Sisters and brothers in Christ, this quadrennium we have been celebrating the movements of the liturgical year through our acts of worship. Our 2019 Annual Conference will be viewed through the lens of Lent and Easter. With the decisions of the Special Called Session of General Conference now before us, I can think of no better season on which to focus. I believe we are traveling through this wilderness season on our way to claiming and living once again as Easter people. The wilderness can be long and frustrating, and oftentimes we don’t know where we are going or what the future might hold. However, as we journey through these new realities, please remember we do so as Easter people. We simply trust that God is with us, and that His grace will always be sufficient.

As we turn our attention toward our 2019 Annual Conference we do so with our hearts, minds, and souls focused on the Lenten journey with Jesus as he resolutely turned his face toward Jerusalem. In this new season of our life together as United Methodist, may we resolutely “turn your (our) eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.” *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*, UM Hymnal 349. Let us do so with a renewed determination and a “Holy Imagination” to continue making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

“Holy Imagination” born in the very heart of God who redeemed the world in the most creatively, imaginative, and unexpected way is what we will need if we are to come out on the other side of this journey in resurrection power. It seems like Friday in our denominational life has lasted so long, but as has been said, “It’s Friday, but Sunday’s coming.”

It is my prayer that as we prepare to gather once again in Northern Kentucky for “Holy Conferencing” and the election of delegates for the 2020 General Conference that we will arrive bathed in all the joy, strength, peace, and love that flows from the Imagination of God’s heart, a Holy Imagination that always “See’s the possibilities, and lives the promises.” I look forward to seeing each of you in Northern Kentucky. Blessings and peace to each you.

In Christ,

Bishop Leonard E. Fairley
Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is a pleasure to welcome the Kentucky Annual Conference back to Covington as we gather together in holy conferencing. Much has happened since we gathered as the United Methodist in Kentucky last year, yet we all can share stories from our congregations of baptisms and confirmations, griefs and joys shared, the Gospel proclaimed. My prayer that I hope will be shared by each of us is the one offered to us through the words of the Apostle Paul as he spoke to one of his most beloved churches:

*I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; Phil 1:3-6*

As the Northern Kentucky District Superintendent, I know from experience that hosting Annual Conference is not a task that I need to worry about. I want to thank all our volunteers, both repeat and new, for their effort and imagination over the past months in preparing for this week. Carole Delong and April Garner as co-chairs for our local arrangements and Val Holland as the Church Beyond coordinator have steered us well. The Northern Kentucky Convention and Visitor Center are professional and gracious in hosting us and responding to all our needs, even the ones that will inevitably come up at the last minute. There are hundreds of tasks and details that add up to a seamless Conference. Details range from room allocations to enough bread for communion to timely stage changes to ushers and childcare. I won’t even begin to remind you of all the loading and unloading of the trucks!

In a season in which we have found ourselves preoccupied with what separates us, it is good to gather and be powerfully reminded of what and Who binds us together as Christians and as the people called Methodists in Kentucky. It is good for all of us to see our Conference staff as they have worked all year to provide the foundation for our gathering. Julie Hager Love, our Director of Connectional Ministries, works with her team from the month our last Annual Conference ends up to the moment this one begins so that our gathering is one which informs and nurtures our work. As Julie leaves this position and goes to The Kentucky United Methodist Children’s Homes, I know you will want to thank her for her leadership.

As we meet and worship under the leadership of Bishop Fairley, may we all be aware of the presence of the Spirit, awake to the Spirit’s leading and open to the Spirit’s challenges.

May the grace and peace of Jesus Christ be with us all,

Susan Jinnett-Sack
Northern Kentucky District Superintendent
2019
JOURNAL
Containing the Proceedings of the
Twenty-fourth Session
of the
KENTUCKY ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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at the union of the former Kentucky Annual Conference
after its One Hundred Seventy-Sixth Session
and
the former Louisville Annual Conference
after its One Hundred Fifty-First Session
and
after Session Twenty-Nine since uniting with churches from the
former Kentucky-Tennessee Conference of the Central Jurisdiction of the
United Methodist Church, the former Indiana Conference South, and the
Red Bird Missionary Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren Church.

Hosted by
THE NORTHERN KENTUCKY DISTRICT

Sessions held at
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Covington, KY
June 10-12, 2019

LEONARD FAIRLEY
Presiding Bishop

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# Table of Contents

## I. ADMINISTRATION OF THE KENTUCKY ANNUAL CONFERENCE
- Office and Cabinet of the Resident Bishop ........................................... 4
- Appointive Cabinet .................................................................................. 4
- Extended Cabinet .................................................................................... 5
- Additional Conference and Episcopal Staff .............................................. 6
- Episcopal Staff ......................................................................................... 8
- Additional Officers of the Conference ...................................................... 8
- E-Mail Addresses ....................................................................................... 9
- Red Bird Missionary Conference ............................................................... 10
- Advocacy Access Program ........................................................................ 10

## II. GOVERNANCE
- Standing Rules .......................................................................................... 12
- Policy Relating to Sexual Misconduct and Sexual Harassment .................. 23
- Safe Sanctuaries ......................................................................................... 26
- KAC Policy on Clergy Separation and Divorce ........................................... 30

## III. MINISTERIAL DIRECTORY AND SERVICE RECORDS
- Ministers of the Kentucky Annual Conference ........................................... 34
- Surviving Spouses of Clergy of the Kentucky Annual Conference .............. 146

## IV. LAY DIRECTORY .................................................................................... 152

## V. LEADERSHIP TEAMS AND RELATED BOARDS, COMMISSIONS,
STANDING COMMITTEES, FOUNDATIONS, COUNCILS AND
CONFERENCE RELATED AGENCIES .......................................................... 168
- Administrative Teams .............................................................................. 168
- Board of Ordained Ministry ...................................................................... 171
- Connectional Ministries ......................................................................... 173
- New Church Development ....................................................................... 177
- Standing Committees .............................................................................. 178
- Episcopacy Committee ........................................................................... 180
- Primary Task Teams .............................................................................. 181
- Health and Welfare Related Institutions ................................................. 182
- Camp and Retreat Ministries ................................................................... 184
- College and Campus Ministry, Board of Directors & Trustees ................. 185
- District Nominations .............................................................................. 190

## VI. DAILY PROCEEDINGS ......................................................................... 200
### VII. RESOLUTIONS & PETITIONS
- Petitions to General Conference .......................................................... 220
- Resolution for Closure ........................................................................... 228

### VIII. BUSINESS OF THE KENTUCKY ANNUAL CONFERENCE ............... 237
- Part I: Organization and General Business ............................................. 237
- Part II: Pertaining to Ordained and Licensed Clergy .............................. 249
- Part III: Certification in Specialized Ministry ........................................ 280
- Part IV: Certified Lay Ministry ............................................................... 281
- Part V: Diaconal Ministries .................................................................... 281
- Part VI: Appointments and Concluding Business ................................. 282

### IX. APPOINTMENTS ........................................................................... 288

### X. REPORTS .................................................................................... 297
- 100 - Administrative Teams ................................................................. 297
- 200 - Connectional Ministries & Related Agencies ............................... 340
- 300 - Ministerial Services ..................................................................... 383
- 400 - New Church Development ........................................................ 403
- 500 - Additional Teams and Reports .................................................... 405

### XI. MEMOIRS ................................................................................ 422
- In Memoriam, Clergy ............................................................................. 423
- In Memoriam, Spouses .......................................................................... 430
- Roll of the Honored Dead, Clergy ....................................................... 438
- Roll of the Honored Dead, Spouses of Clergy ..................................... 445

### XII. HISTORICAL ............................................................................ 450

### XIII. MISCELLANEOUS FINANCIAL ................................................. 451
- A. Salary Schedules .............................................................................. 451
- B. Benefit Summary ................................................................................ 471
- C. Kentucky Conference Auditor’s Report ........................................... 475
- D. District Audits .................................................................................. 516
- E. Churches Paying 100% of Our Mission Covenant ......................... 517

### XIV. STATISTICAL TABLES ................................................................. 519

### INDEX ............................................................................................. 680

### CORRECTIONS PAGE ..................................................................... 688

### KENTUCKY CONFERENCE RELATED AGENCIES/FACILITIES ......... 690
Reconciling United Methodists of Kentucky Dinner, June 9, 2019

Registration and Display Area, June 9, 2019
The Kentucky Conference mission is to
Discover, Develop and Send
passionate spiritual leaders and resources to make
disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

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