OUR SPIRITUAL LEADER Rev. Melissa Smith brings a broad range of ministry experience to her pastoral ministry. She served as a youth minister in both suburban and inner-city churches before becoming a local pastor and elder in the Holston Conference. She has served churches in the Knoxville and Cleveland Districts and now the Wytheville District at First UMC Pulaski. She is known for “doing things different” in each of her appointment settings.

Melissa grew up in Johnson City, TN and graduated from Science Hill High School and then attended East Tennessee State University. She earned her MDIV from Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, KY and did Methodism course work at Asbury Seminary and Wesley Seminary in Washington, DC.

Melissa has two brothers, one older and one younger, and describes herself as the ultimate tomboy. She is passionate about Tennessee football, Lady Vols basketball and her cat Smokey who loves her but nobody else. Melissa loves to laugh, mostly at herself.

OUR MUSICIANS, WestWend, also known as Jonathan and Wendy Crowe Maness, are active in the music ministry of Concord UMC in Farragut, TN. They are excited to bring their neo-traditional acoustic worship sounds to this year’s Holston Conference UMW Annual Meeting. You can visit www.westwendmusic.com to find out more about them. They can also be reached via email at booking@ateflow.com and by phone at 865-748-6178.
GET TO KNOW UNITED METHODIST WOMEN’S CEO.

Harriett Jane Olson has served as chief executive officer of the United Methodist Women’s national administrative and policymaking arm since 2007. United Methodist Women is a nearly 800,000 member organization within the United Methodist Church in the United States.

United Methodist Women members give about $15 million a year for work with women, children, and youth in the United States and around the world. UMW operates and/or owns the Church Center for the United Nations in New York City, a retirement home for deaconesses and missionaries in North Carolina, a publication and distribution network, and a series of mission education and leadership development events annually. Through these events and our connections around the world, UMW staff and members are inspired, prepared, encouraged and celebrated for their direct service and advocacy for justice.

A Harvard Law School graduate, Ms. Olson practiced real estate and environmental law (1983-1996) at a New Jersey law firm, which is now part of Day—Pitney, before working for the church full-time. From 1996-2007, Ms. Olson was senior vice-president for publishing, editor for church school publications and United Methodist Church book editor at the United Methodist Publishing House in Nashville, TN. Ms. Olson has a bachelor’s degree from Houghton College in Houghton, NY where she serves on the board of trustees.

BOOK REVIEW ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON OFFERED!

Karen Murphy, Conference Secretary of Program Resources, will be sharing the Leadership Development Book: Not Safe for Church: Ten Commandments for Reaching New Generations. Congregations say they want to reach new and younger people, many of whom are simply turned off by church. To really connect, congregations have to start doing new things that are out of their comfort zones. F. Douglas Powe Jr. and Jasmine Rose Smothers give ten ways to help, providing tools to reframe the good news in nontraditional ways and move from merely stating your intentions to taking action.

You can count as a 2017 Book on your Reading Program Report.

MINI MISSION STUDY—Missionary Conferences of the U. S.

Becky Gantz Hall will be leading a mini mission study on Saturday. She is a graduate of Tennessee Tech University where she holds a B.S. in Natural Resources. She currently serves as Director of Ministries at Christ UMC in Chattanooga and is also District Lay Leader, chair of the Conference Congregational Development Committee, the Annual Conference Planning Team, and a Natural Church Development Coach. She has been a District UMW President, a Conference UMW Officer, a teacher at School of Christian Mission & Mission u. She is very involved in community service to include her efforts as a board member of the Bethlehem Center, chair of the board of Volunteers in Medicine, and participant for mission teams to Dominica, St. Martin, Liberia, Zimbabwe, Brazil, Nicaragua, Estonia, Kenya, India, Cuba, South Sudan and more. Becky is married to David; they have two grown children and one grandson.

This study will give you item # 13 on the Mission Action 2017 Report.
CALLING ALL WOMEN OF HOLSTON CONFERENCE
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

It is time to finalize plans to attend the Annual Meeting and Officer Training event for 2017. Early registration and making reservations for rooming is strongly recommended. Rooms are filling quickly since there are other events in the Sevierville/Pigeon Forge area this same weekend.

Our event will be held at The ConneXion in Sevierville, TN. This venue is familiar to all of you who attended SIS this spring. There are nice places to stay, plenty of restaurants, and of course, plenty of shopping opportunities both nearby and at Shop the World Gifts display on site. The Program Committee is planning several other activities for you to enjoy. You may visit the Prayer Room, a mini Mission study, a book review that will count toward your participation in the reading program, and the Program Resources Room to browse reading material.

It is always a joy and a blessing to meet with old friends and new and to worship and fellowship together. Come join us at our new venue!

DISTRICT OFFICER TRAINING

An important part of this event is District Officer Training. Each district officer is expected to attend their respective training, whether they are a new officer or if they have held the position more than a year. Treasurers will start their trainings on Friday evening and will continue on Saturday at 10:00. Communication Coordinators will start their training at 10:00 on Saturday. All officers will continue trainings on Saturday afternoon following the business session of Annual Meeting, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Training locations will be listed in the Annual Meeting Program Book.
REGISTRATION AND RESERVATION INFORMATION

Early registration and making reservations for rooming is strongly recommended.

Registration and room reservations are needed early. Registration for the event which includes the meal will be mailed to your District President, please see address list.

REGISTRATION:
Early Registration $20 with Saturday evening meal for $15.00 for a total of $35 (best rate) must be received by August 18th.
Registration by August 25th with Saturday evening meal is $40.00.
Registration at the Door of the Event will NOT include the evening meal.

ROOM RESERVATIONS: Rooms are filling quickly.
The Conference Team has reserved blocks of rooms in two hotels in Sevierville, The Lodge at Five Oaks and The Holiday Inn Express and Suites. Getting your reservation at these hotels is critical as the rooms will be released if not booked. Rooms in this area are quickly filling due to other events in the Sevierville/Pigeon Forge area.

Room Reservations will be as follows:

Lodge at Five Oaks (1650 Parkway, Sevierville TN 37862, 865-429-8300) have double queen rooms for $145 and will sleep up to 4 persons. To get this price you must mail your NAME, ADDRESS, E-MAIL, AND PHONE NUMBER WITH YOUR CHECK to Karen Adair, P. O. Box 80802, Chattanooga TN 37411 by August 18th. Please mail roommates together.
FORM FOR REGISTRATION AT FIVE OAKS ONLY—MAIL TO KAREN ADAIR.
FIRST/PREFERRED & LAST NAME ______________________________________________ PHONE: (_____)__________________
ADDRESS__________________________________________________________________CHURCH_________________________
DISTRICT____________________________ EMAIL ADDRESS ________________________________________________________

Holiday Inn Express & Suites at Nascar (121 Nascar Drive, Sevierville TN 37862, have double queen or king rooms (up to 4 persons in room) with cost at $162.18, being held BUT YOU MUST CALL (Reservation: 800-315-2621 or desk 865-428-1721) or GO ONLINE by copying and pasting the link https://www.hiexpress.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=ex&localeCode=en&regionCode=1&hotelCode=tyssv&_PMID=99801505&GPC=UMW&viewfullsite=true Put in the date and check availability.

This special rate closes on August 18th.

CHILDREN—A $10 Event Registration is requested by August 18th or no later than August 25th. Send to your District President the completed childcare form found at www.holstonumw.org. Evening Buffet Meal is included for the $10.00.
STEP 1 — REGISTER FOR THE EVENT WITH YOUR DISTRICT PRESIDENT.
STEP 2—MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATION.

STEP 1 — REGISTRATION FORM (MUST BE COMPLETED.)
ANNUAL MEETING AND DISTRICT TRAINING SEPTEMBER 15-17, 2017

FIRST/PREFERRED & LAST NAME __________________________________________ PHONE: (_____)____________

ADDRESS____________________________________________________________________________________________________

DISTRICT____________________________________ EMAIL ADDRESS ______________________________________________________

VOTING DELEGATE YES ☐ NO ☐ FIRST TIMER YES ☐ NO ☐

PLEASE CLEARLY MARK THE FOLLOWING IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THESE EVENT:

_____ SATURDAY —Mini Mission Study (During Officer Training at 4:00)
_____ SATURDAY —CONFERENCE OFFICER ALUMNAE GATHERING (During Supper 5:25—7:00)
_____ SATURDAY —Book Review (After Officer Training at 5:00)

CHILDREN ATTENDING WITH ME—Please fill out the Childcare form for each child. The form may be found on www.holstonumw.org.

PLEASE MAIL THIS PART AND YOUR CHECK FOR YOUR REGISTRATION/MEAL TO YOUR DISTRICT PRESIDENT, LISTED BELOW.

2017 DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abingdon</td>
<td>Vickie Mitoraj</td>
<td>19484 Haskell Station Rd</td>
<td>Bristol</td>
<td>VA</td>
<td>24202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Stone Gap</td>
<td>Hope Stapleton</td>
<td>13125 Crab Orchard Road</td>
<td>Coeburn</td>
<td>VA</td>
<td>24230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chattanooga</td>
<td>Willela Douthat</td>
<td>PO Box 400</td>
<td>Signal Mtn.</td>
<td>TN</td>
<td>37377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland</td>
<td>Barbara Graham</td>
<td>2098 Igou Crossing Dr.</td>
<td>Chattanooga</td>
<td>TN</td>
<td>37421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson City</td>
<td>Kathryn Wilhoit</td>
<td>1161 Willow Springs Drive</td>
<td>Johnson City</td>
<td>TN</td>
<td>37604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingsport</td>
<td>Ann Gross</td>
<td>166 Ellis Road</td>
<td>Blountville</td>
<td>TN</td>
<td>37617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knoxville</td>
<td>Pat Bellingrath</td>
<td>801 Bluff Drive</td>
<td>Knoxville</td>
<td>TN</td>
<td>37919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryville</td>
<td>Susan Daffron</td>
<td>2618 Brantley Park Blvd.</td>
<td>Maryville</td>
<td>TN</td>
<td>37804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morristown</td>
<td>Margaret Forby</td>
<td>118 Skyview Drive</td>
<td>Greenville</td>
<td>TN</td>
<td>37745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Ridge</td>
<td>Lisa Black</td>
<td>535 Old Emory Road</td>
<td>Clinton</td>
<td>TN</td>
<td>37716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tazewell</td>
<td>Shelby Jean Davidson</td>
<td>514 Orange Street</td>
<td>Tazewell</td>
<td>VA</td>
<td>24651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wytheville</td>
<td>Linda Burnette</td>
<td>1832 Hebron Road</td>
<td>Galax</td>
<td>VA</td>
<td>24333</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You may e-mail the above form to your District President by August 18th and follow up by mailing the check to be received by August 25th to make your reservation. Non-refundable checks received after August 25th will not guarantee you receiving a meal.
**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

**FRIDAY — SEPTEMBER 15, 2017**

Early Training Session for Treasurers — Time To be announced to Treasurers

**SATURDAY — SEPTEMBER 16, 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>10:00—12:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Training Session</td>
<td>10:15—11:45 for Treasurers and Communication Coordinators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch on your own</td>
<td>Enjoy the great places in Sevierville and Pigeon Forge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 1 - Business Session &amp; Music</td>
<td>1:30 — 3:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Officer Training (All Officers)</td>
<td>4:00 — 5:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini Mission Study Class with Becky Hall</td>
<td>4:00 — 5:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Review with Karen Murphy</td>
<td>5:00 — 5:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffet Dinner @ The ConneXion</td>
<td>5:30 — 7:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Officer Alumnae Gathering</td>
<td>5:30 — 7:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 2</td>
<td>7:15 — 8:30 Following Evening Session</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SUNDAY — SEPTEMBER 17, 2017**

Breakfast and Check Out at your Hotel

Session 3 - Worship with Communion | 10:00

Shop the World will be on site at The ConneXion. Shop the World is a gift shop which wants to fights world poverty. Artisans receive a fair, ongoing income for their beautiful work sold by Shop the World. Customers receive unique items for reasonable pricing.

There are plans for the Program Resource Room to be open during registration, and after the evening session on Saturday.

The Prayer Room will be available during Registration and throughout the day on Saturday.

Childcare will be available during Sessions and training. Parent/Guardian must be on-site while children are in Childcare. Children must be registered prior to August 25th.
DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO THE CONNEXION

The ConneXion, 1250 Middle Creek Road, Sevierville, TN 37862.

Directions to The ConneXion are as follows:

I-40 Exit 407 — take 66 South toward Sevierville for approximately 8.5 miles.
Turn left onto Bypass Hwy. 448 South to the traffic light.
Turn left onto West Main Street which turns into Dolly Parton Parkway.
Go to traffic light 17.1, turn right onto 449 South (Veterans Blvd) (just past Kentucky Fried Chicken).
Go to second traffic light 4.5 (just beyond Highlands Union Bank) and turn left onto Middle Creek Road.
You will see The ConneXion on top of the hill.
(The GPS may take you too far on Middle Creek Road.)
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN,
COME TO THE MOUNTAINS!
WORSHIP,
LEARN, TRAIN, AND FELLOWSHIP.
ENJOY GETTING TOGETHER WITH OLD FRIENDS,
MEET SOMEONE NEW.
REJOICE IN THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE OUR
LORD AND SO MANY OTHERS THROUGH MISSION.