

Clergy General Conference Nominees

David Rhoades Boger



What Church Do You Attend/Serve?

Bethlehem Community Church, GMC

Biography

I have been a Methodist minister under appointment for 60 years. I graduated from Asbury Seminary in 1966. I am now retired but still serving part time as pastor of a small country Church on the Staunton District of the Global Methodist Church.

I no longer travel well but would not want our Virginia Conference to not have a delegate. I know we are short-handed, so if there is no other, I would gladly be a delegate to the 2026 General Conference.

Calling to be a Virginia Delegate to General Conference

As stated above, I stand off stage, ready as the Lord leads.

Why would you be a great Delage to Represent Virginia?

My many years as a Methodist and having be trained at Asbury Seminary.

What is one thing you look forward to most about being Virginia's delegate?

The times of worship with other Global Methodist members, and helping to keep our wonderful denomination on track.

Gift Assessment:

General Conference Skill	Personal Rating	General Conference Skill	Personal Rating
Passion for the mission and vision of the GMC	5	Understanding of the needs and vision of the VA Annual Conference	4
Gifts for Connection with Others	4	Ability to write updates that could be shared with the conference (via social media, email, or other formats)	3
Confidence in Legislation Work (writing, editing, etc.)	4	Comfort with and excellence in public speaking	5
Understanding of the Book of Doctrines and Discipline	4	Experience with International Travel	5
Experience with Robert's Rules of Order	4		

Other gifts that would help you in this role as a General Conference Delegate (David Boger)?

I feel called and gifted to share the gospel with people

Robert Ewell Cooper



What Church Do You Attend/Serve?

Wilderness Community Church

Biography

Originally from Tangier Island, Bob Cooper was appointed to Wilderness Community Church in Spotsylvania on June 1, 2024.

Prior to transferring to the Global Methodist Church, Bob served in The United Methodist Church for 31 years, serving on various District and Conference Bodies, a delegate to the 2001 World Methodist Conference, the 2016 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, and a reserve delegate to the 2019 General Conference.

He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Asbury College and his Masters of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Wesley Theological Seminary.

Bob is married to the Rev. Frances Cooper and has two daughters and four grandchildren.

Calling to be a Virginia Delegate to General Conference

I am excited at what the Holy Spirit is doing in the GMC. I believe the upcoming 2026 General Conference will play a pivotal role as we seek to make disciples and spread scriptural holiness throughout our communities and the world.

Why would you be a great Delage to Represent Virginia?

It has been my privilege to serve with people of various backgrounds and viewpoints. I believe being able listening to others and discerning what the Holy Spirit is saying are important as we move forward into a bright future.

What is one thing you look forward to most about being Virginia’s delegate?

Being able to serve the GMC in a global setting.

Gift Assessment:

General Conference Skill	Personal Rating	General Conference Skill	Personal Rating
Passion for the mission and vision of the GMC	5	Understanding of the needs and vision of the VA Annual Conference	4
Gifts for Connection with Others	5	Ability to write updates that could be shared with the conference (via social media, email, or other formats)	5
Confidence in Legislation Work (writing, editing, etc.)	4	Comfort with and excellence in public speaking	5

Understanding of the Book of Doctrines and Discipline	4	Experience with International Travel	5
Experience with Robert's Rules of Order	5		

Other gifts that would help you in this role as a General Conference Delegate (Bob Cooper)?

I believe I am able to work effectively with others. I see this as an opportunity to serve the GMC in Virginia and beyond.



What Church Do You Attend/Serve?

Mission Charlottesville GMC

Biography

For me, 2025 marks 44 years in ministry for Christ, His Kingdom, and His Church. I came to faith in the 1970s, when I was born-again by the Spirit of God through faith in the Son of God and was filled with the Holy Spirit. As a teenager I came to know God's calling upon my life to full-time vocational ministry for Christ and the advancement of His kingdom. In response to His calling I pursued theological education and training to equip me for ministry.

I earned the Bachelor of Arts degree in 1979 from Palm Beach Atlantic College (now University), where I majored in Religion and minored in Philosophy; the Master of

Divinity degree from the Candler School of Theology, Emory University in 1986; and the Doctor of Ministry degree from Asbury Theological Seminary in 2022, where I was a part of the Activating Missional Communities Cohort. My published Doctor of Ministry dissertation is entitled: Equipping the Saints: Best Practices in Establishing a Five-Fold Equipping Ministry Team.

I was licensed to preach the Gospel at the age of 16 by my home church in Florida. I was ordained a deacon in 1985 in the South Georgia Annual Conference of the UMC (SGUMC) & ordained an elder in the Virginia (VA) Annual Conference of the UMC (VAUMC) in 1991. My ordination as an elder was recognized & approved by the Transitional Leadership Council of the Global Methodist Church (GMC) in June of 2022. I served with the Transitional District Activation Team (TDAT) that laid foundation for the Virginia Annual Conference of the GMC of VA. I led the initial Appointment Team for the TDAT. I currently serve as the Presiding Elder of the Charlottesville District of the GMC of VA. I am the leader of a cohort of Asbury Theological Seminary students here in Virginia. I will be serving with the Church Multiplication Team of the VAGMC.

While in college in Florida, I served as a student pastor of a new Non-Denominational church start for 2 years. During my first year of seminary at Candler School of Theology I served as a Director of Youth Ministry for one year. I served under appointment in the United Methodist Church for 32 years (4 years in the SGUMC & 28 years in the VAUMC). I have served as a new church start pastor for two new churches - New Town U.M.C. (1999-2014) & Mission Charlottesville GMC (2018-2025). I have served pastorates in Florida, Georgia, & Virginia. I have taken part in short-term mission trips to: Russia (1x), Nicaragua (1x), Paraguay (1x), & Cuba (10x).

Calling to be a Virginia Delegate to General Conference

I believe the providence of God has led me in helping to start & serve the Virginia Annual Conference of the GMC. I laid this decision before God in prayer, and I believe I was given confirmation that I should give myself to serve as a delegate to the 2026 General Conference of the GMC.

Why would you be a great Delegate to Represent Virginia?

I would bring 42 years of faithful ministry experience in the Methodist tradition to the task of being a General Conference delegate. In my voting as a delegate I would be guided by our purpose: The Global Methodist Church exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness across the globe.

What is one thing you look forward to most about being Virginia's delegate (David Ford)?

The one thing I would look forward to most in being a delegate would be, to work prayerfully in a spirit of unity with my brothers & sisters from around the world to advance Christ's kingdom in & through the GMC.

Gift Assessment:

General Conference Skill	Personal Rating	General Conference Skill	Personal Rating
Passion for the mission and vision of the GMC	5	Understanding of the needs and vision of the VA Annual Conference	5
Gifts for Connection with Others	4	Ability to write updates that could be shared with the conference (via social media, email, or other formats)	4
Confidence in Legislation Work (writing, editing, etc.)	4	Comfort with and excellence in public speaking	5
Understanding of the Book of Doctrines and Discipline	4	Experience with International Travel	5
Experience with Robert's Rules of Order	4		

Other gifts that would help you in this role as a General Conference Delegate?

I have an outgoing personality. I am personable. I am strong in listening. I have strong communication skills both written & verbal. I am a good team member. I network people together well.



What Church Do You Attend/Serve?

Wilderness Community Church; retired clergy

Biography

I retired in 2024 after 40 years of service in the United Methodist Church. I studied at Oral Roberts University receiving a BA in New Testament Greek and an MDiv. I have excelled in teaching, discipleship training, and preaching. I have also focused on international missions and served on Volunteer in Mission trips to Russia, Brazil, South Korea, Kenya, and Haiti. I have also served on multiple Hurricane recovery teams to Mississippi, Nashville, and North Carolina. Through my desire to train laity, I have sponsored Educational pilgrimages to Israel, Jordan, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Germany, Austria, Malta, and Ireland. I joined the Global Methodist Church September 2024.

Calling to be a Virginia Delegate to General Conference

I have experience with multicultural churches. I think I can join the process of building understanding in our Global church.

Why would you be a great Delage to Represent Virginia?

I am willing to serve the Lord Jesus Christ in this retirement chapter of my life.

What is one thing you look forward to most about being Virginia’s delegate?

Working with my colleagues to enhance the Global Methodist Church.

Gift Assessment:

General Conference Skill	Personal Rating	General Conference Skill	Personal Rating
Passion for the mission and vision of the GMC	5	Understanding of the needs and vision of the VA Annual Conference	4
Gifts for Connection with Others	4	Ability to write updates that could be shared with the conference (via social media, email, or other formats)	4
Confidence in Legislation Work (writing, editing, etc.)	4	Comfort with and excellence in public speaking	4
Understanding of the Book of Doctrines and Discipline	5	Experience with International Travel	5
Experience with Robert’s Rules of Order	3		

Other gifts that would help you in this role as a General Conference Delegate?

I served as a Director of Travel for Educational Opportunities tours for 9 years in the Virginia United Methodist Church. I traveled with Bishop Kammerer and Bishop Lewis on tours to Israel.



What Church Do You Attend/Serve?

Virginia Annual Conference

Biography

My name is Rev. David Edward Lowe, and I am honored to serve the church through pastoral ministry, leadership development, and spiritual formation rooted in the Wesleyan/Methodist tradition. With over a decade of ministry experience, from rural congregations to large membership churches, I seek to lead with faithfulness, compassion, and a deep commitment to the Missio Dei.

I currently serve as the Presiding Elder for the Danville District of the Virginia Conference in the Global Methodist Church. In this role, I provide strategic oversight to clergy and congregations, support pastoral transitions, and foster spiritual vitality through covenant

communities and small group discipleship. I work collaboratively with district leaders to strengthen ministry systems, encourage lay engagement, and uphold Wesleyan doctrine and practices in alignment with our church's mission.

Previously, I served as pastor of Ross Harbour and Woolwine Methodist Churches, leading a two-point charge focused on worship, discipleship, and shared congregational life. Before that, I pastored Hall's UMC and Ebenezer UMC, both small rural congregations, where I came to deeply appreciate the strength and intimacy of close-knit church communities and the value of personalized pastoral care.

Earlier in my ministry, I served as Associate Pastor at Riverchase United Methodist Church in Hoover, Alabama, a congregation of over 3,000 members. This role provided a strong foundation in preaching, teaching, and pastoral care. I regularly preached, led worship, taught adult discipleship classes, and served as chaplain for the Spain Park High School football program. These responsibilities significantly shaped my pastoral identity and equipped me to minister effectively across a wide range of settings.

My academic journey continues to inform and enrich my ministry. I am currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry at Wesley Biblical Seminary. I hold two master's degrees: a Master of Science in Management from Indiana Wesleyan University and a Master of Divinity from United Theological Seminary. I also completed the Anglican Formation Institute at Asbury Theological Seminary and earned a Bachelor of Arts in History from Wake Forest University.

In addition to formal ministry roles, I have remained actively involved in missions. While in the North Alabama Conference, I ministered at the Church of the Reconciler, a homeless mission church, in downtown Birmingham, preaching regularly and facilitating mission groups from Riverchase UMC. I also served at Christian Place Mission in Nauvoo, Alabama, as a prayer counselor and in food distribution. More recently, at Blacksburg UMC, I remained engaged in a Wesley discipleship group despite a demanding corporate travel schedule, eventually leading the group in 2023.

Calling to be a Virginia Delegate to General Conference

I feel called to serve as a Virginia delegate to the 2026 General Conference because I believe in faithfully responding when the Church calls. I am committed to engaging in the vital, often challenging legislative work that helps shape the Church's future and advance God's mission with integrity and purpose.

Why would you be a great Delegate to Represent Virginia?

As a bi-vocational pastor with significant experience in both corporate leadership and pastoral ministry, I offer a unique and well-rounded perspective that bridges the practical realities of the workplace with the theological and spiritual needs of the Church. This blend equips me to thoughtfully represent the Virginia Conference and contribute meaningfully to the decisions shaping the future of the Global Methodist Church.

What is one thing you look forward to most about being Virginia's delegate (David Lowe)?

I most look forward to contributing to the foundational work of the Global Methodist Church by helping to shape a faithful, sustainable structure that will serve generations to come. After years of study, prayer, and intentional engagement with Methodist thought and developments, it would be an honor to actively participate in this historic moment for the Church's future witness.

Gift Assessment:

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Passion for the mission and vision of the GMC	5	Understanding of the needs and vision of the VA Annual Conference	5
Gifts for Connection with Others	5	Ability to write updates that could be shared with the conference (via social media, email, or other formats)	4
Confidence in Legislation Work (writing, editing, etc.)	3	Comfort with and excellence in public speaking	5
Understanding of the Book of Doctrines and Discipline	5	Experience with International Travel	2
Experience with Robert's Rules of Order	2		

Other gifts that would help you in this role as a General Conference Delegate?

My leadership as a Presiding Elder, alongside pastoral service in both large, urban congregations and small, rural churches, has equipped me with a well-rounded blend of administrative, relational, and theological expertise critical for the work of General Conference. My academic background, which includes two master's degrees in management and ongoing doctoral studies, strengthens my ability to think strategically and engage with complex organizational and doctrinal issues. As a bi-vocational pastor with significant corporate experience, I offer a grounded, real-world perspective. In addition, my enduring commitment to the Wesleyan way of life and the mission of the Church uniquely positions me to serve effectively in this role.



What Church Do You Attend/Serve?

Member of Virginia Conference, Pastor of Magnolia Methodist Church, Vice Conference Superintendent

Biography

Rev. Brandon Nichols is a lifelong Methodist with a passion for awakening a desire for the Living God among the sleepers in our midst. He met Jesus in a communion service when he was 14 years old. The truth that Christ died specifically for him became a reality in his life because of that communion meal. Later that same year, he received a call to ministry during an awakening youth event at Virginia Wesleyan College, where he would eventually earn his B. A. in Religious Studies in 2012. Brandon earned his M. Div. from Duke University Divinity School in 2015. Brandon is the former Pastor of Wesley

Chapel UMC in Suffolk, VA and Joliff UMC in Chesapeake, VA, as well as a former Pastor and church planter at Living Sacrifice Church in Chesapeake, VA. He currently serves as the Pastor of Magnolia Methodist in Suffolk VA. He also serves as the Vice Conference Superintendent for the Virginia Conference of the GMC, and as the Community Spiritual Director for Tidewater Chrysalis.

Brandon is a heavily analytical thinker and engaging teacher who desires for every believer to have a fuller grasp of our robust Wesleyan theology. He has a deep love for apologetics and a heart for those who find their head getting in the way of their faith. He has helped to lead churches through significant crises and divisions to create a healthier church culture. As a result, he is committed to the work of transforming our local church culture to be more faithful, fruitful, and effective. To this end, one of his aims is to help the Virginia Conference build a culture of multiplication by fostering both a disciple making culture in the local church, and a firm commitment to church planting across our conference connection.

Calling to be a Virginia Delegate to General Conference

I believe God is calling me to speak into several matters that will be before the General Conference in 2026 now that the whole Book of Doctrines and Discipline is on the table. Specifically, my heart is for creating healthy and effective local churches, and to the extent Local Church governance and structure is dictated by the general conference, I would be honored to have a hand in shaping that in such a way that will allow our local churches to be even healthier expressions of the faith.

Why would you be a great Delegate to Represent Virginia?

I had the honor of serving as the Clergy Delegate at the Convening General Conference in 2024 which allowed me to gain valuable experience in the processes and procedures of General Conference which will serve us well in 2026. Additionally, as Vice Conference Superintendent I have an intimate understanding of the inner workings of our Conference, it's ethos, and the dilemmas faced by our local churches which would enable me to represent us and the needs of our context well.

What is one thing you look forward to most about being Virginia's delegate (Brandon Nichols)?

I am overawed by the genuinely global nature of our Church and look forward to being able to worship with and be in communion with like-minded Wesleyan brothers and sister from around the world. It is also an honor and a joy to be engaged in shaping a faithful future for our Church by being yielded to the Holy Spirit and practicing prayerful discernment.

Gift Assessment:

General Conference Skill	Personal Rating	General Conference Skill	Personal Rating
Passion for the mission and vision of the GMC	5	Understanding of the needs and vision of the VA Annual Conference	5
Gifts for Connection with Others	4	Ability to write updates that could be shared with the conference (via social media, email, or other formats)	4
Confidence in Legislation Work (writing, editing, etc.)	4	Comfort with and excellence in public speaking	5
Understanding of the Book of Doctrines and Discipline	4	Experience with International Travel	4
Experience with Robert's Rules of Order	3		

Other gifts that would help you in this role as a General Conference Delegate?

I am by nature very analytical, often picking up on detailed nuances. This will enable me to think through the implications, and perhaps, unintended consequences of any proposed legislation. At the same time, I am not one to get bogged down in minutiae, and I have worked very hard to train myself to keep the main thing the main thing, which will serve us well as we seek to preserve a small and nimble Book of Doctrines and Discipline that addresses what needs to be addressed, but does not go beyond that to impinge upon our abilities to do effective ministry.



What Church Do You Attend/Serve?

Lebanon Methodist Church

Biography

After many years in the business world serving as an IT professional, God called me into ordained ministry in 2008. Prior to my calling to pulpit ministry, I served as the lay delegate to the VA Annual Conference for 4 years.

Since, 2008, I have served as youth pastor, associate pastor, and lead pastor for small, mid-sized, and large churches in the VA Annual Conference of the UMC, primarily in what was the Richmond District.

While I am grateful for the relationships, opportunities and experiences gained during my years with the UMC, I received a clear calling from God to depart from the UMC. So, in 2022 I took a one-year sabbatical to discern where God was calling me.

During that sabbatical, God led me to Lebanon Methodist Church in Hanover County, just outside Richmond, VA. where I continue to serve as the lead pastor since July of 2023 as an ordained elder.

I also currently serve on the Finance and Administration team for the VA Annual Conference of the GMC.

Calling to be a Virginia Delegate to General Conference

My first calling has always been to seek the least and the lost. As we continue to shape the Global Methodist Church, I sense God calling me to be an active participant in order to continue this calling through my own faith journey as well as the mission of the local church, the Annual Conference and the Global Methodist Church worldwide.

Why would you be a great Delegate to Represent Virginia?

My experience as a lay person, youth pastor, associate pastor, and lead pastor of different sized churches, including rural and suburban settings, gives me a varied perspective on the different needs of local churches in diversified settings.

What is one thing you look forward to most about being Virginia's delegate?

As a delegate to the General Conference, I most look forward to shaping the Global Methodist Church polity through prayerful discernment of God's Will revealed in the presence of a holy gathering of His disciples.

Gift Assessment:

General Conference Skill	Personal Rating	General Conference Skill	Personal Rating
Passion for the mission and vision of the GMC	5	Understanding of the needs and vision of the VA Annual Conference	

Gifts for Connection with Others	5	Ability to write updates that could be shared with the conference (via social media, email, or other formats)	5
Confidence in Legislation Work (writing, editing, etc.)	5	Comfort with and excellence in public speaking	5
Understanding of the Book of Doctrines and Discipline	5	Experience with International Travel	2
Experience with Robert's Rules of Order	5		

Other gifts that would help you in this role as a General Conference Delegate (Mark Roscoe)?

One of my previous appointments was a missional church plant which equipped me to think outside of normal ministry boxes. In many ways, I see the GMC as a missional church plant on the global scale. No longer are we attempting to do ministry as usual but rather seeking new and different ways in which God is calling us to express our faith, advance His mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ who continually strive to obey His teaching as given to us through the Holy Scriptures.



What Church Do You Attend/Serve?

Northumberland Charge, Afton and Fairfields Methodist Churches.

Biography

I grew up on a small farm in the mountains of WV. After high school, I attended Bluefield College, transferring to Virginia Tech where I completed a BSEE in 1981 and an MSEE in 1995.

During the summers of my early college years, I worked in the coal fields of WV as an apprentice miner and later worked for a professor researching image processing techniques. After graduation in 1981, I settled in Virginia,

and worked for 36 years at the Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division, one of the Navy's Research and Development labs.

In 1982, I married the love of my life, Kay, and we raised three daughters on a small farm in King George, Virginia. Kay and I were active in our church and enjoyed participating in United Methodist Volunteers in Missions program, working as volunteers in the US and in several countries, including Peru, Costa Rica, and Mexico. I thought that my calling would be to serve temporary missions needs into my retirement years; however, while attending the 2010 UMC VA Annual Conference, I responded to a call to enter the ministry and after a time of discernment, began taking classes as a part time student at Asbury Theological Seminary completing a Master of Divinity in 2019. In June of 2017, I retired from the Lab, and on July 1, 2017, was appointed as a Local Licensed Pastor (LLP) to serve a two-point charge (Afton and Fairfields UMCs) on VA's Northern Neck where I continue to serve. Until I left the UMC in 2023, I served on the Board for Campus Ministries and participated in the development of Lay Servants as an instructor for classes such as intercessory prayer.

Working as an LLP provided me the opportunity to experience what a call to serve as a pastor in a rural community is like and to work in a rural community seeking to meet community needs as I strive to follow Jesus into his mission to all people. I was ordained an Elder in the GMC in Oct 2023 in VA and continue to serve the Northumberland Charge. I am now a co-leader of the Virginia GMC Disaster Response Team helping lead the development and growth of the VA Conference's connections across the nation and globally and enabling the GMC's to respond to disasters as people who embody the love of Christ.

I enjoy being outdoors, tinkering with electronics and especially spending time with Kay, our daughters, sons in law and grandchildren. Despite a great love of the outdoors, I spend most of the time reading, studying, praying, learning about God's love for all people, growing in my understanding of how to share His love with others by engaging needs in our community wherever I am led and able to serve.

Calling to be a Virginia Delegate to General Conference

I would describe my sense of calling to be an inward prompting to step into the selection process and seek confirmation of that calling through the process of selection. I have a heart for where the GMC is headed and an eagerness to participate with others members of the GMC to add my voice to theirs through the General Conference.

Why would you be a great Delage to Represent Virginia (John Wright)?

I have a developed skill to read, listen, analyze and articulate complex information sources. I also have an openness to the guidance of Holy Spirit to lead me into truth and to give wisdom. I also enjoy working across cultures to incorporate new ideas and thoughts for challenges presented to the Church today.

What is one thing you look forward to most about being Virginia's delegate?

I think the most exciting aspect of being a delegate would be the interaction with a global body of delegates and the move of Holy Spirit as we engage together as a gathered body in Christ and share many diverse ideas to address the challenges and blessings being presented to the Global Methodist Church.

Gift Assessment:

General Conference Skill	Personal Rating	General Conference Skill	Personal Rating
Passion for the mission and vision of the GMC	5	Understanding of the needs and vision of the VA Annual Conference	5
Gifts for Connection with Others	5	Ability to write updates that could be shared with the conference (via social media, email, or other formats)	5
Confidence in Legislation Work (writing, editing, etc.)	5	Comfort with and excellence in public speaking	5
Understanding of the Book of Doctrines and Discipline	5	Experience with International Travel	5
Experience with Robert's Rules of Order	4		

Other gifts that would help you in this role as a General Conference Delegate?

I have experience with development of budgets to meet the requirements of large organizations as well as experience with evaluating reductions and increases of funding to meet objectives. I also have well developed administrative skills that help me to provide insight into the needs of an organization.