

**Central UMC Administrative Council
March 13, 2024 6:00pm - 7:00pm**

Call to Order - Phyllis Wilburn

Opening Devotion and Prayer - 5 minutes

Our Vision: Helping People to Find and Follow Jesus

Our Mission: “We exist to CONNECT, GROW, SERVE, GIVE, and GO so that all may know God’s love through Jesus Christ!”

Preparing for 2024 General Conference April 23 - May 3 - Scott

Unstuck Refreshing: 2021 - 2024 Initiative Updates and Follow Up- Scott

Lay Leaders Report

Lisa Thompson - Connect
Kara Scheetz- Grow
Steve Abercrombie - Serve
Jennifer Hensley /Joel or Karlee - Give
Shelia Borders and Steve Rodier - Missions

Trustees

Tim Sayers

Staff Parish

Danny Lantz

Staff Reports

Central Kids
Central Students
Worship and Music
Associate Pastor
Lead Pastor

Hannah Collins
Michelle Garcia
Lindsey Blocker
Audrey Madigan
Scott Layer

New Business

Closing Prayer

2024 Scheduled Administrative Council Dates:

- January 16 - 6-7:30pm
- March 13 - 6pm
- May 14 - 6pm
- July 16 - 6pm
- Sept 17 - 6pm
- Dec 10 - 6pm

2024 Calendaring our Discipleship Path

Outreach - **Reaching People Where They Are**

Connect - **Come Worship as You Are**

Grow - **Find Spiritual Friendships**

Serve - **Make a Difference**

Give - **Live Generously**

Go - **Go and Tell**

January

- Sermon Series: The Book of Mark: Rediscovering Jesus (13 Weeks)
- Winter Small Group Launch (Dec 31, Jan 7, 14)
- Habitat Kickoff and Dedication @Trinity UMC - Jan 7 3pm
- Resurrection (Jan 19-21)

February

- Combined Ash Wednesday service at Trinity UMC, Choir - 6:30pm
- Scott on Renewal Leave (Jan 29 - Feb 26)
- Scout Sunday - Feb 11
- Habitat Build

March

- Confirmation Retreat March 1-2
- Kids Outreach/Family Event - March 24
- Passover Seder:Maundy Thursday 28 6pm
- Good Friday Service - Friday March 29 6:30pm
- Easter 7, 9 and 11 - March 31 (invite)
- Spring Small Group Communication - March 24,31
- Habitat Build

April

- Sermon Series: Managing Anxiety: A Sound Mind (April 7 - May 5)
- **GO LIVE LOVE Launch** (Postponed to Fall 2024)
- **General Conference Meetings Central (April 14, 21, May 5 3pm)**
- **21 Days of Focused Prayer (April 15- May 6)**
- Confirmation Sunday - April 21
- General Conference April 23—May 3
- Mission Celebration Weekend: April 27-28. Keynote: Rev. Sam Dzobo
- Rise Against Hunger Meal packing - April 27 8:30 - 11am
- Habitat Build

May

- How to Pray: For Self, Others, Church and World. 6:30-7:30pm
- Musical Concert @ Central Roane County - Rutter Requiem **May 3 7pm**
- Sermon Series - Overflow: Life Lessons from Psalm 23 (May 12-June 23)
- Zimbabwe Buckets - May 12
- Habitat Build

June

- Holston Annual Conference: June 9-12
- Youth Mission Trip: Project Crossroads June 17-21

Preparing for General Conference Central United Methodist Church Lenoir City

During the entire 123 year history of Central UMC, God has been faithful and God will be faithful to us in this next season of ministry. As you know, there is uncertainty about the direction of the United Methodist Church. We also know that as Christians, “we walk by faith not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7)

Therefore we, as your administrative council, want to communicate proactively and transparently during 2024 and as we approach General Conference April 23-May 3, 2024. Therefore, we have five focuses as we prepare for General Conference.

- 1) **Prayer** - We invite and covet prayers for our church, Holston Conference, and The United Methodist church and its leaders. It is part of our membership commitment, to uphold the church and its leaders in our prayers. There is a weekly prayer from our Holston Conference Delegation that you can [subscribe](#) to.
- 2) **Communication** - We will keep you informed on news that affects the life and ministry of the church. Here are a few links for more information:

[A Beginners Guide to General Conference](#)
[2020 General Conference in 2024](#)
[Official General Conference Website](#)

- 3) **Conference Information Sessions** - We encourage you to attend one of Holston Conference Delegations Sessions to prepare for General Conference. The two closest to Central are:

March 24 - First UMC Maryville 3-5pm (804 Montvale Station Road - Maryville, TN)
April 7 - Ooltewah UMC 3-5pm (6131 Relocation Way · Ooltewah, TN)

- 4) **Unity** - Jesus’ prayed in John 17:20-23 that his followers may be one so that the world may know that Jesus is real. During this time of division and disagreement, we want to foster a sense of unity in our congregation. While we may not agree on everything, we will love each other, believe the best about one another and speak the truth in love.
- 5) **Dialogue** - For three Sunday afternoons at 3pm, we will have afternoon gatherings in the worship center. All are invited to attend.

April 14 - A Concert of Prayer for General Conference
April 21 - Understanding the Proposed Legislation and Social Principles
May 5 - What was the result of General Conference?

We are thankful for the ways God is working in and through our church. Thank you for all you do to help us live into our vision of “helping people find and follow Jesus.”

Your Administrative Council

General Conference Briefing at Convocation

3.12.24

Scott Layer Notetaker

Becky Hall - Conference Lay Leader
Amanda Onks - Lay Delegate

It is honor and responsibility to be a delegate. It's been 8 years since last General Conference. Conferencing is foundational for Methodists (Charge Conference. Annual. Jurisdictional Then General every four years.)

Delegates determined by your membership of your annual conference. African has grown in size and more representation. Six clergy and six lay delegates represent Holston plus 2 alternates (12 are eligible to vote). 862 Delegates voting. (55.9% US). (32% Africa) (6% Europe) (6% Philippines) .They vote to make changes to book of discipline and book of resolutions. Bishops preside over sessions. Bishops do not have voice or vote. Judicial Council (like supreme court) on site for verdict on questions.

This is similar to the United Nations. They debate 1099 petitions submitted. 14 Legislative Bodies work the 1099 petitions. Delegates choose which specific committee they want to be on. They already have been meeting during zoom. It is very likely the legislation will look different as they are fine tuned, adapted, dropped or taken to floor. They work in legislative committees. 2nd week is livestreamed. People can go and sit in stands in Charlotte.

Some votes will need simple majority. Constitutional change takes 2/3rd majority then ratified by annual conferences. Not sure if this will be at this year's annual conference or not.

Highlights

- Revise Social Principles every eight years. Social Principles are who we are as a body as a denomination. Revised social principles are available online.
- Regionalization. Ability for conferences to adapt the book of discipline for their settings and context. The US cannot do that currently.
- Human Sexuality - Woven throughout many pieces of legislation. Performing Same Sex Weddings. Ordination.
- Budget - Always tough but more difficult after 7000+ churches have disaffiliated.

Resources - Stay connected

1. holston.org
2. The Call - Holston Email weekly
3. UM News
4. Resource UMC
5. Legislation is available Online
6. Weekly Prayer with Holston - Tuesdays - Subscribe.

Ministry Snapshot for 2024

- What's Healthy?
- What's Stuck?
- What's Unclear?
- What's Missing?

Initiatives: Possible List

1. Leadership Development
 - Mentoring,
 - class offering,
 - identifying and deploying,
 - speaking in public
2. Mission Engagement
 - Serving in church
 - Serving in Mission
3. Holy Spirit Worship / Encounters
 - Opportunities to soak in presence of God
 - Something you feel
 - Not rushed.
4. General Conference
 - Firm up General Conference preparation for Central
5. Becoming an Inviting Church

2024 Initiatives

#	Initiative	Owner
1.	Lead our Church Well through General Conference	Pastor Scott and Administrative Council
2.	Mission Engagement - Helping our Church be on mission in our church and in the community	Mission Team
3.	Increase our Holy Spirit Encounters	Lindsey Blocker and Lisa Thompson