

# DELEGATE BIOS

*submitted by delegates*

**Memphis Conference**

*(West Tennessee and Western Kentucky)*

**The United Methodist Church**

## Lay delegates elected to 2012 General Conference:



### **Selena Henson, Collierville, TN**

*Selena Henson is a lifelong United Methodist. She was a 2008 General Conference/Southeastern Jurisdiction delegate and has served on various committees at the local and conference level. She is married to Rev. Barry Henson, a UM Minister, and loves being the "Preacher's Wife" and "NeNe" to her grandchildren. She currently works with the low income elderly as President of Wesley Senior Ministries Foundation and for the last 23 years of her professional life has worked in roles within the UM connection. Henson believes The UMC's bureaucracy has lost touch with the people in the pews. She said she has a conviction to be a conservative voice.*



### **Sandra Burnett, Paducah, KY**

*Sandra Burnett is a member of Lone Oak UMC in Paducah, KY where she serves as a Stephen Minister. She also serves as the Memphis Conference Lay Leader.*

## Clergy delegates elected to 2012 General Conference:



### **Rev. Randy Cooper, Martin, TN (head of the delegation)**

*Currently pastor of Martin First UMC, Cooper has been a delegate to three Jurisdictional Conferences and one General Conference. He is the Chair of the 2012 Memphis Conference delegation and has been endorsed by the delegation as its 2012 nominee for the episcopacy. In 2008, he was the conference's lead clergy delegate and nominee for the episcopacy. He speaks of his second candidacy as "a form of obedience within the church." Ordained a deacon in 1976 and an Elder in 1981, Cooper has served in ministry for 33 years with rural and small town UM churches in Kentucky and Tennessee. His many leadership positions with the conference include Chair of the Order of Elders. Cooper received his B.S. degree from Lambuth College in Jackson, TN in 1975. His M.Div. degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York City in 1979 included a year of study at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland. He obtained a Doctor of Ministry degree from Memphis Theological Seminary in 1994. He and his wife, Gayle, have two daughters and three grandchildren.*



### **Rev. Sandra L. Clay, Memphis, TN**

*Rev. Sandra L. Clay serves as Superintendent of the Asbury District. She earned a B.S. degree from Memphis State University and an M.Div. from Memphis Theological Seminary. Sandra is married to Terry, a nationally-registered paramedic with Pro-Med EMS.*

## Lay delegates elected to 2012 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference:



### **David R. Reed, Martin, TN**

*David R. Reed serves as Vice President of Development & Planned Giving for the UM Foundation for the Memphis & Tennessee Conferences. He serves on the Board and chairs the Investment Committee for the Foundation for Evangelism and the UM Men Foundation. He is the Leader of the Memphis Conference Communication Action Team and serves on the conference's Connectional Ministry budget committee. He serves on the board of GodStory, Inc. and has served two terms on the the board of the Society of Saint Andrew. A member of Martin First UMC, he is a Dyersburg District Delegate At-Large. Married to Carol Hayden Reed, he has a B.S. degree from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.*



### **Dr. Solomon Christian, Memphis, TN**

*Dr. Solomon Christian was born, reared and educated in India. He is a practicing dentist in Memphis. He is one of the founding members of United Methodist Fellowship of Health Care Volunteers, GBGM and SEJ UMVIM Medical Fellowship. He has led and/or participated in 17 VIM teams. He is the Founder and Coordinator of Dental Care for the World (DCW) project. DCW has helped establish dental clinics in many countries. Recently, DCW started a "Dental Nurse Practitioner" program in Liberia. Christian has served the UM Church in many positions, including the Judicial Council. He and his wife, Sarojani(Sara), have two children: Monica, a probationary Deacon, and Michael.*

## Clergy delegates elected to 2012 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference:



### **Rev. Sky McCracken, Paducah, KY**

*Rev. Sky McCracken serves as District Superintendent of the Paducah District in Western Kentucky. He earned a B.S. degree from the University of Tennessee-Martin and an M.Div degree from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. Sky is married to Liz and has a daughter, Sarah.*



### **Rev. Roger Hopson, Lebanon, TN**

*Rev. Roger Hopson currently serves as Area Assistant to the Bishop of the Nashville Episcopal Area that includes the Memphis and Tennessee Conferences.*

## Lay alternates:



### **Beth Brown, Union City, TN**

*Beth Brown is a member of Pleasant Valley UMC in Union City, TN where she currently serves as Sunday School teacher, president of United Methodist Women, church treasurer and director of the preschool program. She is a certified lay speaker and the Dyersburg District Outreach Chair. Beth is chair of the University of Tennessee at Martin Interfaith Student Center Board of Directors, Vice-Chair of the Reelfoot Rural Ministries Board of Trustees and serves on the Memphis Conference Board of Laity. She is a 2011 graduate of the Academy for Spiritual Formation. She is married to Phil and the mother of two grown daughters, Abby and Bridgid. She holds a B.S. degree from University of Tennessee and a M.A. degree from Vanderbilt University.*



### **Mary A. Mooney, Millington, TN**

*Mary Mooney is a member of Millington First UMC where she works as Financial Administrator. She has two children, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Mary is currently president of the Memphis Conference United Methodist Women. Other positions she has held with the UMW include: Leadership Team of Southeastern Jurisdiction, Conference Treasurer, District President and District Treasurer. She is a member of the Conference Connectional Ministries Team and other committees. Mary worked as a marshall at the 1996 General Conference in Denver, CO.*



### **Madison Lane, McKenzie, TN**

*Madison Lane is a junior at Murray State University in Murray, KY, where she is pursuing a degree in Spanish Education. She is a member of Seminary UMC in Pillowville, TN, where she is the youth director and a lay leader.*

## Clergy alternates:



### **Rev. David P. Comperry, Memphis, TN**

*David Comperry currently serves as Senior Pastor of Emmanuel UMC in Memphis, TN. He has a B.A. degree from Vanderbilt University and the M. Div. and D. Min. degrees from Emory University. He currently serves the Memphis Conference as chair of the Board of Ministry and is a member of the Wellness Commission and the Episcopacy Committee. He also is on the Board of the United Methodist Foundation for Memphis & Tennessee Conferences and the McKendree District Committee on District Superintendency. He and his wife, Nancy, have two daughters and one granddaughter.*



### **Rev. Gary D. Lawson, Sr., Eva, TN**

*Gary Lawson is the Executive Director of Lakeshore United Methodist Assembly, the Memphis Conference camp and retreat center in Eva, TN. He was ordained an elder in 1987. He is an elected Southeastern Jurisdiction representative on the National Camp and Retreat Committee (NCRC) and currently chairs the General Conference Global Warming Task Force as a representative of the NCRC. Gary recently completed eight years on the Memphis Conference Board of Ordained Ministry as the Registrar of Commissioning and Provisional Membership. He is the father of six and grandfather of nine.*



### **Rev. Michael Blake, Martin, TN**

*Michael Blake currently serves as Executive Director of Reelfoot Rural Ministries, Inc., a Memphis Conference mission agency for the poor in Northwest Tennessee and Southwest Kentucky. Before his appointment to Reelfoot seven years ago, Blake was a pastor of rural churches. He completed his B.A. and M.Div degrees at Oral Roberts University. He was ordained a Deacon of The United Methodist Church in 1987 and Elder in 1989. In 26 years, he has served on many Conference committees, including District Board of Ministry, Hispanic Ministries, Conference Relief Association and Outreach Advocacy Action Team.*