



## Congregational Update: Jurisdictional Conference Summary

July 17, 2024

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Beloved Church,

The Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference (SEJ) of the United Methodist Church convened at Lake Junaluska, NC, July 10–12, 2024. Clergy and lay delegates from across 14 Annual Conferences came together in worship, business, fellowship, and celebration.

The theme of the conference was "Forward in Faith," as we recognize that the landscape of the United Methodist Church in the Southeast has changed, and we must adapt in order to be more future-focused and

missional in this next quadrennium. Bishop Ken Carter of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference delivered a compelling State of the Church speech. You can read some quotations from his speech as well as other highlights [here](#).

We worked to adapt to these current realities by having faithful conversation about racial bias and seeking for more inclusivity in the SEJ of the UMC. We also addressed the reality that the SEJ had 14 Conferences (see image), with 10 bishops to cover these areas. The General Conference only approved the SEJ to have 9 bishops, so we did not elect any new ones. We adapted by combining some of the Annual Conferences in our jurisdiction, and made an unprecedented decision to share a bishop with the Northeastern Jurisdiction.

The last business of SEJ was to receive the assignments of bishops and to covenant once again in our shared baptism as we returned to our places of ministry. South Carolina Annual Conference will say farewell to Bishop Jonathan Holston after 12 years of ministry together, and wish him well in his new episcopal assignment in Alabama. We will receive our new episcopal leader, Bishop Leonard Fairley on September 1, 2024.

Your partner in ministry,  
Rev. Karen Jones  
Lead Pastor

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**Jurisdictional Conference Map**

This map shows the original 13 Annual Conferences and 1 Missionary Conference of the SEJ. At this session, we combined North and South Georgia; North and South Alabama with the Florida panhandle; and the Tennessee Western Kentucky, Kentucky, and the Central Appalachian Missionary Conference.



**Bishop Leonard Fairley**

We ask blessings on Bishop Fairley and our Annual Conference as we all make this transition together. To learn more about our incoming bishop, click [here](#).

You can also hear his address to SC [here](#).

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Website : [openheartsumcsc.org](http://openheartsumcsc.org)



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