



# DARE TO BELIEVE

231st Session of the Baltimore-Washington Conference of The United Methodist Church – 2015

## UMConnection DAILY

The Baltimore-Washington Conference of The United Methodist Church • Becoming fully alive in Christ and making a difference in a diverse and ever-changing world • Thursday, May 28, 2015

### 231st Annual Conference session opens today

By MELISSA LAUBER

ON DEC. 24, 231 years ago, a little less than a mile from the Waterfront Marriott Hotel, 60 of Methodism’s 81 American preachers met at Lovely Lane Chapel, at 206 E. Redwood St. in Baltimore, for a 10-day conference to form the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Circuit riders, they embraced the words of John Wesley, Methodism’s founder, who preached, “Give glory to God! Dare to believe! Now cry out, from the ground of thy heart, ‘Yes, I yield, I yield at last, on my atoning God.’”

During the next three days, the 1,350 lay and clergy spiritual descendants of these first Methodists and their faithful cousins from the Evangelical United Brethren Church, will build upon that foundation, daring to believe that the church is still a vibrant, vital force for becoming more alive in Christ and making a difference in an ever-changing world.

Members of the Annual Conference come from the Baltimore-Washington Conference’s 641 churches in Maryland, Washington, the panhandle of West Virginia and Bermuda. This year, partners of the BWC from Russia, Korea and Puerto Rico will also be in attendance, along with guest preacher Bishop Jonathan Holston from the South Carolina Annual Conference, and Bible study leader, the Rev. Laurie Haller, a pastor in the West Michigan Conference. She will lead members in an exploration of Matthew 14:22-36, the story of Peter walking on the water.

At this session, members will elect six lay and six clergy delegates to represent them at the 2016 General Conference. An additional six lay and six clergy delegates



Bishop Marcus Matthews washes the hands of the Dean of the Cabinet, Rev. JW Park, at the Pre-Conference Session.

will be elected to attend the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference, July 11-15, in Lancaster, Pa. Four clergy and four lay alternates will also be elected.

Other highlights of the Annual Conference Session include opening worship today at 10 a.m.; a memorial service on Friday at 10 a.m.; and the ordination service Saturday at 2 p.m. seven Elders and a Deacon will be ordained and 13 provisional Elders and two Deacons will be consecrated.

All of these services, and the plenary sessions, will be live-streamed on the conference website at [www.bwccumc.org](http://www.bwccumc.org).

During the plenary session, members will adopt the conference budget for 2016, consider two resolutions and vote on sending nine petitions to the 2016 General Conference. This year, the text of these resolutions, and many other

features, are available on the new BWC app.

Two offerings will be taken. One for the Susanna Wesley House and other ministries in Baltimore and one for Africa University, a United Methodist school in Zimbabwe.

We want to hear from you!  
Tweet us your thoughts & pictures  
of Annual Conference using  
#bwccumc15



Annual  
Conference  
Live Streaming  
is available at  
<http://bwccumc.org>.

# Members to be challenged to 'Dare To Believe'

BY ERIK ALSGAARD

**T**WO GUEST SPEAKERS at the 2015 Annual Conference Session will challenge conference members to "Dare to Believe" in a number of ways.

Bishop Jonathan Holston, for example, has been episcopal leader of the South Carolina Area since 2012, the year he was elected bishop. Holston will be preaching at both the Memorial Service on Friday morning, and the Ordination Service Saturday afternoon.



Bishop Jonathan Holston

In a recent blog post, Holston challenged his readers to look at the scars they collect in life – physical and emotional – and dare to believe that, "All of these scars tell a story. They suggest to me that I am less than perfect. In fact, we are all a work in progress."

The bishop's love of mission has taken him around the world, including visits to Zimbabwe, China and India. After serving several churches in the North Georgia Conference, Holston served as

superintendent of the Atlanta-Decatur-Oxford District from 1997-2005. He served as senior pastor of St. James UMC in Atlanta for seven years before his election.

"I have always had a heart for evangelism and helping people live out their faith," Holston said. "People who are familiar with my ministry have seen how over the years I have worked to bring laity and clergy together in service."

Bishop Holston is married to the former Felecia Brown, and they have two grown children: son Karlton and daughter Brittany.

The Bible study leader this week is the Rev. Laurie Haller, co-pastor with her husband, the Rev. Gary Haller, at First UMC in Birmingham, in the Detroit Conference. A gifted writer, Haller's weekly blog, "Leading from the Heart," has hundreds of subscribers. Haller has served congregations in the West Michigan Conference, and served as the superintendent of the Grand Rapids District. She is also the author of the book, "Recess:

Rediscovering Play and Purpose."

Haller will challenge the Annual Conference to "get out of the boat" and be water-walkers.

"Water-walkers are on a mission from God, kind of like the Blues Brothers," she said. "Jesus calls each one of us as individuals to dare to believe that we, too, can do far more than we think we can."

But daring to believe may also mean staying in the boat, Haller said. "It's one thing to step out of our boat and help others through this crisis (in Baltimore) by getting into their boats, but it's quite another thing to invite gang members, police officers, the poor, the outcast and the disenfranchised and anyone else who is not like us to come into our boat and become a part of the body of Christ."

"I know that Bishop Holston and Rev. Haller will bring words of blessing, hope and challenge to us," said Bishop Marcus Matthews. "It is my pleasure and honor to welcome them to the Baltimore-Washington Conference."

Bishop Peggy Johnson of the Philadelphia Area spoke Wednesday at the retiree luncheon, and at the Extension Ministry Dinner.



Rev. Laurie Haller

## Puerto Rican delegation visits BWC to begin partnership

BY ERIK ALSGAARD

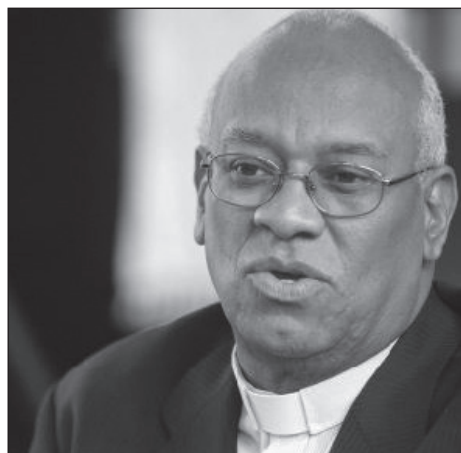
**B**ISHOP RAFAEL MORENO Rivas of the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico, and his assistant, Jannette Graulau, will be visiting the 231st Annual Conference Session this year.

Bishop Marcus Matthews is expected to welcome them officially during the opening worship service at 10 a.m. this morning.

Rivas and Graulau are coming during a time when the BWC and Puerto Rico are exploring a more formal partnership relationship with each other, according to the Rev. Edgardo Rivera, superintendent of the Frederick District. Bishop Matthews and his clergy assistant, the Rev. Maidstone Mulenga, visited Puerto Rico last year, said Rivera, which began the discussions.

Rivera said that a possible partnership relationship could lead to churches in the

BWC connecting with Methodist churches in Puerto Rico for mission. He said that he fully expects the partnership to be



Bishop Rafael Moreno Rivas joins BWC in partnership.

reciprocal in nature, with churches here learning more about how to reach young adults.

"The Methodist Church in Puerto Rico is alive," said Rivera, himself a native of Vieques, an island municipality of Puerto Rico.

The Methodist Church in Puerto Rico, according to the World Council of Churches, has 10,000 members, 170 pastors and 100 congregations.

A delegation from the BWC, including Bishop Matthews and several members of his Cabinet, are expected to visit Puerto Rico in October. The trip will be an exploratory visit, said Rivera, looking at possible mission sites. One of the goals being considered is the creation of a Methodist Youth Center and a Senior Center.

Another honored guest at this session is Bishop Seung Chul An of the Korean Methodist Church. The BWC has a partnership with the South Conference in Korea. Young adult clergy from this area will visit Korea this summer.

# Ferguson to retire after 29 years of ministry in BWC

By MELISSA LAUBER

**T**WENTY-NINE YEARS AGO, the song “We are the World,” sung by the day’s most popular music stars to benefit the poor and starving in Africa, was being played on almost every radio station in America. That same year, Sandy Ferguson moved from her work in local churches to begin a ministry with the Baltimore-Washington Conference.

In the third verse of the song, the musicians sang: “Send them your heart so they’ll know that someone cares, and their lives will be stronger and free. As God has shown us by turning stone to bread, so we all must lend a helping hand.”

Throughout the past three decades, a similar sentiment has guided Ferguson, whose ministry of mission and justice has centered around the heart-felt empowerment of those who wish to serve and providing wholeness and dignity to all of God’s people.

She plans to retire this summer.

Over the years, Ferguson worked hand-in-hand, overseeing the conference’s outreach and social justice ministries, with Bishops Joseph Yeakel, Felton May, John Schol and Marcus Matthews. In

2012, she was named the BWC’s Director of Connectional Ministries, becoming the first lay person to hold this position.

As the “steward of the conference vision,” her current portfolio calls for her to guide and nurture 30 distinct areas of ministry from AIDS/HIV to youth.

She also plays a significant role in the global church. She was elected seven



Ministries Director Sandy Ferguson set to retire July 1.

times to serve as a delegate to the General Conference and eight times a delegate to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference. She was on the Boards of Directors of the denomination’s Connectional Table, and boards of Church and Society and Global Ministries, and served on several other global and

jurisdictional groups.

Developing partnerships beyond the walls of the church with political, business and grassroots groups has also been an important part of Ferguson’s work. She pioneered a relationship between the church and the American Cancer Society, was a pivotal player in the Central Maryland Ecumenical Council, helped keep gambling out of Maryland for several years as a leading voice in NoCasiNo, and worked tirelessly for health care for all in a number advocacy groups.

Her ministry is global in scope and she has traveled extensively throughout the United States and to 17 other countries.

Bishop Marcus Matthews has appointed the Rev. Maidstone Mulenga to serve as the Conference’s new director of connectional ministries. He will also continue in his position as Assistant to the Bishop.

On Friday evening, the Conference will take a moment to honor Ferguson and her ministry as she prepares for retirement. An ice-cream reception will be held following the tribute in Laurel A-D on the Fourth floor past the Harborside Ballroom.

## Members to use electronic voting for delegates

By MELISSA LAUBER

**D**URING THIS SESSION, members will vote electronically to elect delegates to General and Jurisdictional conferences.

Members will elect six clergy delegates and six lay delegates to serve at General Conference, six clergy and six lay delegates to serve at the Jurisdictional Conference delegates and four alternates. The General Conference delegates will also serve as delegates to the Jurisdictional Conference. The alternates to the General Conference will be the first two lay and first two clergy elected as Jurisdictional delegates.

Voting keypads will be handed out to each voting member when they register. Members **MUST** care for and return their pads.

During the election process, clergy will vote for clergy; laity will elect laity.

All full Elders and Deacons are eligible

to be elected. A listing of these clergy people was distributed at registration. The first 28 people on the clergy list are those who have declared their candidacy.



Their profiles can be found in the booklet, also distributed at registration and online at <http://bwcumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/clergydelegates5.pdf>. Each person has a number next to his or her name. Please enter those numbers into the voting keypad when instructed by Bishop Matthews.

The 25 lay candidates are listed in the booklet, along with their profiles and numbers and online at <http://bwcumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/laitydelegates5.pdf>

Bishop Matthews will give members detailed instructions during the voting process. He will announce the delegates as they are elected.

Time will be provided in between each ballot to provide for opportunities for discernment. Campaigning is prohibited.

Voting for the resolutions and petitions before the annual conference session will also be done using the electronic voting keypads.



# Reconciliation Service to honor Native Americans

By LINDA WORTHINGTON

**F**RIDAY EVENING'S WORSHIP service will be an out-of-the-ordinary worship experience. It will be "A Service of Repentance" and reconciliation between Native American people and The United Methodist Church.

Entering a darkened ballroom, a spotlight will focus on a flautist and the sounds of the flute playing "Amazing Grace" will call the congregation from myriad activities, meals and chatter to quiet worship.

Why are we coming together seeking forgiveness and reconciliation, one might ask. What does it have to do with us?

"How do you repent when you have no understanding of what is wrong?" Olivia Schwartz will ask. The service will provide some of the answers.

The Baltimore-Washington Conference, along with all other conferences, was called by the 2012 General Conference to hold such a service during this quadrennium, which ends in 2016.

Though BWC's Native population is not large, the Conference Committee on Native American Ministries is active in both the Baltimore-Washington area and in the Northeastern Jurisdiction. It is the sponsor of the service.

Worship, led by members of CONAM, will include flute music, Indian prayers addressed to God, the Great Spirit, and power point presentations featuring a

diversity of Native people.

As the service comes to a close, Schwartz will invite the congregation to participate in a "sacred circle" representing that "the power of the world always works in a circle." Participation is by choice.

The circle will be but a beginning of a journey together to bring healing between the church and the people, Schwartz says.



For all your church interior needs

SINCE  1943

[BahretChurchInteriors.com](http://BahretChurchInteriors.com)

 **Dare to believe**  
**that you can become a better steward.**

**We invite your congregation to join us  
and experience all the benefits of membership.**

 **MarketUSA**  
Federal Credit Union  
Financial Solutions For Life

[www.marketusafcu.com](http://www.marketusafcu.com) | 301-586-3400 | 800-914-4269

## By the numbers

By ERIK ALSGAARD & MELISSA LAUBER

**T**HE CHRISTIAN SHARE of the U.S. population is declining, while the number of U.S. adults who do not identify with any organized religion is growing, according to an extensive new survey by the Pew Research Center. [Visit [www.pewforum.org/2015/05/12/americas-changing-religious-landscape](http://www.pewforum.org/2015/05/12/americas-changing-religious-landscape).]

This trend is also reflected in the BWC statistics for last year. The conference lost 2,434 members and received 344 fewer members on profession of faith than in the previous year. The 2014 statistics indicate that the BWC now has 168,412 members. Average attendance in worship dropped by 1,747 worshippers, to make the average worship attendance at all weekly services 61,713.

To address this decline, Bishop Marcus Matthews is calling on every United Methodist to bring one person to church this year and for each church to bring at least one member to Christ.

On the brighter side, the statistics show that 1,154,414 people have been service by community ministries of outreach, justice and mercy, an increase of 5 percent, or 55,145 additional lives touched. The number of area United Methodists who participated in missions and community ministries rose by 23.8 percent to 59,254.



# Service to recognize 24 new clergy

BY LINDA WORTHINGTON

**W**HEN BISHOP MARCUS Matthews opens the ordination service in the hotel ballroom Saturday, May 30, at 2 p.m., 24 men and women will be ordained as full or provisional Elders and Deacons. Two clergywomen from other denominations will also have their Orders recognized.

The clergy together more than offset the 16 clergy who are retiring this year, at least in terms of filling the pulpits. They, of course, represent hundreds of years of service, while most clergy coming in are just getting started.

The ordinands and their family and friends will be inspired by Bishop Jonathan Holston, Episcopal leader of the South Carolina Area, whose topic is "What's That Got to Do with It?" Scriptures used during the service are Matthew 14:22-36 and Romans 12:9-21.

In the words of the ordination service, "Ordination is a gift from God and a response of the individual to God's grace

and stirrings of the Holy Spirit."

Making that response today are six women and two men who will take the final step toward ordination, something they each have been praying and working toward for at least three years. One of the eight will be ordained a Deacon.

The soon-to-be Full Elders have all been working as Provisional Elders in churches, either as associates or in some cases as the sole pastor. Angela Maves, the soon-to-be Deacon, is a medical professional at George Washington Hospital.

The seven women and eight men who will be commissioned as Provisional Elders (as well as two Provisional Deacons, both men) have gone through a process, established in the Book of Discipline, which includes several years of study and approval of the local church, district and conference Boards of Ordained Ministry. Eight have been serving in churches as full or part-time local pastors. Provisional candidates make a three-year commitment and covenant to serve while continuing to learn and develop their faith.

## To be ordained as Elders

Kathy Lynn Altman  
Sheridan Barclift Allmond  
Cynthia Marie Caldwell  
Andrew Scott Greenwood  
Elizabeth Hiatt Jackson  
Dana Lynn Werts  
Geroge Luther Winkfield

## To be ordained as Deacon

Angela Maves

## To be commissioned as Provisional Elders

Giovanni Arroyo  
André Robert Briscoe, Jr.  
Henry Michael Cantley  
Sherri Renee Comer-Cox  
Lemuel Dominguez, Jr.  
Kyle Durbin  
Elizabeth Ann LeMaster  
Laura Manny Norvell  
Michael Anthony Parker, II  
Jessica Statesman  
Dawn Lynn Stewart  
Carissa Gabrielle Moore Surber  
Beth Hutton Williams

## To be commissioned as Provisional Deacon

Enger A. Muteteke  
Leo Yates, Jr



- . CCYM Leadership Retreat  
September, 2015
- . Mission of Peace
- . Confirmation Fellowship
- . Youth Praise and Worship



2015 CCYM Leadership

Students in grades 6–12, join CCYM.  
Find the meeting schedule online:

[BWCUMC.ORG/MINISTRIES/CONFERENCE-COUNCIL-ON-YOUTH-MINISTRIES](http://BWCUMC.ORG/MINISTRIES/CONFERENCE-COUNCIL-ON-YOUTH-MINISTRIES)

## Let us Pray . . .

During meal times at annual conference, members are invited to put on their red Rethink Church T-shirts and pray at stations throughout the city for justice, peace and a stronger Baltimore. There will be no formal program. We are following the biblical instruction: Wherever two or three are gathered in Christ's name, he is in the midst of them.

We invite you to follow the leadings of the Holy Spirit as you gather at the following prayer stations:

- The Katyn Memorial in the traffic circle outside the hotel
- The corner of Pratt and Light streets, where protesters marched against police brutality in the death of Freddie Gray
- The National Aquarium, 501 E. Pratt Street in the Inner Harbor, where children come to learn
- Ames UMC, 615 Baker St., Baltimore, the presence of The United Methodist Church closest to "ground zero"
- The four corners of Pennsylvania and North Aves. Called "ground zero" by members of the community because it was the center of the violence, fires, and community protests during the days following Freddie Gray's death
- The Western District Police Station, 1034 Mount Street, Baltimore, where police officers come to get their work assignments everyday. This is where the officers first came on the day that Freddie Gray was arrested and detained.

**Need a charge?**

Grab your cord & visit the device charging area in Bristol on Level 3

# Exhibitors provide resources to enrich ministry

The exhibit hall in the Grand Ballroom is open today from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Exhibitors include:

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Mid Atlantic United Methodist Foundation                        | Total Construction Services Inc.        | COSROW  |
| BWC UMW   | Centre Pointe Counseling, Inc.          | Hispanic-Latino Ministries  |
| Ecumenical Institute of Theology                                | Drew Theological School                 | In Mission Together (formerly: Russian Initiative)                        |
| Baltimore Washington Area Reconciling United Methodists (BWARM) | Sanctified Sexuality - Bible Moths      | Parish Nurse Ministries   |
| Born Again Jewelry  | Good News                               | BWC Peace with Justice Sunday Offering and Grants Program                 |
| Armbruster A/V  | Enviro-Master Services                  | Prison Ministry (Criminal Justice & Mercy Ministry Team)                  |
| Epiphany Studio   | Baltimore County Christian Workcamp     | Quality of Life Retreats (A BWC ministry for people living with HIV/AIDS) |
| Discipleship Ministries   | Manna House, Inc.                       | Religion & Race   |
| Cokesbury   | EQ-HR                                   | Scouting Ministry - Baltimore-Washington Conference                       |
| North Point Builders  | Network of Biblical Storytellers        | Strengthening the Black Church  |
| Bentley Springs UMC Mission Central Hub and Disaster Relief     | Commission on Archives & History        | United Methodist Community Services                                       |
| Southern Maryland Emmaus  | Imagine No Malaria                      | United Methodist Men  |
| Heritage International Fashions                                 | The Board of Child Care                 | Volunteers in Missions  |
| Camp & Retreat Ministries                                       | United Methodist Communications         | Young Adult Council   |
| Market USA FCU @ Epworth  | RevRags                                 | PAUMCS  |
| Quality Business Solutions                                      | Africa University                       | Baltimore Region  |
| Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative Education Fund, Inc.       | Black College Fund                      | BWC Benefits Office   |
| Methodist Conference of Puerto Rico                             | Board of Church & Society               | HIV/AIDS  |
| BMCR  | BWC Board of Global Ministries          | Appalachia Service Project  |
|   | Board of Higher Ed & Campus Ministry    | Occasions "by Diane"  |
|   | Commission on Disability Concerns       | YBI Africa Apparel & Fashion  |
|   | Committee on Native American Ministries |   |
|   | Conference Council on Youth Ministry    |   |

## We Honor our Retirees

Retiree	Years Served
Rev. Ann Atkins	25
Rev. Janet Becker	32
Rev. Walter Bosman	9.75
Rev. Susan Carns	14
Rev. Kiyul Chung	25.75
Rev. Mary Conaway	22
Rev. Ruth Dixon	7
Rev. Kenneth Fell	35
Rev. Susan Halse	42
Rev. H. Edgar Moore	38
Rev. Richard Mortimore	40
Rev. Nancy Nedwell	40
Rev. Louis Shockley	45
Rev. Mark Smiley	32.5
Rev. Edwin Welch	49
Rev. David Wentz	33.5
<b>Total years of service</b>	<b>490.5 years</b>

## EFFORTS BEGIN TO HONOR BISHOP IN 2016

ON SEPT. 1, 2016, Bishop Marcus Matthews, the episcopal leader of the Baltimore-Washington Conference, will retire. During the coming year, a variety of farewell events will be held. Perhaps one of the most significant will be efforts to raise money in honor of Bishop Matthew to build a sports complex at Africa University. Matthews, who serves on the Board of Directors of this United Methodist pan-African university in Zimbabwe, has a lifelong passion for promoting education. This fall, you'll receive more information about how you and your church can participate in this mission-based tribute to the bishop's leadership. Learn more about Africa University at [www.africau.edu](http://www.africau.edu).



# Frequently Asked Questions about Annual Conference

## Where can I get WiFi?

WiFi is available in the ballroom this year. The password is BWC2015.

## Is there a place to charge my phone?

There is a charging tower in the Bristol Room on the Fourth Level, which will be open Thursday and Friday. People should bring their own charging cords as only a few common cords will be available.

## What if someone from my church at home wants to see the worship and plenary sessions?

The events in the Grand Ballroom will be streamed live on the conference website at [www.bwcumc.org](http://www.bwcumc.org).

In addition, if you want to use your tablet or smart phone to follow along with the proceedings or find important documents online, visit <http://bwcumc.org/ac-sessions/2015-ac-sessions/>

## Where do I download the BWC app?

Visit the Apple Store at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/baltimore-washington/id920046980?mt=8>

Or the Android Market at <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.abe.BaltimoreWashington>. We regret the app is not yet available for Android tablets.

## What do I do with the books I brought for the children of Baltimore?

The books can be dropped off in the Chasseur Room on Level 3. All books should be dropped off before Friday at noon.

## How can I get a video of the worship experiences and Bible studies?

Visit Good News TV's online order page at <http://bwac2015.gntv.info/>

## Want to hear more from our Bible study Leader, Rev. Laurie Haller?

You can always read her book "Recess: Rediscovering Play and Purpose," or read her blog at <http://lauriehaller.org>.

## What are the offerings being taken for?

The offering at opening worship supports the Susanna Wesley House and other Baltimore ministries. At the Ordination Service, a special offering will be taken to support Africa University. Bishop Marcus Matthews is vice-chancellor of this United Methodist Pan-African university. The gifts will begin a fund that honors the bishop, as he prepares to retire in September 2016.

## Where are the exhibits?

More than 50 exhibitors have set up displays in the hallways outside the Harborside and Grand Ballrooms, and in the Harborside Ballroom, where meals are also served. For a listing of the exhibitors, see page 6.

## Where is the Prayer Room?

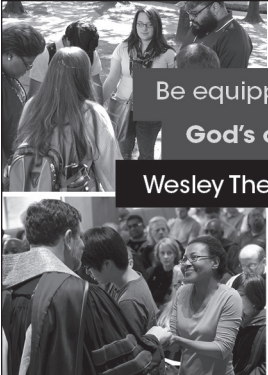
The prayer room, which is operated year-round at the Conference Mission Center in Fulton, has been set up in the Falkland Room to provide you with a quiet place for reflection. In addition, volunteers will be receiving prayer requests from across the country through the Upper Room Prayer Network. The prayer room is sponsored by the United Methodist Men.

## What musicians will be performing this year?

This year's music will feature the choirs from Eden Korean St. UMC and St. Paul UMC in Oxon Hill. Our accompanist for the session is Stanley J. Thurston, who is the director of music ministries at Foundry UMC in Washington, an artist in residence at the National Cathedral, and a classically trained pianist, composer and arranger of extraordinary range and depth.


## What if I have more questions?

Ask a Highlighter. Scattered throughout the hotel, with a home base by the second floor escalator, are Highlighters, clothed in neon vests. Highlighters are volunteers dedicated to radical hospitality and finding you the answers you need.



Be equipped to answer  
God's call on your life.  
Wesley Theological Seminary.

Offering customizable master of divinity and master of arts degrees and ministry-growing doctor of ministry degrees.  
Learn more at [WesleySeminary.edu](http://WesleySeminary.edu)

 WESLEY  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
WASHINGTON D.C.

**See Board of Child Care's  
ministry in action!**  
**Schedule your campus tour  
and complementary lunch!**  
**Rev. Stacey Nickerson**  
**(410) 496-5610**



# 231ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE • DARE TO BELIEVE

## CONFERENCE AGENDA

*Yesterday, members of the United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women and youth prayed throughout this space, invoking the presence of God in our midst during our time together. As we move through our holy conferencing, worship and fellowship during this Session, we invite you to continue to pray for the people and proceedings of The Baltimore-Washington Conference.*

*Please note: ballots for General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates will be taken throughout the session at the discretion of the presiding officer.*

### THURSDAY, MAY 28

TIME	EVENT	SPEAKER/MODERATOR
8:30 a.m.	Call to Order and Opening Session	
10 a.m.	Opening Worship, Communion	Bishop Marcus Matthews
12 p.m.	Lunch and Opportunities for Community Prayer	
2 p.m.	Plenary Session	
5 p.m.	Dinner and Opportunities for Community Prayer	
7 p.m.	Plenary Session	

### FRIDAY, MAY 29

TIME	EVENT	SPEAKER/MODERATOR
8 a.m.	Centering and Bible Study	Rev. Laurie Haller
9 a.m.	Plenary Session	
10 a.m.	Memorial Service	Bishop Johnathan Holston
12 p.m.	Lunch and Community Prayer	

## Ordering Journals

BY KAYLA SPEARS

IN AN EFFORT to practice good stewardship, the 2015 Conference Journal is being printed and produced differently this year. We will be using an Amazon-affiliated online publisher that will handle the printing and mailing of the book. The process will work just like anything else you may purchase on Amazon. This new process creates significant savings and enables us to print fewer “leftover” Journals. Payment will be made at the time you place your online order. We will purchase a few extra copies for those unable to shop online. Later this summer, notices will be sent by e-mail and placed in the UMConnection newspaper with further instructions on how to order. If you have any questions, contact [kspears@bwcumc.org](mailto:kspears@bwcumc.org).

**BWC APP**  
Your on-the-go companion!

Visit the App store or Google Play to download

*\*not currently available on Android tablets*

*The Northeastern Jurisdiction presents:*  
**Transformational Leadership Conference**

FRIDAY-SUNDAY  
OCTOBER 2-4, 2015  
HERSHEY LODGE,  
HERSHEY, PA  
[NEJLEADERSHIP.ORG/HOME](http://NEJLEADERSHIP.ORG/HOME)

A UNIQUE, INNOVATIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCE - JOIN US!

REV. NADIA BOLZ-WEBER      FIONA HAWORTH

*It's not church as usual!*

LEADERS FROM THE CHAPEL      DR. ALBERT MOSLEY