



 The North Georgia Conference  
of The United Methodist Church

## DISTRICT 8 SOUTH WEST

Butts, Coweta, Fayette, Harris, Heard,  
Jasper, Lamar, Meriwether, Monroe, Pike,  
Spalding, Troup and Upson Counties

A monthly publication of  
The Southwest District of The United Methodist Church

Rev. Susan Landry  
District Superintendent

August 2020

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### Beginning Together

Today, Representative John Lewis' last words were published, encouraging (giving courage to) our hearts with hopeful phrases like "you inspired me", and "the truth is still marching on" and "Beloved Community, a nation and world society at peace with itself."

John Lewis chose to end his life with hope and love, looking out for others, promoting justice with kindness. I receive his words, plan to learn more from them, and commend them to you at the bottom of this article. (It is brief, and wholly worthy of deeper contemplation.)

As we begin together in this proposed Southwest District, count on this: I am *glad* to be your new District Superintendent. We are beginning something new together—not that we are new to each other—not really. We serve the same Lord, worship in the same denomination, speak the same creeds, sing the same hymns, and ultimately, evangelize in the name of Jesus for the building of the Kingdom, and have done so *for a long time*. We are sisters and brothers. By God's call, we were made to be together and to work together in this momentous time of change and possibility.

*I look forward* to learning what God would guide you to teach me, even as I anticipate sharing with you the guidance that God reveals through your leaders in our long-beloved church.

In case you haven't heard, I am in the office located in Griffin, Ga now, remaining available to all areas of the Southwest territory, including the legacy LaGrange District. As soon as it is safe, I look forward to seeing you face to face again. Until then, please stay safe and be gentle with yourself and each other. We will stay in contact through this newsletter, emails, an occasional video and more frequently on Zoom calls. Please keep us up to date with your needs and concerns. Denise and I are here to serve!

Finally, my friends, receive the benediction from Rep. Lewis' last words: "...walk with the wind, brothers and sisters, and let the spirit of peace and the power of everlasting love be your guide."

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Susan

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/30/opinion/john-lewis-civil-rights-america.html>



# 2020 Annual Conference Information

<https://www.ngumc.org/eventdetail/13622125>

## **August Timeline:**

August 7 – Lay Delegate information must be correct in Data Services, including email address

August 10 - 25 – Annual Conference Online Registration (clergy & lay)

August 26 – Registered Members Receive Credentials for Annual Conference by Email

## **August 29 – Virtual Annual Conference Session**

### **Pre-Conference Briefing:**

What: Pre-Annual Conference Briefing via Zoom Webinar

Who: All members of the 2020 North Georgia Annual Conference

When: Sunday, August 9, 2 pm

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/99174975470>

Note: If this is your first time attending a Zoom Webinar, please consider joining 10-15 minutes early to allow for technical troubleshooting.

### **Special Offering:**

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson has named the North Georgia Conference Ministerial Education Fund as the 2020 Annual Conference Special Offering. The Ministerial Education Fund provides scholarships to seminary and undergraduate students, course-of-study for local pastors, and license to preach school.



Aligning with the theme of the [2020 North Georgia Annual Conference](#),

"One in Ministry to All the World," this fund is one way United Methodists can show our support to those called to serve as clergy. Together we can help minimize debt of North Georgia United Methodists beginning in ministry.

Grants from the Ministerial Education Fund help pay tuition and other costs for future clergy who will serve our churches or go on to be chaplains, teachers and missionaries.

MEF is a general church apportioned fund of which 25 percent is retained by our conference. But 100 percent of the giving to the Annual Conference Special Offering will go to United Methodist seminary and course of study students in the North Georgia Conference. Churches are invited to collect the offering any time before or after the 2020 Annual Conference. Individuals are encouraged to give through your local church. Churches can make checks payable to the North Georgia Conference and marked for Fund #1147 - AC Special Offering.

### **What technology do I need to participate in a virtual Annual Conference?**

Members and guests will need an internet-connected device such as a desktop or laptop computer, tablet, or smart phone. You will access the session using a web browser.

### **What will be included in the agenda for the virtual Annual Conference?**

The agenda will include the Recommended 2021 Apportionment Budget, Standing Rules, Trustees Report, other essential business, as well as opening and closing worship. The full agenda will be included in the Annual Conference Handbook.

# New Southwest District Information

The proposed new Southwest District will consist of all churches from the former LaGrange District plus the churches in the Griffin District, minus the churches in Henry and Clayton Counties. All churches located in Henry County, will now fall under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Quincy Brown. Churches in Clayton County, plus England Chapel, which is being paired with New Hope Clayton Co., will now work with Rev. Dr. Michael McQueen.

**District Office Location:** 430 W. Poplar St., Griffin, GA 30224 – current Griffin District Office

**District Office Mailing Address:** P. O. Box 13, Griffin, GA 30224

**Telephone Numbers:** 770-227-1074 office phone  
770-467-0010 office fax machine

**Email Address:** [District8SW@ngumc.net](mailto:District8SW@ngumc.net)

**District Office Hours:** Tuesday & Thursday, 9am – 4:30pm

Denise Wilson, District Administrative Assistant, will continue to be in the Griffin office during the hours stated above, and will be in LaGrange, working from home on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Both she and Susan are available to meet at locations throughout the district as needed. All current phone numbers and email addresses will be closely monitored during this transition time so that we may be available to talk with you and assist you as always. Please take note of the above contact information and begin to make these transitions with us.



## **Important Dates**

**August 9 – Pre-Conference Briefing** (through Zoom, see link on page 2)

**August 10-25 – Annual Conference online registration** for clergy & laity

**August 29 – Annual Conference session**, online

**August 31 – District Conference information emailed to delegates** (District Nominations Report and District Budget)

**September 8 – District Conference voting link** emailed to delegates

**September 15 – DCOM Training and Meeting** with Local Pastors (GRFN) (Schedules to be mailed 8/4)

**September 20 – Set Up Meeting #1**, 3:00 pm, Zoom

**September 24 – Set Up Meeting #2**, 10:00am, Zoom (Clergy should notify Denise which meeting date they prefer)

**October 1 – DCOM meets with Provisional candidates**, Peachtree City UMC, 3-6pm



## **District Set Up Meeting**

In an effort to keep everyone as safe as possible, there will not be an in-person Set Up meeting this year. Two dates have been set aside for Zoom meetings for all appointed pastors – Sunday, September 20 at 3:00pm **OR** Thursday, September 24 at 10:00am. Clergy should notify Denise which date they prefer so she can send links to the meeting. Handouts will be sent electronically prior to the meeting. It is important that all appointed clergy attend one of these meetings. The DS will be discussing Charge Conference, clergy evaluations, and more.

## **Message from the Conference Benefits Office:**

Greetings from the Benefits Office as we begin a new year of appointments while also dealing with the affects of COVID19. Since the Conference Office is still maintaining social distancing protocols and working from home most days, we wanted to provide the churches and clergy with additional resources online.

In the Benefits Office, we get many phone calls and emails with questions about benefits. In order to make it easier for you all to find answers to benefits related questions, we've created a FAQ found [here](#).

Also, we have specific pages for the following:

- [Health and Well-being Benefits](#)
- [New and Moving Pastor Forms](#)
- [Pension and Retirement Benefits](#)

As always, we are here for any questions that are not covered that you may have while we are working from home. You can reach us at [aking@ngumc.org](mailto:aking@ngumc.org) or [jwoodall@ngumc.org](mailto:jwoodall@ngumc.org).

We hope you are all staying well!

Thank you,  
Amy King, CPA  
Conference Benefits Officer



*Amy King*



*Judy Woodall*



The **North GA Conference UMM** recently elected new officers that began their 2-years terms on July 1, 2020. Primary officers are as follows:

President – Odell Horne, Jr. (Impact Church)  
Conference Affairs & Administration – Jerry Stillabower (John's Creek)  
Membership, Organization and Chartering – Jeff Carson (Mt. Zion)  
Secretary – John C. Holley (Shiloh, Lovejoy)

To view a message from President, Odell Horne, Jr, click here: [NGCUMM - Introduction](#)



# Wilderness Wanderings

Instructors: Dr. Ryan Bonfiglio and Dr. Quincy Brown

This 4-week course explores the story of Israel's 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. During this time, Israel finds itself in a crucial moment of transition. Egypt is behind them, but the Promised Land is not yet in view. The waters of the Red Sea have been parted, but discord, doubt, and fear threaten to tear apart their community. Who would lead them? How should they pursue justice and solve conflict? Where should they look for truth and guidance?

By closely examining key texts in the books of Exodus and Numbers, this course will relate lessons from Israel's wilderness wanderings to what it looks like for the church to discern, dream, and develop practices of discipleship in our present context. Each session will include guided content, discussion, and time for questions.

Offered via Zoom on Wednesdays, September 9, 16, 23, 30 from 7:00 – 8:30pm  
Cost to participate: \$35.00 | Register: <https://bit.ly/wildwand1>

The Courses in the Community program offers in-depth learning opportunities led by Candler faculty and hosted at congregations in and beyond Atlanta. For questions and more information, email: [candlerfoundry@emory.edu](mailto:candlerfoundry@emory.edu)



The Paycheck Protection Program has been extended again until August 8<sup>th</sup>. The UM Connectional Federal Credit Union has been able to provide this funding for a number of UM churches in all four of our conferences, providing nearly \$2.5 million dollars in payroll funds affecting over 500 employees. If you would like to take a look at securing these forgivable loans for your church or ministry, contact Jonathan Curtis at [jonathanc@unitedmethodistcu.com](mailto:jonathanc@unitedmethodistcu.com).

## Fixing of the Appointments

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson will pray for the churches, clergy, and communities of the North Georgia Conference and officially set the 2020-2021 appointments over Facebook Live at noon, Thursday, August 6. Visit [www.Facebook.com/NGaUMC](https://www.facebook.com/NGaUMC) on Thursday to watch the Fixing of the Appointments.

### Wesley Woods Mother's Day Offering

August 23

The Conference-wide Wesley Woods Mother's Day Offering has been rescheduled for August 23 (or another Sunday that works for your congregation). Your gifts are an essential source of funds for providing loving care to residents of the 10 Wesley Woods communities in our Conference.



Happy Birthday to the following district ministers celebrating birthdays in August:

1 - Dalton Richardson  
15 - Lynn Peters  
16 - JoAn Kinrade  
21 - Alphonso Smith

27 - Cyndi McDonald  
Mark Burgess  
29 - Elaine Crawford