

# 2014 Western North Carolina Annual Conference

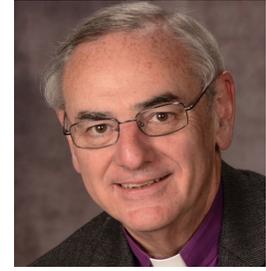
June 19-22, 2014

George R. Stuart Auditorium | Lake Junaluska, North Carolina



**Bishop Jonathan Holston**  
South Carolina Conference

## CELEBRATING *Generosity*



**Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster**  
Western North Carolina Conference

8 And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

9 *As it is written:* "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever." [a]

10 Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. 12 This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.—2 Corinthians 9:8-12 (NIV)



**Rev. Jan Davis**  
Senior Pastor, First  
Rowlett UMC, Rowlett, Texas



**Rev. J. Cameron West**  
President, Huntingdon College  
Montgomery, Alabama



**Rev. Amy Coles**  
Superintendent  
Smoky Mountain District



**Bobbie Denny**  
Laity Address Speaker  
Charlotte, North Carolina

## Bishop Jonathan Holston

Bishop Jonathan Holston is the resident Bishop of the South Carolina Conference.

Prior to his election and consecration in July of 2012, he served as the senior pastor of St. James United Methodist Church in Atlanta.

He holds a Master of Divinity in biblical studies from The Interdenominational Theological Center, Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta. He also has a bachelor's degree in religion from the University of Georgia. Prior to his appointment to St. James UMC, he served as superintendent of the Atlanta-Decatur-Oxford District 1997-2005, as an associate director of the North Georgia Conference Council on Ministries 1992-1997, and as the senior pastor of Clifton UMC (1986-1992); and the senior pastor of Marietta Street UMC (1983-1986);

Bishop Holston has also served as a member of the General Council on Finance and Administration, chairperson of General Conference Finance and Administrative Legislative Committee and as a member of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, the Southeastern Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy, Hinton Rural Life Center, Appalachian Development Committee and the Southeastern Jurisdictional Association for Native American Ministries.

He has also traveled extensively as a specialist in missions to Uganda, Costa Rica, Haiti, Honduras, Zimbabwe, Kenya, India, China and Hong Kong. In his work as the conference disaster relief coordinator, he served on the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), the Catastrophic Disaster Response Team and as the Church World Service Disaster Consultant in Georgia.

In January of 2013, Bishop Holston was appointed by the SEJ to UMVIM Board of Directors (2013-2016) and to the Lake Junaluska Board of Trustees (2013-2016). He was elected to the Gammon Theological Seminary Board in January 2013 and the Board of Directors of the South Carolina United Methodist Foundation in April 2013.

Bishop Holston and his wife, Felecia, have two children, Karlton Maurice and Brittany Jene'.

## **Bishop Larry Goodpaster**

Bishop Goodpaster was assigned to serve as the Resident Bishop of the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church in July 2008, and reassigned in 2012. He was elected to the episcopacy in 2000 and served for eight years as the bishop of the Alabama-West Florida Conference in Montgomery, Alabama. Prior to his election as a bishop, Goodpaster served as a pastor and district superintendent in the Mississippi Conference. His pastoral experience included a five-church rural charge, a new congregation, and several large membership churches.

He has taught in a variety of settings and has written articles appearing in various denominational publications. His book, *There's Power in the Connection*, was published in 2008 by Abingdon Press.

For two years (2010-2012), Goodpaster served as President of the Council of Bishops, which includes United Methodist bishops from around the world. In that role, he preached at the opening worship service of the 2012 General Conference in Tampa, Florida, and then presided over the opening session.

Bishop Goodpaster earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi, and both the Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Candler School of Theology, Atlanta, Georgia. He has received honorary Doctor of Divinity degrees from Huntingdon College (Montgomery, Alabama), Birmingham-Southern College (Birmingham, Alabama), and Millsaps College (Jackson, Mississippi).

He has been married to the former Deborah Cox of Quincy, Florida, since 1971. They have two daughters and four grandchildren.

## **Rev. Jan Davis**

The Rev. Jan Davis is senior pastor of First Rowlett United Methodist Church in Rowlett, Texas, in the North Texas Conference. A native of Pennsylvania, Jan's first career was in semiconductor sales and marketing with Texas Instruments, Inc. in Dallas. Jan acknowledged her call to ordained ministry and completed her Master of Divinity degree from Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University. Jan enjoyed serving as Pastor of Pleasant Valley UMC in Sachse, Texas, for two years and as Executive Pastor of Christ UMC Plano, Texas for nine years, before her current appointment as Senior Pastor of FUMC Rowlett where she has been for five years.

Jan serves the North Texas Conference as chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry. She co-leads the Clergy Effectiveness Task Force. Jan was elected the second clergy delegate to General Conference in 2012 in Tampa, Florida, and served on the Committee on Financial Administration. She was a 2012 delegate to the South Central Jurisdictional Conference in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Jan served as a member of the General Board of Global Ministries Advance Committee 2004-2012. She is currently working on her Doctor of Ministry degree in preaching from SMU, Perkins School of Theology. In the past, she has served as a member of the Conference Core Leadership Team, Strategic Planning Team, Worship Committee and was chairperson of the Sending Servants Team.

Jan believes the community should be a better place because of the church and its people. She actively leads the church into the community and challenges the congregation to find solutions to the problems facing local neighborhoods and schools – specifically hunger, poverty, and domestic violence. First Rowlett UMC recently received the Community Partner of the year award for their work in Rowlett. The church focuses on reaching the next generation with the love of Jesus Christ. First Rowlett UMC recently completed a successful capital campaign raising funds to build a new children's education building and renovate space for youth ministry.

Jan and her husband, Deames, have been married for 25 years. Deames is a Jimmy John's Sandwich Shop franchise owner, with stores in Rockwall and Richardson, Texas. They have three daughters, Elora, a graduate of Texas Christian University; Morgan, a senior at Oklahoma State University, and Acacia, a senior at Rockwall High School.

## **Rev. Amy Coles**

The Rev. Amy Coles was appointed by Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster to serve as the District Superintendent of the Smoky Mountain District of the Western North Carolina Conference, beginning September 1, 2012. A graduate of UNC-Greensboro in Child and Family Development and Duke Divinity School, she has pastored churches in Trinity, High Point, and Shoals, North Carolina. She was appointed to the Smoky Mountain District after serving as a District Superintendent in the Albemarle District for the three years. She is an active participant with the Board of Rural Faith Development CDC, Hinton Rural Life Center, and the Thriving Rural Communities Initiative at Duke. In 2012, she represented the Western North Carolina Conference as a delegate to the United Methodist General Conference in Tampa, Florida and Southeast Jurisdictional Conference at Lake Junaluska.

Amy enjoys gardening, "crafting," and spending time with family and friends in her free time. She is the legal guardian of her 16-year-old nephew, Brandon. This role has both strengthened her prayer life and served as a wonderful example of the incredible grace of God.

## The Rev. J. Cameron West

President, Huntingdon College, Montgomery, Alabama

- Th.M., The Divinity School, Duke University
- M.Div., The Divinity School, Yale University (*cum laude*, Rockefeller Brothers Fellow)
- B.A., University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (Phi Beta Kappa, North Carolina Fellow)

The Rev. J. Cameron West (“Cam”) took office as Huntingdon’s 14th president on June 1, 2003. He believes the purpose of a liberal arts education at a College of the Church is preparation for responsible citizenship, which places the well-being of our communities at the center of our beliefs, our decisions, and our actions. His goal for Huntingdon students is that they be educated to explore and understand the Judeo-Christian tradition and other major world religions, to think critically and ethically, to communicate with clarity and civility, and to extend themselves in service far beyond their own backyards. President West’s vision for Huntingdon, rooted in the College’s 160 year history, is expressed in three words: Faith, Wisdom, Service.

Prior to his arrival at Huntingdon, President West served as a parish minister from 1978 to 1999 in congregations of the North Carolina and Western North Carolina Conferences. He served as chairperson of the Board of Worship in the North Carolina Conference and as the Bishop’s Ecumenical Representative in the Western North Carolina Conference, and also served for eight years as a mentor in the Western North Carolina Conference Residency in Ordained Ministry (RIOM) program. From 1999-2003, he was a vice president and dean at Brevard College. President West is an elder and member in full connection of the Alabama-West Florida Conference and was named in 2012 to membership in the University Senate of the United Methodist Church. In 2013, he was presented the Francis Asbury Award by the Alabama-West Florida Conference in recognition of leadership excellence in United Methodist higher education.

Since 2003, Huntingdon has undergone a time of revitalization and renewal with President West at the helm. He led the redesign of the core curriculum; the introduction or re-introduction of majors or programs in accounting, elementary and secondary education, religion, Christian education, youth ministry, worship ministry, music, music education, physical education, and sport management; the establishment of the Center for Career and Vocation, the Women’s Center, and the Black Student Union; the expansion of campus ministries, community service, campus recreation, and Greek life programming; and the addition of the Marching Scarlet and Grey, a concert band, a jazz band, and various specialized instrumental groups. In Huntingdon’s NCAA-III intercollegiate athletics, the Huntingdon Hawks football team established in 2003 has become one of the nation’s premier Division III programs. Women’s golf, men’s tennis, and women’s and men’s lacrosse have also been introduced as highly-competitive intercollegiate sports.

President West has made new facility construction and renovation of existing facilities a priority of his administration. The College has constructed a new football and lacrosse stadium, a new tennis center, and a new theater, and has completely renovated the science building, the religion and campus ministries building, the art gallery, the first year women’s residence hall, the gymnasium, and the dining hall. A lead gift for renovation of the music building has been secured, and work will begin in summer 2014 on a complete renovation of that facility.

President West has been married to Elizabeth Batchelor West for 25 years. She has been active in the teaching ministry of First United Methodist Church, Montgomery, Alabama, and for seven years was a member of the Council of Finance and Administration of the Western North Carolina Conference. The Wests are the parents of two children, Grace Louise West and William Cameron West.

## Bobbie Denny

A retired middle school teacher of 32 years with Stanly County, Bobbie Denny is married to Langston Denny. They are parents of four adult children, and have six grandchildren.

She now “works for the Lord” at Central UMC, Charlotte, where she teaches Sunday School and Disciple classes, serves as lay leader, works with ESOL, and is chairperson of the spiritual life committee and prayer team.

Bobbie has served with the Metro laity council as director of lay ministries school. Her hobbies include cooking, gardening, babysitting, reading, writing, and (most favorite) studying and sharing God’s Word.