.

The Rev. Kenneth Nelson advised that no email had been received to request removal of items from the Consent Calendar. Bishop Holston called for a vote to adopt the Consent Calendar. The motion was approved.

The Rev. Mitch Houston returned to present the Council on Finance and Administration report pages 33–39. The Rev. Jerry Gadsden requested a point of personal privilege about the 5% cut in the budget for Spartanburg Methodist College. The Rev. Mitch Houston explained that SMC had not experienced cuts in prior years and other colleges were cut this year as well. Jan Ulmer raised a point of personal privilege regarding appointments. Bishop Holston referred her to her District Superintendent. Bishop Holston called for the adoption of the report which includes the 2022 budget. No further discussion. The motion was approved.

The Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson presented the report of Resolutions for Church Closings and Report of Charge Line Changes. She mentioned Mark 4:26–34, the parable of the seed as a reminder of the importance of planting and growing and celebrating the end of life of what is planted. She highlighted the new Cooperative Parish in Hartsville. The Rev. Jamieson asked for the adoption of the report to close: Zion UMC, Walhalla and Wilkes Chapel UMC, Hartsville. Bishop Holston asked that if any former clergy or members were present that they stand in honor of these churches - places where God's Word was spoken and shared. Per Bishop Holston, these are places where people learned and shared and fellowshiped together. They are places of faith, hope, and love. Bishop Holston prayed for these churches and their members. Bishop Holston presented the ballot for vote. The motion was approved.

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE AD INTERIM CLOSURE OF
ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
218 ZION ROAD, WALHALLA, SC 29691 ANDERSON DISTRICT
GCFA # 270452**

Whereas Zion United Methodist Church located in the Anderson District no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized, as indicated by nearly all remaining members who have stopped attending worship and giving financially, and who have indicated that the time has come to close the church, the District Superintendent certifies that the procedures as set forth in Section 2549 of *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* (2016) have been complied with.

Whereas there are exigent circumstances present to support the ad interim closure of this church pursuant to section 2549 (3) (b) of *The Book of Discipline*. These include the need to preserve and protect the building and to preserve the limited and existing funds of the church. The church does not have the means to maintain or insure this property and services are no longer being held at this location.

All property of Zion United Methodist Church shall be transferred to Trustees of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church and the District Superintendent of the Anderson District and/or any two members of the Conference Board of Trustees are authorized to execute any documents to include any deeds or other legal documents to effectuate this transfer.

Resolved, pursuant to the authority granted to authorize ad interim closure of a church under section 2549 (3) (b) of *The Book of Discipline*, the majority of the District Superintendents agree and consent to the closure of this property.

Adopted and approved this 21st day of April, 2021.

Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson
Secretary of the Cabinet of the South Carolina Conference
of the United Methodist Church

I have reviewed this resolution and I consent.
Bishop L. Jonathan Holston
South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE CLOSURE OF
WILKES CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
State Rd. S-13-493, Ruby Road, Hartsville, SC 29550
HARTSVILLE DISTRICT
GCFA #280451**

Whereas Wilkes Chapel United Methodist Church located in the Hartsville District no longer serves the purpose for which it was organized. The church is struggling with financial constraints. The District Superintendent certifies that the procedures as set forth in Section 2549 of *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* (2016) have been complied with.

Whereas there are exigent circumstances present to support the ad-interim closure of this church pursuant to section 2549 (3) (b) of *The Book of Discipline*. These include the need to preserve and protect the building and to preserve the limited and existing funds of the church. The church does not have the means to maintain or insure this property and services are no longer being held at this location.

All property of Wilkes Chapel United Methodist Church shall be transferred to Trustees of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church and the District Superintendent of the Hartsville District and the Chairman of the Conference Board of Trustees are authorized to execute any documents to include any deeds or other legal documents to effectuate this transfer.

Resolved, pursuant to the authority granted to authorize ad interim closure of a church under section 2549 (3) (b) of *The Book of Discipline*, the majority of the District Superintendents agree and consent to the closure of this property.

Adopted and approved this 21st day of May 2021.

Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson
Secretary of the Cabinet of the South Carolina Conference
of the United Methodist Church

I have reviewed this resolution and I consent.
Bishop L. Jonathan Holston
South Carolina United Methodist Conference

The Rev. Dr. Jamieson presented the charge line changes on page 63 to separate or join churches, to combine resources or to address ministry needs. She moved to present the changes as a group. Bishop Holston presented the report for a vote. The motion was approved.

2021 CHARGE LINE CHANGES

Anderson District

1. Dissolve the Hopewell-Zion Charge
 - a. Make Hopewell (271070) a station church effective 4/21/21
2. Ad-Interim Closure, Zion, Walhalla (270452) effective 4/21/21

Columbia District

1. Dissolve the Mill Creek-McLeod Charge
 - a. Make Mill Creek (272416) a station church
 - b. Make McLeod (272393) a station church

Florence District

1. Dissolve Jeremiah-Mt. Seal Charge
 - a. Make Jeremiah (957791) a station church
 - b. Make Mt. Seal (956980) a station church
2. Attach Ebenezer (275842) and First Hemingway (275820) to form the Ebenezer-First, Hemingway Charge

Greenville District

1. Move Trinity, Gray Court (273455) to the Greenwood District

Greenwood District

1. Attach Central, Laurens (275066) to Trinity, Gray Court (273455) to form the Central-Trinity Charge
2. Attach Mt. Pleasant (272690) and O'Neal Street (275204) to form the Mt. Pleasant-O'Neal Street Charge
3. Dissolve Greenwood-Ninety Six Charge
 - a. Attach Mays (959026) to Crossroads (959562)-Martha's Chapel (958933) to form the Crossroads-Martha's Chapel-Mays Charge
 - b. Make Trinity, Greenwood (958534) a station church

Hartsville District

1. Ad-Interim Closure, Wilkes Chapel (280451) effective 5/20/21

Marion District

1. Attach First, Loris (276868) and Zoan (276551) to form the First, Loris–Zoan Charge

Orangeburg District

1. Attach Target (277794)-Gerizim (277737) Charge to Eutawville (277566) to form the Eutaw Circuit

Rock Hill District

1. Dissolve the Bethel-Philadelphia Charge
 - a. Make Bethel (278628) a station church
 - b. Make Philadelphia (278812) a station church

Spartanburg District

1. Attach Inman (279348) and Aldersgate (279361) to form the Inman Charge
2. Attach Trinity, Gaffney (279257) and Limestone Street (279268) to form the Gaffney Charge
3. Dissolve the Skylyn-Arcadia Charge
 - a. Make Skylyn (279645) a station church
 - b. Make Arcadia (279543) a station church
4. Attach Buffalo (279100) to Sardis (279417) to form the Buffalo-Sardis Charge

Walterboro District

1. Dissolve the St. George Parish
 - a. Make Shady Grove (956752) a station church
 - b. St. Mark (956763) and Trinity (956216) to remain as St. George Parish

The Rev. Nelson offered the following Closing Motions:

Per Rev. Nelson, "after consultation with Bishop and Committee on the Annual Conference I would like to offer the following motions:

- That the dates set for the 2022 SC Annual Conference be June 5–8, 2022.
- That the host site for the 2022 SC Annual Conference be the Florence Center in Florence, SC."

Bishop Holston called for a vote. The motion was approved.

The Rev. Terry Fleming requested a point of personal privilege which was granted by Bishop Holston. The Rev. Fleming extend a barbecue cook-off challenge for all districts at Annual Conference in 2022.

The Rev. Ken Nelson offered expressions of appreciation: "Bishop, please allow me to express deep appreciation those who played a part in planning and implementing the Annual Conference: The Cabinet and members of the Committee on the Annual Conference; The Assistant conference secretaries for the current quadrennium inclusive of the Revs. Christopher Greene, Jeri Katherine Warden Sipes, Angela Ford Nelson, and Mel Arant; The Rev. Dr. Tim McClendon, our Conference Parliamentarian; and, certainly none of this would have been possible without the leadership of our Bishop, L. Jonathan Holston. And the Local Church. As it relates to this virtual conference, this simply would not have been possible without the endless assistance of the amazing team from GNTV and the Florence Civic Center staff!

Rev. Ken Nelson offered the Omnibus Motion – "This motion will be made at the close of the 2021 Annual Conference. The Omnibus Motion: That any reports, nominations, or recommendations printed and distributed in the pre-Conference or registration materials or distributed to the body during the Annual Conference Session not previously acted upon be accepted and moved to record and that following your closing remarks that this 2021 Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference be adjourned *sine die*."

Bishop L. Jonathan Holston called for a vote. The motion was approved.

Bishop Holston offered words of thanks for all involved in the 2021 Annual Conference with special thanks to Mrs. Holston.

Bishop Holston then offered an inspiring sermon based on 1 Peter 4:10–11. He asked "Who hasn't wanted to remain in the familiar? It would be more comfortable to do so. Yet, we know that God has called us into the unfamiliar...for we know that the church was not created for our pleasure, but for God's purpose." "Attitude is everything," Bishop Holston said. "We can choose to live even in the midst of a pandemic – making disciples of Jesus Christ and transforming the communities around us. We can choose to take the next faithful step...or we can sit idly by and let someone else do it!"

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Love and Ms. Barbara Ware came forth to present the clergy appointments with necessary corrections. Bishop Holston fixed the appointments. Ms. Barbara Ware shared a prayer.

The 2021 Session of the Annual Conference was adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

A Service of Thanksgiving and Memory was virtually streamed following the closing of Annual Conference 2021. The Reverend Joe N. Long was the preacher for the service. The Bishop read the names of those who died during the Conference years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

Respectfully Submitted,
Assistant Conference Secretaries:
Rev. Angela Ford Nelson
Rev. Dr. J. Christopher Greene