



Meet Ken Nelson

Episcopal Nominee | South Carolina

“I am genuinely heartened about the possibilities that lie ahead, because God is not done with the people called Methodist.”

Ken Nelson | Episcopal Nominee

Personal

- Born in Beaufort, S.C.
- Fourth of five children, two brothers, two sisters
- Raised at Epworth Children's Home, a United Methodist ministry in Columbia, S.C.

Education

- Master of Divinity
Duke Divinity School (1993)
- Bachelor of Arts
Newberry College (1990) (*cum laude*)
- Doctoral Coursework
Wesley Theological Seminary
- Additional Studies
Center of Theological Inquiry

Ordination

South Carolina Conference

- Deacon: June 1, 1993
- Elder: June 1, 1995

Appointments

South Carolina Conference

- 2020 – District Superintendent, Orangeburg District
- 2014 – Coordinator of Clergy Services
- 2007 – Congregational Specialist
Conference Connectional Ministries
- 2006 – Silver Hill Memorial UMC-Spartanburg
- 2002 – Centenary/Kingsville Charge-Hartsville
- 2000 – St. John's UMC-Aiken, Associate Minister
- 1998 – Duke University Chapel
Assistant Dean & Director of Religious Life
- 1994 – St. John's UMC-Aiken, Associate Minister
- 1993 – Mt. Zion-St. Mark UMC-Sumter



“Ken is faith-filled, detailed, intentional, humble and honest, a visionary dedicated to impactful ministry, with a heart for the local church.”

– **Rev. Cathy Mitchell**
Superintendent
Spartanburg District
South Carolina



“Amid all of the uncertainty of the pandemic, Ken helped our church remain focused on mission, reminding us of the work God has given us.”

– **Rev. Jad Taylor**
Pastor, Beulah UMC
Sandy Run
South Carolina

Ken Nelson | Episcopal Nominee

Conference & District Service

- 2014-present – Secretary of the Annual Conference
- 2004-14 – Conference Board of Ordained Ministry
 - Chair (2009-2014)
 - Registrar (2006-2009)
- 2007-12 – Columbia District Committee on Ministry
- 2006-07 – Spartanburg District Committee on Ministry
- 2002-06 – Hartsville District Committee on Ministry
 - Chair (2004-2006)
- Formation in Ministry (formerly Residency I)
 - Group Leader
- Frequent Workshop Leader:
 - Local Church Lay Leadership Training
 - South Carolina Ministries With Young People
 - United Methodist Men
 - United Methodist Women
- Formerly:
 - Orangeburg Coordinator for Youth Ministries
 - Epworth Children's Home Board of Directors
 - Orangeburg & Hartsville Resident II Group Leader
 - SCMYP Mission Possible Brazil Trip Co-Leader
 - Camps & Retreat Ministries Board of Trustees
 - Hispanic Ministries Task Force

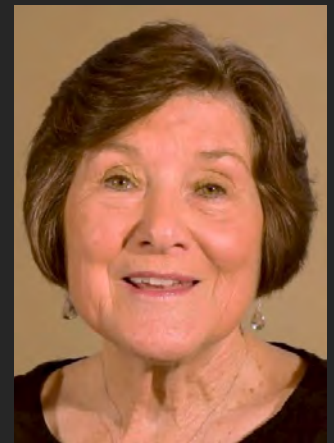
Awards & Recognition

- 2016 – Joseph B. Bethea Award
Presented to a person who has performed outstanding service working for racial justice
- 2010 – Founder, South Carolina Summit on the Black Church
- 1990 – Harry Denman Evangelism Award for Laity
Honors United Methodists in each annual conference whose exceptional ministry of evangelism brings people into a life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ



“Ken will provide the kind of leadership the church needs for such a time as this. Look at who he is, what he has done; this will tell you what he will do in the future.”

– **James Salley**
President & CEO
Africa University Inc.



“Rev. Nelson involves as many people as possible, both lay and clergy, in spreading the ministry and the love of Christ throughout our district.”

– **Sheila Shanklin**
Lay Leader, Orangeburg District
South Carolina

Ken Nelson | Episcopal Nominee

Jurisdictional Leadership

- Southeastern Jurisdiction Committee on Plan of Organization and Rules of Order
- Southeastern Jurisdiction Black Methodists for Church Renewal
- Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference Delegate
 - 2008, 2012, 2016, 2020

General Church Leadership

- Connectional Table (2016-present)
 - Worldwide Nature of the Church
 - Leadership Discernment & Community Life Chair
 - Search Committee for CCMO Chair (2017)
- General Board of Church & Society (2012-2016)
- General Conference Delegate
 - 2008, 2012, 2016, 2019, 2020
 - Higher Education & Ministry (2012, 2016) Subcommittee Chair (2016)
 - Committee on Discipleship (2008)
- National Black Staff Forum (2007-2014)
- World Methodist Conference Delegate (Brazil-1995)

Missional Travel

- Brazil
- Guatemala
- Holy Land
- Honduras
- Kenya
- Norway



“As a young pastor, Ken had a great impact on many of us because of his intellect and his spiritual attitude. His spiritual maturity left a lasting impression.”

– **Maureen Thomas**
Member, Centenary UMC
Hartsville, South Carolina



Learn more about Ken

including testimonial videos, his introductory video & his responses to the episcopal questionnaire

umcsc.org/ken