



# CONFERENCE *CIRCUIT*

The West Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church

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## Harry Denman Evangelism Award Recipients Honored



Kevin Yates (laity) and Robert Fulton (clergy) were awarded the Harry Denman Evangelism Award for 2023. Yates drives the van for 4th Street UMC in Huntington and provides transportation for persons in addiction recovery homes. He uses travel time to share his faith story and his journey of recovery with his passengers. Many of those have made professions of faith, received baptism, and joined the church. Robert Fulton, pastor of Hamlin UMC led the merger of two churches, the building of a new facility (in the



midst of a pandemic), and led the way in innovative worship and partnering with the local community. Finding creative ways to engage worshippers, Fulton led parking lot worship, Upward Sports in the church's gym, and focused on those new to the church. Nine baptisms, 27 first-time guests, and more than 400 online worshippers are the result of Pastor Bob's efforts. The Conference honored additional award recipients Friday. Read about them at [www.wvumc.org/2023-ac/](http://www.wvumc.org/2023-ac/)

## J & A Presents Quilt



During Friday's Justice and Advocacy report, committee chair Martha Hill presented a quilt to the West Virginia Annual Conference.

The quilt, a spiritual formation and educational tool, is designed to promote awareness of issues of injustice, committee member and quilter B.A. Miskowicz explained. Its center panels represent the sacraments of baptism and communion, and they are surrounded by squares representing social justice issues.

"What a beautiful gift," Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball said. "I hope that it will travel around our Conference. We believe that all are welcome to Christ's table. May this quilt remind us there is still work to be done."



## What's Happening Today

- 8:30 Plenary Session, Wesley Chapel  
Teaching session with Sue Nilson Kibbey
- 10:00 Memorial Service
- 1:00 Plenary Session Resumes, Wesley Chapel  
Reports and Resolutions
- 6:00 Dinner  
Plenary session, if needed

## Sunday Agenda

- 8:00 Sunday School
- 9:30 Service of Licensing
  - Commissioning and Ordination
  - Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball preaching
  - Fixing of the Appointments
  - Adjournment



Scan this QR code with your smartphone camera to read more about all that is happening at our 2023 WV Annual Conference



# In Annual Conference Business...

■ Bishop Steiner Ball welcomed Bishop Moore-Koikoi, Bishop of the Pittsburgh area assigned to Western PA Conference and coverage of Susquehanna Conference, along with Bishop Steiner Ball.

■ Ecumenical Greetings were brought by conference clergy member Rev. Jeff Allen, Executive Director, West Virginia Council of Churches.

■ Conference considered the resolution: Regarding the Preaching and Teaching of United Methodist Doctrine, which was referred to the Board of Ordained Ministry.

■ Several amendments were proposed and approved, including a rule that adjusted the responsibilities for the Conference

Secretary and a change in how Global Mission coordinators are nominated.

■ Major changes to the rules for ordained ministry, which had been approved by the executive clergy session, were supported. These included removing all duplications of the *Book of Discipline*; giving authority on distance learning to the University Senate, while retaining the requirement of Preaching, pastoral care, and Church administration, and increasing the number of local pastors allowed on District Committees on Ministry.

■ A rule regarding distribution of printed materials for conference was referred to the Rules Committee. After debate, the rule was

approved as written.

■ Resolution BOP Health Insurance Funding Transition was supported as written on page 135 of the Conference Workbook after an attempt to amend it failed. Pensions recommendation was supported.

■ The body approved the recommendations of Equitable Compensation that included the Base Minimum compensation as follows:  
\$42,000 for full and provisional members  
\$40,000 for Associate members  
\$39,000 for Full-Time Local pastors.

■ Global Ministries highlighted the connectional ministries of mission projects: Burlington Family Ministries; New Vision Depot; Parish Development Teams, Disaster Ministries; Volunteers in Mission.

■ Kristi Wilkerson, Conference Lay Leader, gave the laity report around the theme of "It's good to go where everybody knows your name." She highlighted churches throughout the conference who are reaching out to the community in various ways.

■ We celebrated the work of the CCYM, Spring Heights and Campus Ministry.

■ Kim Matthews was elected as the final member of the General and Jurisdictional Delegation.



## Conference Honors Judi Kenaston

When Judi Kenaston became West Virginia Annual Conference secretary 21 years ago, she was the first lay person and the first woman to serve in that role.

She also received information to help her in her new duties on floppy disks.

"So, things change, but God's love remains, and I am thankful for that," Kenaston said after being recognized by Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball at Annual Conference Friday morning for her years of service and her new position as Interim Chief Connectional Ministries Officer



Rev. Joe Kenaston applauds his wife, Judi, as she holds a citation from the Annual Conference.

(ICCMO) for Connectional Table effective January 2023.

Read the full article at [www.wvumc.org/2023-ac](http://www.wvumc.org/2023-ac)

