



**WE PRESS ON**

2022 North Central Jurisdictional Conference  
of The United Methodist Church



**2022 North Central Jurisdictional Conference  
Episcopal Nominee Information  
for  
Rev. Dr. Todd Douglas Anderson**



**Name:** Todd Douglas Anderson

**Conference:** West Ohio

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**Current Appointment:** Co-Senior Pastor, Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, West Ohio Conference

**Family:** I am married to Patricia M. Anderson, the love of my life and college sweetheart. Patti is an insurance broker. She has been with me through it all, supporting our ministry and partnering together with Jesus as we have served these 31 years. I cannot imagine doing life or ministry without her. Together we enjoy gardening, golf, watching sports, traveling around the world, and being with our friends and family. In August 2019, we welcomed Scarleth “Liz” Cortez into our home as a foreign exchange student from Nicaragua. Liz is a student at Xavier University majoring in social work. Liz brings great joy to us. Liz was our interpreter on a

mission trip in Nicaragua in 2017. A group of us made it possible for her to come and study here in Cincinnati.

## **Background and Experience:**

### **Formal Education and Significant Continuing Education:**

- BS, Union College, Barbourville, KY, cum laude, 1988
- M.Div., Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, 1991
- CPE, 1 Unit, Northside and St. Joseph Hospitals, Atlanta, GA, 1991
- D.Min., United Theological Seminary, Dayton, OH, 1997
- Disciple Bible Study Training, 1991
- John Savage Consulting, Mediation Training, 1994
- Prepare/Enrich Training, 1995
- Stephen Ministry Training, 1997
- Nehemiah Institute, 2004-2005
- Cousin's Fellowship in Preaching, Emory University, 2005-2007
- Natural Church Development Training, 2006
- Various Quadrennial Trainings in GCFA, GBHCM, GBGM and GBPHB/WesPath, 2000-2016
- Cultural Coaches Training, West Ohio Conference, Winters Groups/Global Diversity and Inclusion Consulting, 2017-Present
- Creating a Cultural of Renewal – Rebekah Simon Peter Consulting, 2018-Present

### **Ordination Dates and Conference of Which You Were a Member:**

- Deacon, West Ohio Conference, 1991
- Elder, West Ohio Conference, 1993

### **Previous Work Experiences and Pastoral Appointments:**

- Co-Senior Pastor, Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church, July 2022-Present (Cincinnati, Ohio)
- Dean, West Ohio Conference Cabinet, 2021-2022
- District Superintendent, Ohio River Valley District, West Ohio Conference, 2016-2022 (Cincinnati, Ohio)
  - Implemented a five-year strategic plan
  - Implemented Creating a Culture of Renewal, targeting large/medium-sized church pastors. This resulted in pastors leading in renewal of their churches with some significant spiritual and numerical growth. This was stunted by the COVID-19 pandemic; however, the pastors have the skillset to pivot and work the process.
  - Launched Fresh Expressions initiative, resulting in several churches with increased worship attendance as high as 5%, in one case. One church launched 9 new fresh expressions! This work was brokered with local church, district and conference support. The district was the pivot point.

- Launched revitalization of congregations through partnership with healthy churches. Together we launched or revitalized 9 congregations during this period. One multicultural revitalization reaches about 500 people on three continents each week, thanks to their online pivot when COVID-19 struck.
- Secretary, West Ohio Conference Cabinet, 2018-2021
- Lead Pastor, Hilliard United Methodist Church, 2014-2016 (Hilliard, Ohio)
  - Implemented strategic plan, balanced budget and grew stewardship
  - Stabilized worship attendance. Upon arrival, the church had lost about \$250,000 in stewardship and 150 in worship attendance. We redirected attendance and finances. Within six months, we balanced the budget and increased worship attendance
  - Implemented discipleship pathway
  - Remodeled parsonage
  - Oversaw church building enhancements - finished and paid for a campus renovation project of the sanctuary.
- Senior Pastor, Church of the Master United Methodist Church, 2007-2014 (Westerville, Ohio)
  - Led process and implemented five-year strategic plan
  - Increased worship attendance from 250 to 315 during our tenure.
  - Led and developed a stewardship plan that grew the operations budget to include more mission and ministry by \$200,000 during our tenure.
  - Led and implemented the Telecare ministry, which effectively closed the back door of the church.
  - Led and developed internship program for college students through a grant from the Association of Theological Schools (ATS)
- Senior Pastor, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 1999-2007 (Defiance, Ohio)
  - Worship attendance stabilized at 300
  - Stewardship program grew the ministry of the church, increasing about \$150,000 during our tenure.
  - Implemented strategic plan using ICA materials
    - Utilized Natural Church Development Plan for feedback
  - Oversaw construction of new parsonage
  - Implemented Stephen Ministry program with 10 trained Stephen Ministers
  - Created, with the Board of Trustees, a plan for using the endowment for ministry, which included building a new parsonage at no expense to the church and setting up categories to spend interest dollars for outreach.
- Associate Minister, Trinity United Methodist Church, 1997-1999 (Columbus, Ohio)
  - Implemented Stephen Ministry program with 20 trained Stephen Ministers.
  - Led Saturday night worship service
  - Led the creation of Young Adult Fellowship with over 60 in attendance
  - Trinity had 600+ people each week in worship
- Associate Pastor, Linworth United Methodist Church, 1991-1997 (Worthington, Ohio)
  - Implemented strategic planning process with the senior pastor and staff.
  - Ecumenical Institute: The Institute of Cultural Affairs, 1992-1999
  - Participated in church building relocation project, including site planning and \$5 million fundraising campaign

- Led and implemented the church evangelism and assimilation ministry
- Led and implemented the Telecare ministry, which effectively closed the back door of the church
- Linworth attendance grew while I was on staff from 399 to 750 in the 6 years we served there.

### **Connectional and Ecumenical Church Experiences:**

#### **1. Current:**

- Chair of the Board, UMC Food Ministry, a ministry partnership between Northern Kentucky District, Kentucky Conference and Ohio River Valley District, West Ohio Conference. In 2021, UMCFood served 4.5 million meals across the Cincinnati metro area. 2018-Present
- UMC Food Ministry Board Member, 2016-Present
- Board of Ordained Ministry, West Ohio Conference, 2005-Present
- Bishop's Rapid Response Team for Boundary Crossings, 2022-Present
- West Ohio Immigration Task Force, 2016-Present.
- ORV Immigration Task Force, 2016-Present
- Eclipse Legal Clinic Planning Team for Immigrants, 2018-Present
- NCJ Future Force Task Group, 2020-Present
- Conference Preacher, *Inglesia Colombiana Methodista* Colombian Methodist Church Assembly (Annual Conference October 14-16, 2022 Cartagena, Colombia).

#### **2. Previous:**

- Chair, Interfaith Refugee Service in Ohio, Columbus, Ohio, 1997-1999
- Led Mission Trip to Hungary, June 1995
- Ecumenical visitor, Kwang Lim Methodist Church, Seoul, South Korea, Year of Jubilee Celebration commemorating the end of WWII, 1995
- NCJ Regional School of Christian Mission, Oberlin University, 1996
- West Ohio School of Christian Mission, Ohio Northern University, 1996
- NCJ Regional School of Christian Mission, DePauw University, 1997
- West Ohio School of Christian Mission, Ohio Northern University, 1997
- NCJ Regional School of Christian Mission, Manchester University, 1998
- West Ohio School of Christian Mission, Ohio Northern University, 1998
- NCJ Regional School of Christian Mission, Racine, Wisconsin, 1999
- West Ohio School of Christian Mission, Ohio Northern University, 1999
- NCJ Regional School of Christian Mission, North Dakota State University, 2000
- West Ohio School of Christian Mission, Ohio Northern University, 2000
- Defiance District Vision Team, 2001-2003
- Defiance District Committee on Ministry, Registrar, 2004-2007
- Assistant Dean, West Ohio School of Christian Mission, 1996-1998
- Dean, West Ohio School of Christian Mission, 1998-2000
- West Ohio Conference Relations Committee, 2012-2016
- West Ohio Conference CFA, 2000-2008
- West Ohio Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits, 2008-2016

- Mission experiences while serving as local church pastor and as district superintendent –
- Appalachian Service Project, Knox County, KY, 1993
  - Red Bird Missionary Conference, Beverly, KY, 1994
  - Nikiski, Alaska, 1995
  - McCurdy School, NM, 2012
  - Manila, The Philippines, 2015
  - Managua, Nicaragua, 2017 and 2018
  - San Jose, Costa Rica, 2018
  - Brisas del Mar, Colombia, 2017, 2018, 2020
- Teacher at Local Pastors School, North Katanga Annual Conference, Kamina, The Democratic Republic of the Congo. 2018
- Mission U Regional Training, St. Louis, MO, 2019
- West Ohio Mission U, Otterbein University, 2019
- Cabinet Representative to the Annual Mission Conference of the Honduran Missionary Conference, The United Methodist Church, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, 2020.
- Led the Ohio River Valley District in providing the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters a \$5,000 grant to print a draft of the proposed General Book of Discipline in the Official Languages of the United Methodist Church. The Ohio River Valley District's efforts connected the following national and international organizations:
  - Ohio River Valley District
  - West Ohio Conference
  - New York Conference Connections
  - Germany Central Conference
  - Switzerland Church
  - Central and Southern Europe Central Conference

**Community Service Activity:**

**1. Current:**

- MARCC (Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati, 2016-Present
- Leadership in the Affordable Housing Ballot Initiative in Cincinnati, 2021
- Hamilton County Narcan Distribution through ORV Urban Ministry, 2018
- Festival of Faiths Judicatory Leader, 2018-Present
- EquaSion, an Interfaith Justice Ministry in Metro Cincinnati, 2020-Present

**2. Previous:**

- Worthington Pastors Association, 1991-1997
- NW Partnership Habitat for Humanity, 1993-1997
- Northwest Columbus Pastors Association, 1997-1999
- Defiance, Ohio, Pastors Association, 1999-2007
- Defiance, Ohio, Rotary, 1999-2007
- Defiance Volunteer Connection, Secretary of the Board, 2004-2007
- Mentor in the Tinora School District Defiance Ohio, 2004-2007

- Westerville, Ohio, Pastors Association, 2007-2014
- Westerville, Ohio, Rotary, 2007-2014
- Westerville, Ohio, Rotary Scholarship Committee Chair, 2012-2014
- Westerville, Ohio, Rotary “Rotarian of the Year,” 2014

**Publications, Awards, Honors:**

- Rotarian of the Year Westerville, Ohio 2013-2014
- Endorsed as an episcopal candidate by the West Ohio General and Jurisdictional Conference delegations in 2020
- Episcopal Candidacy Affirmed by the 2022 West Ohio Annual Conference with 78% majority support.

## **Faith and Leadership**

**Describe Your Understanding of the Nature and Mission of the Church:**

The Church is a gift from God. God has come to humankind to express love for creation, especially through the work of the person in Jesus Christ, who is the sum of all the teaching of the Law and the prophets, and who brings us our salvation. In His work, Jesus calls the faithful together in community for mutual care in worship, prayer, spiritual disciplines, accountability and concrete action through community-building relationships and by meeting the needs of those outside the church. For the United Methodist Wesleyan Revival Movement Christian, the nature of the church is expressed in two ways – Works of Piety and Works of Mercy – as proclaimed by our founder John Wesley and others in the early Methodist Movement.

In that same early movement, the Wesleyan Means of Grace became a way of life lived out in the General Rules of the Church – Do No Harm, Do Good, and Stay in Love with God – which describes our core nature, and how we demonstrate the life and teachings of Jesus in our lives. This is where Jesus met me, while I was inquiring as a teenager. The purpose of the church is to meet all inquiries of anyone regardless of age, so that they might learn of the saving, grace-filled, sanctifying, love of God in Jesus Christ.

The Church is multicultural and global, and leaders should challenge the status quo in places where it strives to be monocultural. Our nation has faced a pandemic of racism with the painful targeting of persons of color with gun violence, inequity in pay for the same work, equal justice in the courtroom, police misconduct and affordable housing as crucial matters before us. When I was a DS, our district pulled together a task force called Stop Racism. Stop Excessive Force. Stop Silence. We marched in protest rallies and community witnesses across our 5 counties. We offered prophetic witness in the public squares and in local congregations. This team hosted two large gatherings on our teaching platform. One dealt specifically with racism. The other with individual or community-based trauma. Hundreds attended both events and they were followed up with coaching and consulting in the local church settings. The church does this!

Likewise, when COVID hit, we mobilized. In concert with our Bishop, the CDC, and our local health departments, our district dispensed the best real time advice and best practices regarding worship, fellowship and education ministries in the life of the church. During this time, we discovered inequities in food and household resources in the food deserts of our inner cities and the countless rural communities that no longer have grocery stores. This was exacerbated by a lack of financial resources, childcare situations from the many daycares closed, and, of course, schools being shut down. Our Ohio River Valley District of the West Ohio Conference and the Northern Kentucky District of the Kentucky Conference partnered together with UMC Food Ministry, of which I am the Board Chair. Within days, a plan was developed to work together, and we ended up serving kids who needed to eat and did not have access to food at all the public libraries, all the elementaries in Cincinnati Public Schools and several of our churches. In 2021, UMC Food Ministry served 4.5 million meals, by our dedicated staff and countless United Methodist volunteers in the Cincinnati metro area. The church does this!

In Cincinnati's Price Hill neighborhood, we made space available with a closed UM church that was sponsoring an afternoon school program that turned into a pandemic academy. Because we kept that building open for the pandemic academy, 48 kids graduated from high school on time. When the director told us that in a meeting, I wept. Such a little lift on our part had a transformational impact. We broadcast open Wi-Fi, at this location and in a number of places so that people could pull into the parking lot and download schoolwork or pay their bills. It was a time of innovation. The church does this!

Finally, a word about the courage needed to become an inclusive Church: The thread of inclusivity is woven through issues of racism, gender equity, COVID-19 and affirmation of LGBTQIA+ persons. As previously stated, the Church is a gift. Our entry point in the church is through our baptismal vows. There has never been a long list of qualifying factors for admission. It is pretty simple – 1. Do You Believe in Jesus Christ? You either answer for yourself or parents or sponsors do on your behalf. 2. Will you act to eliminate evil and injustice? 3. Will you carry out the central pieces of the nature of the Church – works of mercy and works of piety? The exclusion of so many in the history of the church grieves me. While superintendent, I assigned our first transgender pastor to one of our congregations and they are serving with distinction. Currently, they are appointed by the Bishop, serving with sacramental privilege having successfully graduated from Licensing School, leading the church in growth in mission and ministry. The nature of the Church is expansive in inclusion. Through all of these challenges and opportunities the presence of Jesus is all around, sustaining us in ministry and spurring us to speak out, calling for inclusion and meeting people where they are. We could not have been present or successful in our work without the Lord's help. The church does this!

### **Share Your Vision of the United Methodist Church:**

My vision is that we create and build a wholly inclusive United Methodist Church, led by lay and clergy who are culturally competent. Above, I talked about the tools needed to make this happen. One of the factors of the pandemics we are living through deals with trauma. In the winter of 2021, we hosted a trauma workshop in the district with over 300 participants and many others watching the event afterwards on our teaching platform. Our personal and corporate trauma must be addressed – doing so is a critical component in my vision of the United Methodist Church. One of the books that impacted me and helped us with planning this event is titled *The Age of Overwhelm*<sup>1</sup>. While written and published before 2020, the author names our cultural dysfunctions that became greatly enhanced in the midst of the pandemic – our distractions, boredoms, relationships and self-awareness – all of these in need of our attention! All in need of our best efforts. That the United Methodist Church would lean into these things and teach and lead our culture is worthy as a vision. Traumas of the past few years have included racism, sometimes referred to as our “Original Sin,” the hyperbolic actions and reactions to COVID-19, masking conversations – you remember them – and the divide that caring for one’s health caused in communities around the country. All of this called for a reckoning inside and outside the church, some acted, and some denied action was needed. Denial is the most abused mind-altering condition in what is commonly called “the Human Condition.” Vision for a church that sees and acts in real time, is where we have led and are currently leading.

Working with local churches through our *Connecting Points* process, we met one-on-one with clergy and one-on-one with Staff Parish Committees to foster our initiatives and encourage. We listened and heard of struggles and discussed possible solutions. When things were deeply quarantined, we did this via Zoom and then later, in person. We discovered that some places were ready and responded favorably, advancing their Kingdom work, while others were conflicted, or stuck and didn’t know how to get out. In all situations, we offered training, coaching and opportunities for considering vision and mission for each of our 116 local congregations. What we discovered is that hard work is hard work. Each pastor and local congregation needed to do their own hard work. Being present with each other is a leadership vision. There is no successful ministry that is not relational at its core.

### **Describe Your Concept and Style of Leadership:**

Leadership is strategic and collaborative and Christ Centered. Leadership involves listening and looking for the best ideas for engagement. Measurable goals and objectives for evaluation are crucial for determining results in real time. Engaging in robust conversations around evaluation for growth and learning improves my personal awareness as I interact with others.

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<sup>1</sup> Lipsky, van Dernoot Laura., *The Age of Overwhelm: Strategies For The Long Haul*, Berrett – Kohler Publishers, Inc., Oakland, CA., 2018.



In the local church and at the district level, we have used the strategic plan methodology to measure our effectiveness in ministry. In addition to the strategic plans, a number of resources have been employed for personal growth in leadership. These include the use of inventories (Myers-Briggs, DiSC, StrengthsFinder and the Intercultural Diversity Inventory) that have challenged me to grow in my style of leadership, personal awareness, skillsets and implementation.

My leadership style is strategic, collegial and thoughtful. I am motivated by creating a community to bring individual and systemic change. The renewal of the Church is possible, but it only happens through thoughtful action and relationships. Over the years, I have learned a lot about myself and the leadership gifts that God has given me to rally people around a sense of common purpose with forward momentum. I have done this at the local church and district levels, through strategic planning and implementation, and constant teaching that reinforces the values of the plan to keep us moving toward the hope of being the Kingdom of God.

Without the presence and power of Jesus at work in the midst of community, we will not be successful. He is all around and at work with us. Leaders are to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit who Jesus sent to teach us and remind us of all that he said. Openness is a spiritual discipline and leadership opportunity. I begin my day with an openness to the Spirit's call.

### **Describe Your Gifts and Graces:**

#### **Faith**

*Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1)*

Faith is a central gift for me and has been so since my childhood. From an early age, the adults in my family instilled in me the value of faith in God. I can't remember a time when I haven't had faith. My favorite character in the Bible is the man in Mark 9 who brought his son to Jesus for healing. "I believe, help my unbelief," is his statement of faith. I deeply connect with this character in the Bible – this is an authentic character. There are moments in every person's life when you connect with an authentic moment in another's life because it reminds you of yourself and your experiences. The places where this story has deeply connected with others in my ministry is when their circumstances were similar to the man in the story – when the bottom drops out of life, a death, an unexpected illness, the surprise that infidelity brings to a cherished relationship. As a pastor, I have been there with people in moments of real angst. Sharing a story like this helps a great deal. It's really okay to be transparent because that is the only way God can heal us. In weakness, it is okay to say to God out loud "I believe, help my unbelief..." I am so glad this story is in the Bible to increase our faith – a faith that is lived out in real time and in real life. I have faith in Jesus because he can look you in the eye and assure you that your unbelief can be transformed.

## Non-Anxious Presence

Connected to faith is the sense that I have inside that “*All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well.*”<sup>2</sup> Sometimes, whether planned or not, fear will arise in the midst of planning or creating change. Whether at the local church, district or conference level, fear can be a real presence when change is about to occur. The leader needs to be aware of this and demonstrate the gift of non-anxious presence.

When Jesus calmed the Sea of Galilee with the words “Peace Be Still,” this became the scriptural basis of our work to demonstrate a non-anxious presence in leadership. Earlier, I mentioned our Connecting Points meetings with clergy and laity. Prior to the Special Called Session of General Conference 2019, we held a series of information sessions, trying to get out as much information as we could to our people. We engaged with care and respect, but I also shared my convictions about an inclusive church, which includes conservatives committed to doing no harm to persons in the LBGTQIA+ community as compatibilists. While not universally embraced by our laity or clergy, at least people knew that I respected and trusted them enough to share where I am, giving space for others to share with me. It is hard to share a message that is not universally embraced, but it must be done – with grace. I closed by saying that I was planning to serve all our churches regardless of their decision. 2021 and 2022 appointment years were spent trying to make sure that pastors and people were aligned enough in the instance that decisions had to be made regarding one’s place in the UMC. Alignment was important to me because moving is stressful enough, without the added stress of possibly having to move again in a year or two because of the theological misalignment of clergy and local congregations. Doing this, while also keeping an eye on missional disciple making was challenging, but it is crucial to the mission of the church.

In addition, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit in the spring of 2020, we were all trying to understand what would happen and how to move forward in the face of great uncertainty. We tried to encourage our pastors with Bishop Palmer’s leadership. However, as a DS, closer to the local church setting, I had to set a course of action for maintaining connection. Staying in regular contact and encouraging pastors and local church leaders, through video conferencing encouraged our pastors and lay leaders to make the best real time decisions they could make with the information available. We wanted to give as much autonomy to local leadership as possible. Mutations and variants became part of our lexicon, and we continued our efforts to pour into people’s lives instead of dictating “what to do” so that they, too, might be able to lead with a non-anxious presence.

Dr. Roberta Bondi, from Candler School of Theology, my seminary alma mater, used to say in class, “Prayer is 99% presence.” Presence is prayer – prayer is presence – it is a gift.

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<sup>2</sup> Graves, Dan, *Lesson #32* Christian History Institute Website, Julian of Norwich, Worcester, PA 2022.

## **Strategic Thinking, Planning and Implementing**

Jesus was a strategic thinker. His prayer life demonstrated intentionality as “Acton before the Action.” On the other side of prayer was often a prophetic teaching about the Kingdom, whether it was in the form of teaching, healing, preaching or confronting the status quo. This was his strategy.

Throughout the course of ministry, we made way for a process to bring strategic initiatives to life. Over the course of years, we have used as background four movements that guided our work from *Simple Church*<sup>3</sup> Clarity, Focus, Movement and Alignment. The purpose, of course, is a deeper, more meaningful and less complicated method for making disciples of Jesus Christ.

In addition, to further my skills, we engaged with consulting people like Rebekah Simon Peter in *Creating a Culture of Renewal*, where I became a Certified Renewalist, invested in overseas relationships and mission engagement, engaged in revitalization of churches through the British Parish Model in a number of communities, founding a number of multicultural faith communities and fresh expression ministries.

Now that we are back in the local church setting, both Dr. Suzanne Allen and I are leading the congregation of Hyde Park Community UMC in an intentional strategic planning process. The Holy Spirit is speaking in our midst as we carefully listen to the Spirit’s wooing answers to the questions: Who? What? When? Why? and How? This groundwork is crucial in moving organizations and institutions and should be done early in one’s ministry. I have been blessed to have had success with this at the local church and district levels. It would be an early opportunity in Episcopal leadership, as well.

## **Developing Relationships**

All of the portions of gifts point in the direction of developing relationships. There is no ministry that is not relational ministry. Developing relationships is the way to lead in strategic planning. We can only move at the speed of trust. And trust can only be built with sharing life, listening and being present.

In 2018, we built more trust in an experience known as in Mission Together. More than an event it was a relationship building experience, hosted by our Ohio River Valley District. The event was co-sponsored by the West Ohio Conference and the General Board of Global Ministries, now known as Global Ministries. We cast a vision, created a plan and implemented it, by itinerating missionaries and global partners from the countries in Central and South America in our churches in the Ohio River Valley District. We promoted our mission work and strengthened relationships. Missionaries itinerated in over 20 churches and brought people together from 9

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<sup>3</sup> Rainer, Thom, S, Geiger, Eric *Simple Church: Returning to God's Process for Making Disciples*, B&H Books, formerly Lifeway Publishing, Nashville, TN., 2006.

countries! This happened because of our Ohio River Valley Strategic Plan and the dedication of the leaders we curated to engage.

The process of building trust and creating long lasting relationships is sometimes considered a leadership skill, but for me it is simple grace and gift. More is always received from the relationships out of the relationship that I am engaged in than I give.

### **Emotional Intelligence**

Helping people flourish is often the result of the gift of emotional intelligence. Many would say that emotional intelligence is a person's ability to say the right thing at the right time, but I would say, listen first, reflect and then to respond.

Being more intentional about listening became a spiritual discipline for me a few years ago. With encouragement from my leadership coach, I decided that I would not inject myself in a conversation until after four other people spoke first. This was a challenge. However, it became life-giving and led to dynamic conversations with others. I discovered that discernment improved dramatically, as well as my ability to reflect and provide counsel when needed. I discovered the power to respond more and react less, and this is a good thing.

### **Hope**

Emotional Intelligence has instilled in me a calm and a connection that can only be expressed as hope. I do not believe that God is done with the Wesleyan Revival movement or the United Methodist Church. We are headed for systemic changes and innovation, and I know that God is at work in our midst.

As a pastor and a district superintendent, at every opportunity, I attempted to instill hope in our churches and their leadership by pouring into our staff and pastors leadership training and spiritual engagement opportunities. Hope for each person that they could be the best spiritual leader for the church

Hope continues to grow. The world is looking for a different kind of church than the one we currently have on our hands. I have hope that we will be able to pivot to meet needs and expand our mission field. Imagine a church that is not afraid of the future – I can see it!

### **Humor**

I like to laugh. In humor I see deeper truths that might be missed otherwise. My favorite portrait of Jesus is one of him laughing. Humor is a gift. Being able to laugh at yourself is an even better one! It keeps me from thinking too highly of myself and helps me center. Anyone who knows me knows that I love people, and I have a wide circle of friends and colleagues. Together, we serve in a pretty stressful profession and laughter helps with that stress.

**Describe How You Have Experienced the Call to the Episcopacy and How God Has Prepared You for the Episcopacy:**

God has called me to be a Bishop in a Global Church leading in a culturally competent way. This is the direction the United Methodist Church needs to move toward – global in nature, embracing the multicultural world that we have been given. That’s my “Why.” It’s my personal response to God.

The “How” will be in leadership of deepening relationships, strategic initiatives, theological and spiritual discernment, cultural competency and emotional intelligence following the example of Jesus Christ.

**Endorsements:**

West Ohio Delegation 2020  
Affirmation of the West Ohio Annual Conference 2022

**Episcopal Election Covenant** has been signed and received by NCJ Secretary, Rev. Paul R. White.

**Episcopal Candidate Forum:**

The Rev. Dr. Anderson will be participating in the North Central Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy (NCJCOE) video forum. This forum will consist of a fifteen-minute interview with each episcopal candidate who elects to participate. All interviews will be posted on to the North Central Jurisdictional (NCJ) website on or around September 1, 2022.