



PAUMCS

PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATORS
OF THE UNITED METHODIST
CONNECTIONAL STRUCTURE

2027 PAUMCS Annual Conference

April 22-24, 2027 | Chattanooga, Tennessee

*"Equipping Administrators to
Stay on Track!"*



INFORMATIONAL
BROCHURE





All Aboard the 2027 PAUMCS Annual Conference!

Join fellow United Methodist administrators as we gather for a meaningful and enriching experience centered on our conference theme, **“Equipping Administrators to Stay on Track.”** Inspired by the rich railroad heritage of Chattanooga and the iconic Chattanooga Choo Choo, this year's conference is designed to provide the tools, connections, and encouragement needed to navigate the ever-changing landscape of administrative ministry.

As administrators, we play a vital role in helping our churches and ministries move forward with purpose and excellence. Through engaging workshops, shared learning opportunities, and meaningful fellowship, attendees will be equipped to remain focused on God's calling while confidently managing the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Our guiding scripture for the conference is **Proverbs 3:6: “Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take.”** This verse reminds us that when we place our trust in God and seek His direction, He faithfully guides our journey. Together, we will explore how faith, wisdom, and practical skills can help us stay on track as we serve our congregations and communities.

*We can't wait to
see you!*

Registration FAQs

Member: \$350

Non-Member: \$425

Whether you are looking to expand your skills, gain new perspectives, or strengthen your professional network, this event delivers a rewarding and engaging experience from start to finish!

Included in pricing:

- 10 hours of PAUMCS administrative training equaling 1 CEU
- Presentations from extraordinary speakers
- Three lunches
- One dinner
- One banquet dinner
- Networking & peer engagement opportunities
- Professional development & continuing education experience

Companion Meal Registration: \$175

Guests who will not be attending conference sessions but would like to join attendees for included meal functions may purchase a Companion Meal Registration. This option allows companions to participate in the conference's covered dining events and enjoy fellowship with attendees throughout the event.

Registration Deadline:

March 31, 2027



Register for the 2027 PAUMCS Annual Conference

***Don't forget to add the
2027 Conference Charm!
(\$12)***



Hotel

Embassy Suites by Hilton Chattanooga Downtown
345 Broad Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402

Stay in the heart of downtown Chattanooga at our host hotel, conveniently located near the Tennessee Aquarium, Creative Discovery Museum, Bluff View Art District, and the Riverfront. Ross's Landing, home to many of the city's popular festivals and events, is just a two-minute walk away.

Conference attendees can choose from spacious King Studio, King Suite, or Queen Suite accommodations, all available at the **special conference rate of \$199 per night**. Every room includes a complimentary made-to-order breakfast, evening reception, Wi-Fi, kitchenette, and modern amenities designed for both comfort and productivity. Guests can also enjoy the hotel's on-site restaurant, fitness center, and indoor pool. **ONLY valet parking is available for \$30 per night for overnight guests and \$17 per day for commuters.**

Be sure to reserve your room by March 21, 2027, to receive the conference rate.

[Click here to Reserve your room NOW!](#)



Transportation

Traveling to Chattanooga is easy, with **Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport (CHA)** offering direct flights from several major cities, including **Atlanta, Charlotte, Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, New York, and Newark**. The airport is served by United, American, and Delta Airlines, providing attendees with a variety of convenient travel options.

The hotel is conveniently located just 17 minutes from the airport, making arrivals and departures simple and stress-free. Ride-share services such as **Uber and Lyft** are readily available and typically cost \$15 to \$20, while taxi fares generally range from \$22 to \$30.

Plan to explore Chattanooga with ease during your free time using the city's **free shuttle service**, which travels throughout downtown and connects many of the area's popular dining, entertainment, and sightseeing destinations.



2027 Mission Emphasis

Mustard Tree Ministries, Inc.



“Mustard Tree Ministries, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) faith-based non-profit organization founded in 2003 and governed by a 12-member board of directors. The organization began as an outreach effort involving several people who were concerned about the need to minister to those who live in the poorest parts of Chattanooga as well as those experiencing homelessness. Mustard Tree Ministries exists to be a ministry that helps people become all that God wants them to be. Thus, we call ourselves Mustard "Tree" not Mustard "Seed.”

Volunteers from MTM pack and deliver sack lunches to the projects in Chattanooga, help those who seek them out for a variety of different kinds of assistance (healthcare, jobs, food, clothing, bus passes, and more). They also have a worship service hosted at First-Centenary UMC with dinner afterwards every Sunday night. Buses provide transportation for those who do not have their own, and several unhoused people from the area attend as well. Beyond helping locally, MTM helps build sustainable community development in impoverished communities in Romania. Learn more about the amazing work MTM is doing at

<https://firstcentenary.com/mustard-tree-ministries>

Schedule of Events

April 22nd Thursday

- o 8am-11am: check in
- o 9am: First-timers meeting
- o 10am: Chapter President's meeting
- o 11am: Greeting/Welcome and Introduction of Mission
- o 12pm: Lunch
- o 1:30pm: Opening Worship with Communion at First Centenary UMC
- o **3pm-5pm: Session 1 (2 hours)**
- o 6pm: Dinner

April 23rd Friday

- o 8:30am: Devotion
- o **9am-10am: Session 2 (1 hour)**
- o 10am: Vendor presentation, then short break
- o **10:15am-11:45am: Session 3 (1.5 hours)**
- o 12pm: Lunch
- o **1pm-2:30pm: Session 4 (1.5 hours)**
- o 2:30: Vendor presentation and break
- o **3pm-4:30: Session 5 (1.5 hours)**
- o Dinner on your own

April 24th Saturday

- o 8:30am: Devotion
- o **9am-10:30am: Session 6 (1.5 hours)**
- o 10:30am: Vendor presentation and break
- o **11am-12pm: Session 7 (1 hour)**
- o 12pm: Lunch
- o 1pm-3pm: Business Meeting
- o 3-6pm: Free Time
- o 6pm-8pm: Banquet

Banquet Theme:

Dolly Parton's "Eagle When She Flies" celebrating strength, grace, & southern glamour with rhinestones, sequins, fringe, & vibrant color.





Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett

Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett was elected bishop by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference in 2012. She currently serves the Holston and West Virginia Annual Conferences, being the first United Methodist Bishop to serve in two jurisdictions consecutively (Southeastern and Northeastern). She is President of the World Methodist Council. She is a graduate of Berea College (Bachelor of Arts in Physical Education), Scarritt College and Graduate School (Master of Arts in Christian Education), Lexington Theological Seminary (Master of Divinity), and Asbury Theological Seminary (Doctor of Ministry).



Reverend Jason Gattis

Reverend Jason Gattis is the Senior Minister at First-Centenary UMC in Chattanooga. He has served as an ordained Elder in Holston Conference for 24 years both as pastor of local churches and as a District Superintendent. Jason holds a BA in Administration-Finance from Birmingham-Southern College, and an M.Div. from Emory University Candler School of Theology. Before entering full-time ministry, he spent 5 years in the banking industry as a Branch Manager and officer for AmSouth Bank in Birmingham, AL.

Conference Speakers



Reverend Caroline Archer

Reverend Caroline Archer is a Provisional Deacon serving as Minister of Environmental Justice at First-Centenary UMC and as a water/wastewater design engineer with HDR Engineering, Inc. She is a Georgia native and graduate of Mercer University and Vanderbilt Divinity School. Caroline chairs the Creation Care Team of Holston Conference.



Reverend Barry Kidwell

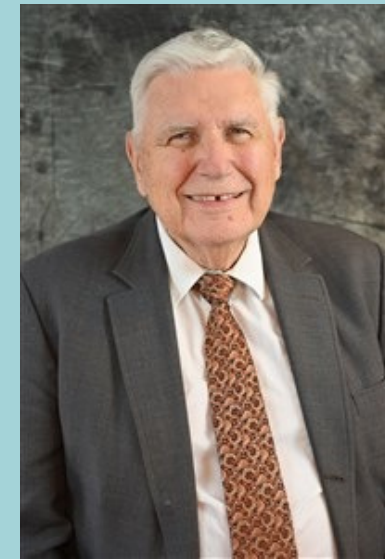
Reverend Barry Kidwell is the Director of Mustard Tree Ministries and has over 40 years of pastoral experience. He is a graduate of Lee University, and Asbury Theological Seminary. In June of 2004, he was appointed to serve Forrest Avenue UMC in Chattanooga, TN. This is where Mustard Tree Ministry became a reality. After Forest Avenue UMC closed in 2010 Mustard Tree Ministry continued serving the public and worshiped under the Walnut Street Bridge for a while on Sunday mornings. Eventually the ministry was offered space at First-Centenary UMC, and Barry joined the clergy staff there in 2015. He retired from ordained ministry in June 2026 but remains active in the work of Mustard Tree Ministry.

Conference Speakers



Mike Feely

Michael Feely serves as Director of Missions and Congregational Care at Christ UMC in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He previously led Mountain TOP, a housing repair ministry, and served in development and missions roles at Camp Lookout and Henderson Settlement, as well as pastoring churches in the Holston Conference. He has served an interim Chattanooga City Council position, as an adjunct history professor, and has served on the boards of the Holston Foundation, Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga, and Habitat for Humanity. Michael chairs the SEJ Commission on Archives and History and the Holston Conference Commission and serves nationally with the UMC General Commission. He has degrees from the University of Georgia (BA in history and political science); Wesley Theological Seminary (M. Div.) and Missouri State University (M.A. in history).



Bishop Richard Looney

Bishop Richard Looney is a retired Bishop of the United Methodist Church, having served from 1988-2000 in the South Georgia Episcopal Area. He graduated from Emory and Henry College and Candler School of Theology, with additional study at University of Edinburgh, Scotland, and Union Theological Seminary. Before his election as Bishop he served churches and as a District Superintendent in Holston Conference and returned here after his retirement in 2000. He is the Episcopal Director Emeritus of The Foundation for Evangelism.

Conference Speakers



Reverend Dr. Susan Arnold

Reverend Dr. Susan Arnold is an ordained Elder in Holston Annual Conference. She served local churches from 2009 to 2022 and was then appointed Conference Director of Congregational Development and Revitalization. In 2025 her role was expanded to include Connectional Ministries. She holds a B.S. in Elementary Education from East Tennessee State University, a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction, an MDiv. from Asbury Theological Seminary, and her doctorate in Church Renewal and Fresh Expressions from United Theological Seminary. She is trained in coaching and Positive Intelligence training, and has a heart for spiritual direction and deep listening.



Reverend Dr. Tim Jones

Reverend Dr. Tim Jones worked in sales and marketing before entering ministry. He served Holston Conference churches from 2009 to 2018, then became Conference Director of Communications. Budget constraints and staff reductions expanded his role to include personnel, resulting in sixty-five- to seventy-hour workweeks and growing dissatisfaction. In July 2026, he launched Strategic Reset Co. to coach seasoned leaders facing mission drift, drawing on his experience. He continues part-time as Holston Conference Director of Communications. He graduated from Volunteer State Community College and Trevecca Nazarene University and earned a Doctor of Ministry in Spirituality and Story from Wesley Theological Seminary.

Conference Speakers



Beanie Rankin

Buena “Beanie” Rankin retired as Assistant Director of Records and Statistics for the UMC’s General Council on Finance and Administration. She oversaw General Minutes, coordinated Local Church Reports, aligned records, supported the Committee on Official Forms and Records, and trained statisticians and treasurers nationwide. A lifelong United Methodist, Beanie has served in church administration since 1982. For Cokesbury, she led nationwide training in UMIS, Shepherd’s Staff, Shelby software, and accounting troubleshooting. She earned an AB in Mathematics from West Virginia University. An active, certified member of PAUMCS until 2013, she served as secretary, treasurer, and on the Professional Training and Standards Committee.



Reverend Sharon Bowers

Rev. Sharon Bowers is an elder in the Holston Conference. Since 1977 she has served local churches, campus ministries, and a children’s home and currently serves as Lead Pastor of Asbury United Methodist Church in Greeneville, Tennessee, in a cross-racial appointment. She co-chairs the Board of Ordained Ministry’s Order of Elders and serves on the Convocation Design and Discipleship Teams. A passionate advocate for diversity, ecumenism, and racial justice, she champions Black churches, women in ministry, and clergy well-being. Rev. Bowers holds an MA in Sociology from Morgan State University, an MDiv from Gammon Theological Seminary, and will soon be defending her dissertation, the last step in earning a Ph.D. in Political Science at Clark Atlanta University.

Conference Speakers

Local Highlights & Popular Attractions

Tennessee Aquarium

One of Chattanooga's signature attractions, with two buildings covering freshwater and ocean ecosystems. Highlights include penguins, sharks, river otters, butterflies and large aquatic exhibits.

Tennessee Aquarium



Rock City Gardens

A spectacular mountaintop walking attraction featuring huge rock formations, gardens, bridges, waterfalls and panoramic views from Lover's Leap. On a clear day, you can reportedly see seven states.



Ruby Falls

Explore Lookout Mountain underground on a guided cave tour leading to the spectacular 145-foot Ruby Falls waterfall. Reservations are recommended.

Ruby Falls



Lookout Mountain Incline Railway

Ride one of the world's steepest passenger railways up Lookout Mountain. The approximately one-mile ride provides impressive views of Chattanooga and the Tennessee Valley.

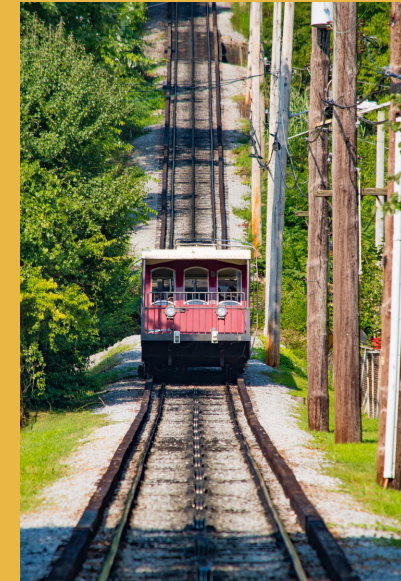
Rock City

Hunter Museum of American Art

An excellent art museum perched on a bluff above the Tennessee River, featuring nearly 3,000 works spanning more than 300 years of American art.



Incline Railway



Hunter Museum

Local Highlights & Popular Attractions

*See You in the
"Scenic City"!*



Lookout Mountain Battlefield

Coolidge Park



Lookout Mountain Battlefield Visitor Center / Point Park

Historic Civil War battlefield with monuments, walking paths and one of the best panoramic overlooks of Chattanooga.

Coolidge Park

Beautiful riverfront park with open lawns, walking paths, fountains and the historic carousel. It's an easy, relaxing stop and especially good for families.

Bessie Smith Cultural Center & Chattanooga African American Museum

This cultural gem delves into significant themes such as civil rights, jazz music, and local historical figures who have shaped the community. Visitors can journey through time, from the painful era of slavery to pivotal moments in the Civil Rights movement and contemporary achievements.

Tennessee Riverwalk

A scenic paved path along the Tennessee River stretching for miles through Chattanooga. Great for walking, biking, photography and enjoying the river without an admission fee.

Chattanooga Choo Choo

This historic train station has been repurposed into spaces for entertainment, shopping, dining, events, and a hotel.

MoonPie General Store

Known as the birthplace of the MoonPie, Chattanooga holds a sweet spot in American snack history. This retail shop and bakery that serves up fresh MoonPies daily in a variety of flavors! There's also a lunch counter where you can belly up for a MoonPie and RC Cola combo.



Tennessee Riverwalk

MoonPie Store



Bessie Smith Cultural Center



Choo Choo