

The Bishops

of the Bishops' Foundation

By ALEX JOYNER



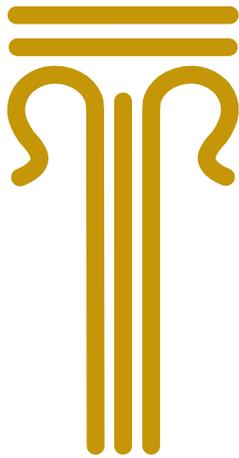
BISHOPS'
FOUNDATION
of the VIRGINIA CONFERENCE

2016–2017

A bishop's first responsibility is as follows:

“Leadership—Spiritual and Temporal—1. To lead and oversee the spiritual and temporal affairs of The United Methodist Church which confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and particularly to lead the Church in its mission of witness and service in the world.”

—*The United Methodist Book of Discipline 2012*



**BISHOPS'
FOUNDATION**
of the VIRGINIA CONFERENCE

As the Bishops' Foundation is structured, retired bishops who serve this conference, can have a lasting impact in the spiritual health of this conference and in its mission of witness and service in the world.

What is the Bishops' Foundation?

The Bishops' Foundation is an event sponsoring, or co-sponsoring, agency of the Virginia Conference, which provides training for leadership development of both laity and clergy in the areas of evangelism and preaching and more recently, spiritual formation. The funds come from donations received in honor of retired bishops who select the Foundation as the trustee.

Three predecessor organizations, the Goodson Foundation for Preaching, the Stockton Endowment for Evangelism, and the Pannel Wesleyan Heritage Foundation, merged in 2011 and formed the assets of the Bishops' Foundation. Under the guidance of Bishop Charlene Kammerer and Rev. Bill Davidson, the first official organizing meeting was September 27, 2011. The foundation has a Board of Directors (five clergy and four laity) nominated by the Cabinet. The Board is served by a staff member who acts as liaison with the conference leadership and a Cabinet representative.

How did the Bishops' Foundation Start?

Prior to 2011 the Virginia Conference received funds from individuals in honor and gratitude for the ministry of retiring bishops.

For example, following the service of Bishop Kenneth Goodson, 1972–1980, funds were received from those who desired to express gratitude for his leadership. These funds had reached a sizeable amount with no designated use. Knowing the reputation of Bishop Goodson for preaching, Dr. James C. Logan, chairperson of the Goodson Foundation, approached Dr. Larry Buxton and Dr. Kendall Soulen asking how these funds may best be used. With the College of Preachers as their model, Rev's Buxton and Soulen suggested a similar model for these funds and thus the Goodson Academy for Preaching was established with its first session in 1999.

The Goodson Academy for Preaching was a very active and engaged body that held an annual four-day preaching event. It provided an opportunity for clergy to attend to the manner and spirit in which they preached in an effort to preach effectively. In small groups, each with a leader, the participants preached, making themselves vulnerable to the critique of their peers, all in a spirit of collegiality. And it worked! Many came through the Academy over a ten-year period grateful for the experience. The list of guest presenters is significant: Barbara Lunblad, Tom Long, John Claypool, David Buttrick, Jana Childers, Paul Scott Wilson, Walter Brueggeman, Cleo LaRue, and John Kinney.

As invested funds decreased around 2008, as all funds did, the Academy was discontinued after 2009. Then, as

preface

ENDEAVORS SUPPORTED by the BISHOPS' FOUNDATION

- The Fall 2013 Five-Talent Academy focusing on Worship
- The Fall 2014 Five-Talent Academy on Evangelism
- The Virginia Clergy Leadership Program, first session in 2013
- The revived Goodson Academy for Preaching, Fall 2015
- The Lay Servant Academy, March 2016

stated, in 2011 these funds were folded into the Bishops' Foundation. All funds are invested with the Virginia United Methodist Foundation.

In 2015 the Bishops' Foundation approved generous funding for the re-named Goodson Preaching Academy, which held its inaugural event September 21-24, 2015, at the Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center with 29 participants and a team of seven small group leaders. Dr. Paul Scott Wilson was the guest presenter.

The Stockton Foundation was established in honor of Bishop Thomas Stockton, 1988–1996, to focus on evangelism and the funds were used to support the Stockton Academy for Evangelism. Quoting from the 2007 program request for the Conference Council on Ministries, the stated purpose of the academy was “to provide an excellent event with a quality presenter to help churches invite and introduce people to Christ.”

The Pennel Wesleyan Heritage Foundation was established in honor of Bishop Joseph Pennel, 1996–2004, who had a specific interest in contemporary United Methodist clergy and laity integrating their Wesleyan heritage into their faith. Unlike the Goodson and Stockton Foundations, no formal structure was ever given to the Pennel Foundation (no board, etc. was ever established) and no programming ever took place. But the name of the original endowment, Pennel Wesleyan Heritage Foundation, pretty well describes the purpose for which the funds were received.

As the Bishops' Foundation has evolved “to provide training for leadership development of both laypersons and clergypersons in the areas of evangelism and preaching in the Wesleyan spirit,” it has grown from the vision of these three predecessor organizations designed to honor the ministries of three of the resident

bishops in the Virginia Conference. Bishops Kenneth Goodson, Thomas Stockton, and Joseph Pennel.

Most recently, with the 2016 retirement of Bishop Young Jin Cho, the Chairperson of the Conference Committee on the Episcopacy, Shirley Cauffman, notes, “the Conference Committee of the Episcopacy is inviting Virginia United Methodists to make contributions to the Bishops' Foundation endowment to fund training and leadership development for clergy and laity in the area of Spiritual Leadership. In the four years he has been leading our conference, Bishop Cho has consistently emphasized the need for increased prayer and a commitment to spiritual disciplines, so it seems appropriate to honor him by continuing an emphasis on spiritual disciplines through the work of the Bishops' Foundation.”

Therefore, as requests for financial support of events that have that as their stated purpose the Foundation will review the requests.

All retiring bishops are given the opportunity to designate the Foundation as a place for gifts honoring their years of leadership in the Virginia Conference. Thus far, the four mentioned have chosen this avenue.

The Board meets 2-3 times a year via conference call or in-person and considers requests at our meetings and other matters.

Requests for funding can be found on the conference web site. Click the “Offices and Staff” tab; drop down to “Bishops' Foundation”; click and then a link to the funding request form appears. Please read the guidelines first.

Additional gifts to the Bishops' Foundation are always welcome. For information about named funds please contact the the Bishop's office. ❖

Bishop W. Kenneth Goodson



FULL NAME

W. Kenneth Goodson

BIRTHDATE & PLACE

Salisbury, North Carolina,
September 25, 1912

Died: September 17, 1991

FAMILY

Parents

Daniel Washington
& Sarah Peeler Goodson

Spouse

Martha Ogburn Goodson

Children

Ann (Mrs. Lany M. Faust)
Nancy (Mrs. Dilmus R. Richey)
and W. Kenneth Goodson, Jr.

RAISED IN

Salisbury, North Carolina

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Catawba College

SEMINARY/ ADDITIONAL DEGREES

Duke Divinity School
Nine honorary degrees

YEARS SERVED AS BISHOP & ASSIGNMENT

1964–1972, North Alabama
1972–1980, Virginia

No one seemed to enjoy the role of bishop more than Bishop Ken Goodson. A masterful storyteller with a sparkling personality, Bishop Goodson could win over a room with his presence. “He took very seriously his role as a bishop,” according to Bishop Hasbrouck Hughes, who served in Bishop Goodson’s Cabinet in the 1970s. “He was not ostentatious at all but you knew who was the bishop.”

Bishop Goodson and his wife, Martha, arrived in Virginia in 1972, following a difficult tenure in Alabama where conflicts over school desegregation were impacting church dynamics as well. Despite embracing a traditional bearing as a bishop in the South, Bishop Goodson himself “was quite progressive on social issues, particularly matters of race,” according to the Rev. Raymond Wrenn, who served on the Conference staff at the time.

As the Virginia Conference worked through its own journey of racial reconciliation, Bishop Goodson took bold steps and encouraged new programs, appointing Virginia’s first African-American district superintendent, the Rev. Godfrey Tate, and supporting convocations on Religion and

Race. Judge Willard Douglas, a prominent African-American layperson in Richmond, remembers Bishop Goodson connecting him with others who were interested in race relations around the country. He appointed Douglas to the World Methodist Council in 1976.

“In every way he was a unique personality,” said Bishop Kern Eutsler, who was also on Bishop Goodson’s Cabinet during his tenure. He was gregarious and expansive in his interests and tastes. Many of his interactions with people took place over meals, which he greatly enjoyed.

He used his great sense of humor to lighten the tension of meetings and annual conference sessions. Many times when these situations would occur, Bishop Goodson would say, “Ok, children, this is a good time to sing a hymn” and the organist would scurry to the organ and try to start or to catch up with the bishop as the conference rose to its feet and sang a verse or two of some well-known, beloved hymn of the faith.

Darlene Amon, former conference lay leader, recalled that Bishop Goodson, for all his considerable public presence, also flashed some humility. Once when a young clergyperson asked him, “When were you saved?” Bishop Goodson responded, “Every morning!”

Bishop Goodson was a noted preacher whose lengthy sermons would sometimes go 45 minutes or more. But it was the quality of his stories that built his reputation. Eutsler observed that Bishop Goodson was also a theologian. “Behind the stories was always some theological truth which he got across and which remained in people’s minds because of his ability to illustrate.”

Given his prominence in the pulpit and in consideration of his concern for developing preachers, at Bishop Goodson’s retirement the Foundation created in his honor was designed to offer enrichment and training events in the area of preaching. The Goodson Academy of Preaching, sponsored by the Foundation, for many years offered high-quality experiences in homiletics with nationally-known leaders. ❖

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clergyperson asked him,
“When were you saved?”
Bishop Goodson responded,
“Every morning!”*

1988-1996

Bishop Thomas B. Stockton



FULL NAME

Thomas Barber Stockton

BIRTHDATE & PLACE

July 26, 1930,
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

FAMILY

Parents

Norman V. Stockton
& Emorie Barber Stockton

Spouse

Jean Stevens

Children

Lisa Stockton Howell
Thomas B. Stockton, Jr.
Shannon Stockton Miller

RAISED IN

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Davidson

SEMINARY/ ADDITIONAL DEGREES

Duke Divinity School

YEARS SERVED AS BISHOP & ASSIGNMENT

1988 – 1996, Virginia

If Bishop Goodson was well-aware of what it meant to be a bishop, Bishop Thomas Stockton presented a much more low-key profile. “It seemed he didn’t know he was bishop,” Amon remembers.

Bishop Timothy Whitaker, who was serving in Virginia during Bishop Stockton’s tenure, noticed it even in his dress. While Bishop Stockton would wear dark suits for formal occasions, “he would often wear fine sports coats and slacks [at other times] that suggested that he was a personable and accessible bishop,” something that was especially noticeable in contrast to his predecessor, Bishop Robert Blackburn.

Bishop Stockton’s approachable manner was appreciated by Amon, who was president of the United Methodist Women during his episcopacy. She found him to be open, friendly, outgoing, and encouraging. With his wife, Jean, who was an artist and dancer, Bishop Stockton brought new energy to the Virginia Conference.

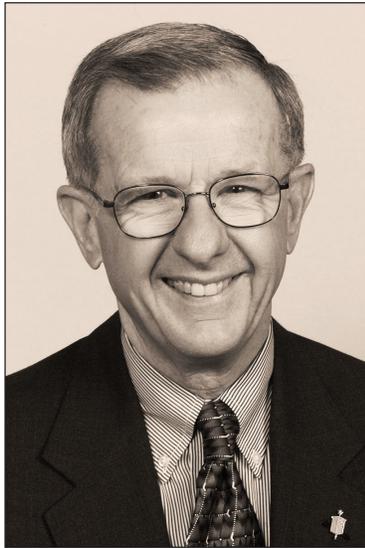
Whitaker even found virtue in the jokes, often bad, that he told at the beginning of sermons and other talks. “No one resented [this practice],” Whitaker recalled, “because they knew he was trying to make people relax and often he himself would admit that a joke was not very good after he had told it.”

Having served large congregations in the Western North Carolina Conference, Bishop Stockton was experienced with running large church systems and had a reputation as a good administrator. That experience was welcome as Bishop Stockton continued and began church extension efforts in Virginia. Whitaker believed that his quiet competence was accompanied by theological depth and a “catholic spirit” that allowed him to seek out the best teachers and leaders for annual conference events, even when they may have been of differing viewpoints.

When the Bishop Stockton’s retired back to North Carolina in 1996, the Annual Conference created The Stockton Endowment for Evangelism to support training and educational events in this area. ❖

“...he was trying to make people relax and often he himself would admit that a joke was not very good after he had told it.”

Bishop Joseph E. Pennel



FULL NAME

Joseph E. Pennel

BIRTHDATE & PLACE

August 25, 1939,
Memphis, Tennessee

FAMILY

Spouse

Janene Dunavant

Children

Melanie Arnold

Heather Potts

RAISED IN

Memphis, Tennessee

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Lambuth University

SEMINARY/ ADDITIONAL DEGREES

M.Div., D.Min.,
Vanderbilt (1964, 1977)

YEARS SERVED AS BISHOP & ASSIGNMENT

1996 – 2004, Virginia

There was some concern in 1996 as the Virginia Conference welcomed newly-elected Bishop Joe Pennel and his wife, Janene, from Tennessee. Since Bishop Pennel had never served as a district superintendent, there were many who wondered how he would adjust to a large conference structure with eighteen districts. But with his genial manner, disciplined work ethic, strong preaching, and gifts as a natural teacher, Bishop Pennel quickly became respected and beloved in Virginia. “He was sort of born to the episcopacy,” Bishop Eutsler observed.

The Rev. Raymond Wrenn, a long-time observer of conference trends and many bishops, commented that Bishop Pennel was the best of any of the episcopal leaders under whom he served. Wrenn noted that Bishop Pennel may not have been great in any one department but “he did everything well and therefore was outstanding.” Wrenn particularly admired how Bishop Pennel appreciated the growing presence of women clergy in Virginia and advanced the appointment conditions for clergy couples and minorities.

Bishop Pennel was the first bishop in Virginia to ask that the conference lay leader sit beside him on stage at annual conference sessions. Darlene Amon, who served in that role during this time, felt that Bishop Pennel had a spiritual depth that inspired others to be at their best and she appreciated his emphasis on clergy and laity as partners in ministry.

Bishop Whitaker, who served in Bishop Pennel’s Cabinet for a time, noted his willingness to give voice to unpopular social positions, such as his opposition to capital punishment, but he matched that with a call to personal holiness. Whitaker remembered Bishop Pennel’s care in appointment-making and in dealing with clergy. “He conveyed the impression that the way to build up the church was more by competent church craft guided by theological principles than by technocratic approaches.”

The Pennel Wesleyan Heritage Foundation was created at his retirement to continue his interest in connecting contemporary United Methodists with the essentials of their Wesleyan tradition. One of three pieces of art that were created at the Foundation’s establishment was a work entitled “Welcome at Table” by Ann McFarland Strickler. The colorful work includes symbols of Bishop Pennel’s ministry and of John Wesley. But the elements of communion are central as they were to Bishop Pennel’s ministry and the theme of welcome and openness that he promoted at table is present in the title. ❖



ANN MCFARLAND STRICKLER

Bishop Young Jin Cho



FULL NAME

Young Jin Cho

BIRTHDATE & PLACE

September 17, 1946
Onyang, South Korea

FAMILY

Parents

Kwon B. Cho
Wol P. Choi

Spouse

Kiok C. Cho

Children

Grace, Sophia, Chris

Grandchildren

Luke and Lily

RAISED IN

Yesan and Seoul, South Korea

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Methodist Theological
Seminary, Seoul, South Korea
(Th.B. and Th.M.)

SEMINARY/

ADDITIONAL DEGREES

Wesley Theological Seminary,
Washington, D.C.
(M.Div. and D.Min.)

YEARS SERVED AS BISHOP & ASSIGNMENT

2012 – 2016, Virginia

Born in Seoul, South Korea in 1946, Young Jin Cho lived through the devastation of the Korean War and emerged with a dream of becoming a judge. A life-threatening bout with tuberculosis as a young man changed his plans. “On the morning of a major lung surgery,” he said, “I read the Upper Room and the Bible passage was from Joshua. God told Joshua not to be afraid but to be brave and courageous because God was with him. My surgery was many hours and I almost died. The recovery was long. But those times of physical suffering were golden times for my spiritual life.”

Bishop Cho followed a call into ordained ministry that eventually led him, and his spouse, Kiok Cho, to Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. In 1983, he accepted the pastorate of Korean UMC in McLean, Virginia and remained for 22 years, during which time the church grew into the largest United Methodist congregation in the Virginia Conference as measured by worship attendance. During this time, Kiok was also ordained as a deacon. In 2005, he became the Arlington District Superintendent, serving in that capacity for 7 years and overseeing the planting of several new faith communities.

“if there is no vital spirituality there can be no vital congregations.”

Bishop Cho always considered that his episcopal service was miraculous. First, to have survived his illness. Then, to have been endorsed by his home conference, despite the fact that he was not the leader of the General Conference delegation. During the election process at the 2012 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference he had fallen to just 15 votes on one ballot and considered withdrawing his name. But with successive ballots, his vote total rose and he was eventually elected as the first Korean-American bishop in the Southeast. In an virtually unprecedented move, he was assigned back to the Virginia Conference for a four-year term.

The hallmark of Bishop Cho’s ministry, in every setting, was prayer. As bishop he had a consistent message that “if there is no vital spirituality there can be no vital congregations.” He promoted this through a covenant of spiritual disciplines that encouraged clergy and laity to adopt a practice of one hour of daily prayer. Churches were also encouraged to sign on to a covenant to promote prayer. Bishop Cho held an annual convocation on prayer and led yearly pilgrimages of clergy to Korea to experience the unique spiritual vitality of Korean Methodist churches.

Bishop Cho oversaw a vibrant campaign to raise over \$1 million dollars for Imagine No Malaria and the development of the All Things New-Equipping Vital Congregations initiative, but he placed all of the programmatic work of the conference within a larger frame. “I pray that we will move from thinking of the mission of the church as our ministry to remembering that it is Christ’s ministry,” he said. “I pray that we will move from a reliance on techniques to a posture of humble leadership that is radically open to God.”

When he retired in 2016, Bishop Cho asked that donations in honor of his ministry should be directed to the Bishops’ Foundation to fund training and leadership development for clergy and laity in the area of Spiritual Leadership. ❖

Bishops' Foundation Members 2016–2017

The members of the Bishops' Foundation are nominated by the Cabinet, composed of five clergy and four laity, plus ex-officio members.

BISHOPS' FOUNDATION MEMBERS 2016-2017

CLERGY

Andy Brock
Barbara Cousar
Mikang Kim
David Rash (Co-chair)
George Riggins

LAITY

Kevin Bruny (Co-chair)
George McMath
Charles Sullivan (Treasurer)
Pat Wright (Secretary)

EX-OFFICIO

Robin Colwell, *Cabinet Representative*

Tom Joyce, *Assistant to the Bishop*

The resident bishop is also an ex-officio member

PREVIOUS MEMBERS

Larry Broomall
Rodney Bussard
Bill Davidson
Willard Douglas*
Tony Forstall
Dwight Hughes
Brian Lambert
Patricia Meadows
Elizabeth Taylor

*Dr. Douglas served as the Registered Agent in the Board's early formation

PREVIOUS STAFF

Martha Stokes