

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT

*TO BE MORE LIKE JESUS*



2025 Leadership Retreat  
Sunday, February 01, 2025  
[fumcbelmont.org/retreat](https://fumcbelmont.org/retreat)

# Our Time Today

Getting to Know One Another

Organization for Ministry  
Roles and Responsibilities

Guiding Anchors for 2026  
Strategic Plan  
Anti-Racism Statement  
2026 Scripture Focus

Teams and Committees Meet

# Introductions & Discussion

Favorite snow day  
activity?

# Why Are You Here?!

- Character:** confidence in their walk with Jesus, evidence of honesty, teachability, humility, reliability, a healthy work ethic, and a willingness to serve
- Competence:** Spiritual Gifts, experience/education, talents, skills
- Chemistry:** ability to work as a team

# Why Are You Here?!

- Conviction:** passionate about the mission, vision, and values of the church
- Commitment:** devoted to growing as a disciple, participating in the worship and formation ministries of the church
- Courage:** willing to take a chance, push the envelope, challenge the status quo

# Expectations

- PRAYERS
- PRESENCE
- GIFTS
- SERVICE
- WITNESS

# How Does Our Church “Work”??

## WE ARE CONNECTIONAL

General Conference

Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Western North Carolina Annual Conference

Catawba Valley District

Charge Conference

# How Does Our Church “Work”??

THE CONNECTION IS FOR THE  
MISSION





# General Conference

Meets every 4 years.

Delegates elected from  
around the world.

The only body that can speak for the United Methodist Church.



# Book of Discipline, Book of Resolutions

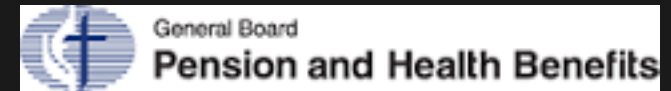
The BOOK of  
DISCIPLINE  
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



2020/2024

FREE ONLINE VERSIONS: [www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com)

# General Boards and Agencies



# Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference

Meets every 4 years.

Delegates elected from  
the southeast.

Discerns and elects bishops.



Met last year at Lake Junaluska.



# Western NC Annual Conference

Regional organizational body. Offices in Charlotte.

621 churches/ 174,000 members/ 1400 clergy

Annual meeting, with clergy and elected lay delegates from local churches.



Led by a bishop. Ours is Ken Carter.

Meeting this year at Lake Junaluska.

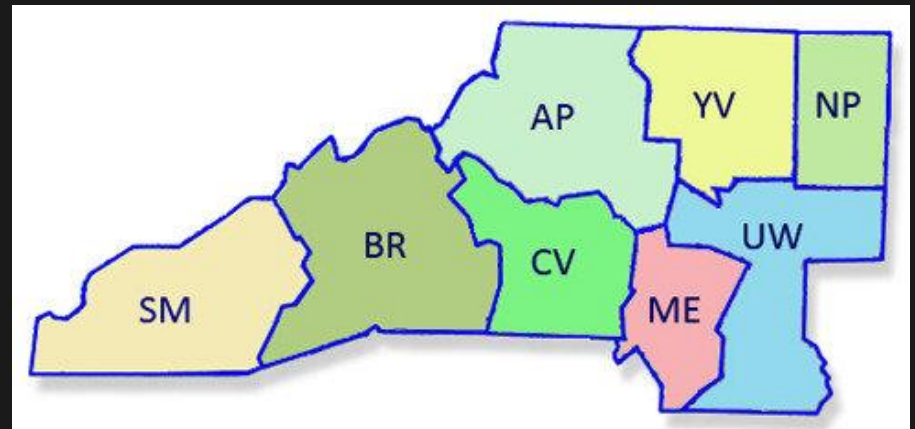
Our lay delegate is LIZ GRAY.



# Catawba Valley District

92 churches

Led by a Superintendent. Ours is  
The Rev. Sally Queen



Grouped into Missional Networks.  
Ours is the Riverside Network

# What is a Charge Conference??

Basic unit in connectionalism. How the local church connects to the larger church.

Membership includes all members of the Church Council and clergy associated with the congregation.

Must meet annually to review the total mission of the church.

Led by the District Superintendent or another designated Elder.

Usually held in the late fall.

Special Sessions can be called for special business.

Reminder of why we exist – wide, large purposes

Checks and Balances – Review, Include, Review, Involve...

# Administrative Council

Administrative agency of the Charge Conference.

Envision, plan, implement and evaluate the ministry of the congregation.

Members include elected members and chairpersons of committees/ministry teams.

Led by David Surratt.

All of our meetings are open meetings, except Staff Parish.



# Administrative Committees

## **Staff-Parish Relations Committee (Tina Moore)**

Encourage, strengthen, nurture, support and evaluate pastor and staff.  
Handles all personnel matters (hiring, evaluating, firing) of staff.  
Meets with District Superintendent to advise around clergy leadership.

## **Committee on Finance (Russell Tindall)**

Compiles annual budget, recommends changes as needed through the year.  
Develop plans to raise income to support the budget.  
Promote good stewardship and accountability for all financial management.

## **Board of Trustees (Stephanie Beaty)**

Oversight and care for all local church property, buildings and equipment.  
Receive and administer all gifts to the congregation.  
Review and provide adequate insurance for all property.

## **Committee on Lay Leadership (George Ragsdale)**

Discern, invite, and equip lay leaders for ministry.  
Present nominations to charge conference annually.

# Administrative Committees

## **Endowment Committee (Dottie Ison)**

Manages the Lester Carpenter Endowment.

Determines funding for scholarships, capital improvements on annual basis.

Selects scholarship recipients from church and community.

## **Safe Sanctuaries Advocate (Erin Tindall)**

Develops policies to ensure protection of children, youth and vulnerable adults.

Provides training and ensures compliance for all who serve in these ministries.

## **Child Development Center Board (Danielle Kelly)**

Oversees the ministry of our Child Development Center.

# Ministry Teams/ Committees

## **Worship Committee (Barb Lange)**

Works with pastor to plan and coordinate the worship life of the church.

## **Mission and Service Committee (Lisa Millspaw)**

Coordinates our missions ministries in the community.  
Helping us serve others in the name of Jesus.

# Ministry Teams/ Committees

## **Children's Council (Hollan Delany)**

Coordinates our ministries with children.

## **Youth Council (Genora Cheshire)**

Coordinates our ministries with youth.

## **Fellowship and Family Life**

Coordinates our ministries of fellowship and relationship-building.

## **Racial Healing and Reconciliation Group (Cheryl Sutton)**

Exploring ways to promote awareness and racial healing and reconciliation.

# Why?



**First United Methodist Church of Belmont exists to be more like Jesus Christ for our community and beyond.**

# Why?

**“Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.”**

**Philippians 2:5**

**“It is no longer I who live,  
but it is Christ who lives in me.”**

**Galatians 2:20**

# Why?

**“Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”**

**Teresa of Avila**

# Why?



**Sanctification, the goal of the  
Christian life:**

**“Having the mind of Christ and  
walking as he walked.”**

**John Wesley**



# Our Core Values

*How do we behave?*



JOYFUL



GENEROUS



FOCUSING ON  
RELATIONSHIPS



CARE AND  
COMPASSION



ACTIVE,  
CURIOUS FAITH

# Team Discussion

**What questions do you have?**

**What's unclear about your role?**

**Where do you need help?**

**SHARE with  
George@fumcbelmont.org**

Guiding Anchors for 2026

Strategic Planning Update  
(Elizabeth Boney)

Anti-Racism Statement Reminder  
(Cheryl Sutton)

2026 Scripture Focus: Philippians  
(George)

2026 Scripture Focus

REJOICE IN THE LORD, ALWAYS

THE LETTER TO THE

# Philippians



AGAIN I WILL SAY, REJOICE

# HOW?

Read Individually  
(Reading Guides Available)

Begin Every Meeting/Gathering  
with Bible Study

Fall Worship Series, Bible Study

# Themes to Shape our Life Together

## “The Epistle of Joy”

How can we cultivate deep joy in 2026?

## The Imitation of Christ

How can we become more Christ-like?

How do programs actually form/shape us?

## “Partnership in the Gospel”

What strengthens BELONGING in our  
congregation?

# Themes to Shape our Life Together

## Unity of PURPOSE, not opinion

How do we stay focused on shared mission?

## Spiritual Maturity

How do we encourage one another to  
“press on” in faith?

## Paul's gratitude for generosity

How do we cultivate generous hearts?

# Team Discussion

**Where do you see  
OPPORTUNITY?**

**Where do you need  
HELP or CLARITY?**

**What EXCITES you?**



Teams and Committees Meet

**Preferred Communication**

**When will you meet next?**