

GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

NOMINEES
FOR OFFICE OF
TWO-YEAR
BISHOPS

Presented by

TRANSITIONAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

NOMINEES FOR OFFICE OF TWO-YEAR BISHOPS

The TLC invited all GM Church members to submit, by July 15, 2024, the names of persons to create a diverse pool of potential nominees; fourteen names were submitted. Only one name submitted was from outside the United States. Having determined that six persons would be elected, the TLC was tasked with nominating nine individuals. On Monday, July 22, the TLC considered those fourteen names and nominated the following persons, listed in alphabetical order:

- **Ryan Barnett (MidTexas)**
- **John Beyers (North Georgia)**
- **Kimba Evariste (Democratic Republic of Congo)**
- **Jeffrey E. Greenway (Allegheny West)**
- **Leah Hidde-Gregory (MidTexas)**
- **Kenneth Levingston (Trinity)**
- **Carolyn Capers Moore (North Georgia)**
- **Gregory D. Stover (Allegheny West)**
- **Rob Townsend (Northeast)**

Enclosed you will find the biographical statements as prepared by each nominee.



PROFILE

Ryan Barnett spent seven years serving as Executive Pastor of the 15th largest UMC in America. Subsequently, he served as senior pastor to a small urban UMC, a large county seat UMC, and now leads the largest GMC in the MidTexas Conference. He is the founding pastor of the Wesley House of Studies at Truett Seminary which is training 35% of current GMC seminarians where he also teaches preaching in the Pastoral Studies Program.

Over the past 20 years, Ryan has worked extensively in both Africa and Central America cultivating ministry partnerships with indigenous leaders to build churches, provide health care, education, and reach people for Christ. He is a regular preacher at various international gatherings, sharing salvation through Christ Jesus.

Ryan is deeply passionate about the growth and long-term future of the Global Methodist Church. Having spent the first 20 years of his ministry laboring in the Confessing Movement, Good News, WCA, and various other renewal movements, he looks forward to spending the next 20 spreading the awakening that has begun. Ryan's deepest prayer is that God would take all his successes and failures, all his gifts, and all his accumulated experiences and use them for the greatest impact in the spread of scriptural holiness around the globe.

Ryan is married to Kim, a Neurosurgical PA and they have one elementary aged son.

RYAN BARNETT

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Lead Pastor, First Methodist Waco
a multisite church worshipping over 1,100 weekly with 85+ staff
Preaching Professor, Pastoral Studies Program, Truett Seminary
Consulting & Operational Services, Truett Seminary, Baylor University

CURRENT LEADERSHIP

Finance Chair, Commission on the Convening General Conference
Delegation Co-Chair, MidTexas Delegation to the General Conference
Chair, Connectional Council of the MidTexas Annual Conference
Executive Vice President, Good News
Founding Director, Board of Directors, Rwanda Shines
Room Dad, Lorena Elementary School

PUBLICATIONS

Profoundly Christian, Distinctly Methodist. (co-author with Jason Vickers on Seedbed Publishing's forthcoming definitive church resource for teaching GMC theology and doctrines as found in the catechism). (2024)

The Role and Place for Theologians and the Academy in the Next Methodism, Firebrand Magazine. (2023)

EDUCATION

MBA, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi, Texas
MDIV, Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Kentucky
BA, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas

PAST LEADERSHIP

Chair, Conference Council on Youth Ministry, Southwest Texas Conference of the UMC
Residence in Ministry Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry, Rio Texas Conference of the UMC
District Committee on Ordained Ministry, Corpus Christi District of the UMC
Student Body President, Asbury Theological Seminary
Student Trustee, Board of Trustees, Asbury Theological Seminary
Board Member, National Board of Directors, Confessing Movement
Initial Board Member, Board of Directors, Wesleyan Covenant Association
Founder and President, Methodist Renewal Movement

THE REV. DR. JOHN BEYERS
Episcopal Nominee
The North Georgia Conference



Dr. John Beyers serves as the founding Senior Minister of Wesley Methodist Church of LaGrange, Georgia, and as a Presiding Elder in the North Georgia Conference of the Global Methodist Church.

John is a self-confessed “Wesley Nerd” and has a special interest in Wesleyan Theology and Doctrine, the Theology and Administration of the Holy Sacraments, Methodist History, the Life and Ministry of John Wesley, and the Hymnody of Charles Wesley. He has enjoyed teaching seminars in Chile, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru, England, France, Russia, and the USA.

John served as the founding chairperson of the North Georgia Board of Ministry and as the chairperson of the North Georgia Convening Provisional Annual Conference Planning and Agenda Committee. He currently serves as the founding chairperson of the North Georgia Committee on Episcopacy. Being committed to strengthening lay-clergy partnerships, John serves as a faculty member of the North Georgia Lay Empowerment Institute.

John is a member of the Order of St. Luke, the World Methodist Council, the Epworth Old Rectory (UK) Board of Trustees, the Good News Magazine Board of Directors, the GMC Convening General Conference Agenda Committee, and the GMC Wesleyan Unity Commission.

John has served congregations in urban, suburban, and small-town settings, growing each of them in membership, financial resources, and deepening discipleship. In recognition of his leadership, John received the Harry Denman Evangelism award presented by The Foundation for Evangelism.

Being instructed by his bishop and district superintendent not to publicly reveal his matter of conscience during the disaffiliation debate and having the vote of his church openly interfered with by North Georgia Conference officials, John’s congregation lost the disaffiliation vote by 13 with 545 votes cast. Afterward, his bishop placed him on suspension and his church’s elected leaders were barred from meeting, making decisions, or expending funds.

Embolden by a study of the Book of Jude and in light of the aforementioned events, Wesley (Global) Methodist Church formed in August 2023, one week after the failed

disaffiliation vote, and chartered in October 2023 with 331 members and \$1 million committed to mission and ministry.

John enthusiastically advocates embracing an historic vision of the itinerant episcopacy embodied by Bishop Francis Asbury and outlined in *The Global Methodist Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline*. This includes being unwaveringly committed to upholding the doctrines and polity of the Global Methodist Church, being able to effectively communicate the historic Christian faith from a Wesleyan perspective, guarding, transmitting, teaching, and proclaiming the apostolic faith as it is expressed in Scripture and Tradition and understood from a Wesleyan perspective, reclaiming and exercising the historic teaching office of the episcopacy by grounding the church in the Faith once delivered, and training lay and clergy leaders to apply our theology to the challenges and opportunities of the present age.

John is most grateful for the providence of God, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, the filling of the Holy Spirit, and the privilege of serving as one of Mr. Wesley's preachers.



John Beyers
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Kimba Evariste Bio

I am Reverend Kabah clergy from the provisional annual conference of the Congo, I'm the general secretary of the PAC DRC.

I have humbly come to nominate Reverend Dr Kimba Kyakutala Evariste, 57ages for the position of episcopacy for two years in the GMC.

Dr Kimba is a baptized Christian, married to a woman lady named Marie Kibawa with whom they have children, three girls and three boys all in life , and three grandchildren.

I have known Dr. Kimba for more than a decade working in pastoral ministry with zeal, dedication and enthusiasm, always loving to serve alongside the people with a passionate vision of the development of rural areas.

Dr. Kimba is a preacher of the gospel of Jesus Christ in the fear of the Lord based on Biblical teaching and Wesleyan orthodoxy doctrine.

Dr Kimba remained a faithful traditionalist conservative despite the shocks suffered to divert him from his vocation, at the point of being part of the first circle of the WCA founders where he is a member of the World Council, one of the initiators of the Africa Initiative, advocating caucus for the Biblical teaching in Africa within the former UMC.

One of the pioneers of the GMC and he is a member of the TLC, Currently he is the Pro-Tem of the PAC DRC.

Thank you for considering the candidacy.

Jeffrey E. Greenway, Elder, Allegheny West Provisional Annual Conference

I'm humbled to be endorsed for consideration as a nominee as a two-year bishop by the Allegheny West Delegation to the General Conference. There are others who have told me they also intend to submit my name for consideration. This may or may not be the best place for me to serve the Global Methodist Church, but I'm willing to offer my name for consideration. If I'm nominated and elected, I will not allow my name to be nominated for consideration in 2026.

That said, here is a list of life experiences which the persons responsible for determining the pool of nominees may wish to consider:

- Married to Beth for 43 years. Beth and I are the proud parents to three adult children and their spouses, and grandparents to eight grandchildren
- Spiritual Gifts: leadership, preaching, teaching, evangelism, wisdom, discernment
- Believes in the model of general superintendency as proposed and endorsed through the Transitional Leadership Council
- Presently serves as the President Pro Tempore of the Allegheny West Conference
- Just completed serving 18 years as the Lead Pastor of Reynoldsburg Community Church
- Serves as a member of the Transitional Leadership Council
- Served as the founding chair of the Wesleyan Covenant Association Council
- Chaired the WCA "Next Steps Working Group" which developed the first draft of the Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline
- Chaired the TLC Task Force on the "Nature of the Episcopacy"
- Has served churches of various sizes and been a District Superintendent
- Has had 28 persons respond to God's call to be set apart for full-time Christian service through his ministry.
- Served as a delegate to five General and Jurisdictional Conferences (1992, 1996, 2000, 2004, and 2012)
- Served as a Director and Member of the Executive Committee of the General Board of Discipleship (1996-2004)
- Chaired or Vice-Chaired Legislative Committee at General Conference in 2000, 2004 and 2012
- Former President of Asbury Theological Seminary
- Graduated with honors from Mount Union (BA: Business 1982), Asbury Theological Seminary (MDIV 1985), and Wesley Theological Seminary (DMIN: Evangelism 1999)
- Has served on and provided leadership to various non-profit boards

I believe I bring a wide variety of local and general church experience with me and have demonstrated the ability to lead in a variety of contexts. If the faith, experience, and skill I offer can be helpful in this role, I'm willing to serve. If it's the discernment of those making this nomination that others should be nominated, I'm content with the ways God has used

my life in the work of His Kingdom (in general) and the formation of the Global Methodist Church (in particular).

Jeff Greenway
June 26, 2024



Leah Hidde-Gregory

- Principled Leadership:
 - Christ Centric
 - Commitment to Orthodox Christian theology lived out in the Wesleyan Tradition
 - Local Church focused
 - Discipleship and Leadership Development throughout the conference
- Thirty years of experience in various forms of church leadership:
 - Young Adult Ministries Co-Chair, Boston Avenue UMC – Tulsa, OK, Laity
 - Facilitator for Disciple Bible I,II,III, IV, and Christian Believer, Laity
 - Conference Children’s Ministry Taskforce, North Texas Conference, Laity
 - Safe Sanctuaries Contributor, North Texas Conference, Laity
 - Spiritual Parenting Trainer, North Texas Conference, Laity
 - Licensed Local Pastor, North Texas and Central Texas Conference, Clergy
 - District Committee of Ordained Ministry & Board of Ministry, Clergy
 - Served as pastor in congregations ranging from 25 to 950. Lead pastor in small to mid-size churches.
 - Six years as District Superintendent; district grew three years during a season of denominational decline, Central Texas Conference
 - Director of New Church Development; Central Texas Conference
 - CTC High Octane Preaching
 - CTC Core Team
 - CTC Evangelism Taskforce
 - CTC The Way Forward taskforce member (conference level advisement)
 - CTC Annual Conference Planning Conference
 - WCA Revitalization Taskforce Leader
 - WCA Central Texas Founding Officer
 - WCA – First Steps Working Group, Episcopacy Taskforce
 - Good News Board Member
- Global Methodist Experience
 - Transitional Leadership Council member, past chair
 - TCAT of the Mid-Texas Conference
 - President Pro-tem

Education

Wesley Theological, Washington DC
Lewis Center for Church Leadership
Doctorate of Ministry in Church Leadership Excellence

Perkins School of Theology, Dallas, TX
Master of Divinity
Spiritual Direction

Texas A&M, Commerce, TX
Bachelor of Science: Sociology and Psychology

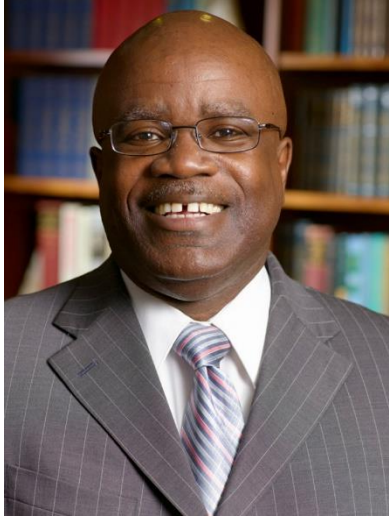
Extensive Continuing Education with a commitment to lifelong learning.

Biography

Dr. Leah Hidde-Gregory has served as President Pro-Tem of the Mid-Texas Provisional Annual Conference since November 1, 2022. During her ministry, she served as a laywoman in the Oklahoma Conference and as a pastor in the North Texas and Central Texas Conference, as well as a District Superintendent for six years in the CTC. She has sat on the Transitional Leadership Council for the Global Methodist church since its formation.

Leah has a heart and passion for sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. She spent much of her ministry in church revitalization, revival and church growth. She is excited about the Global Methodist Church and the orthodox Wesleyan witnesses which is being awakened within our congregations as they discern their next faithful step.

She holds a Doctorate in Ministry in Church Leadership Excellence from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.; a Masters of Divinity from Perkins School of Theology; and a Bachelors in Sociology and Psychology from Texas A&M Commerce. She is married to the love of her life, Stan. They have two grown daughters and son-in laws, and a son, Will who is still at home.



I am grateful for the nomination by the Trinity Conference for the Office of Bishop in the Global Methodist Church. This is not a role one seeks, rather it is a surrender to the will of the Holy Spirit and the discernment of the people of God who know you best.

I will share a few things about my life, my work in the church and my thoughts on The Office and Responsibilities of a Bishop in The Global Methodist Church.

I grew up in Homer, Louisiana. In 1974, my mother, my sister and I moved to Houston. I grew up in the Missionary Baptist Church until I was 16. I met a wonderful lay woman whose invitation to me and my friends to Brooks Chapel's VBS changed the course of my life.

I met Shanda, my wife, of 36 years at church. We are the parents of two daughters, Brittany (31) and Ke'Andra (30). Ke'Andra currently practices law. Brittany earned her Ph.D. in English and African American Studies and works in the art world. We are thankful for our marriage and deeply grateful our daughters who are disciples of Jesus Christ who bear public witness to their faith by loving and serving others in his name.

I have pastored 9 congregations over 39 years. Those congregations have ranged from a 4-member one room congregation, a two-point charge, an inter-city congregation in Houston and a vibrant rural congregation. I served as the Executive & Preaching Pastor at First Methodist Houston-Westchase, a multi-cultural congregation. I now serve as lead pastor of Jones Memorial "The Higher Way Church". In conjunction with serving Jones, in January of 2023, I was appointed Senior Pastor of two small rural churches in Huntsville who like the church in Macedonia needed a little help.

While serving in the UMC, I have served as a delegate/alternate for five general conferences. Currently, I serve on the Board of Directors of Houston Methodist Hospital.

Since the formation of the Global Methodist Church, I have served as a Presiding Elder and Chair of the African American Church Initiative.

I believe the role of bishop in this season is critical to the fruitful and effective work of the Global Methodist Church as we save souls and spread scriptural holiness around the world.

Bishops must lead both by Spirit and Truth while seeking the good of the whole church. Bishops must teach and defend the doctrine and polity of the church and proclaim the mission of Christ in the world from the deep fountain of Wesleyan theology. Bishops must willingly surrender administrative and daily oversight of Annual Conferences into the capable hands of clergy and lay leadership as determined by our future Book of Doctrine and Discipline. It will be imperative

Kenneth Levingston

for bishops to inspire and lead the church into revival and revitalization by preaching the word, modeling holiness, joy and accountability in the Lord.

The Office and Responsibilities of Bishop in ¶ 502 of the TBDD should be the touchstone for those who would serve as bishops as well as the rubric for accountability of bishops to the whole church as found in scripture. (I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-7, II Timothy 4:1-5, Acts 20:28, II Timothy 2:15)

If the Holy Spirit, through this process, sets me aside for this role I will serve the whole church with the same fervor, passion and humility I have served the local church for the last 39 years.

Rev. Kenneth Levingston
Senior Pastor, Jones Memorial "The Higher Way Church"
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CAROLYN CAPERS MOORE

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Carolyn Moore has served for twenty-six years as a pastor and is ordained in the Global Methodist Church. For five years, she served as an associate pastor where she successfully launched and led a contemporary service in a historic vaudeville theater as an outreach for a downtown church. In 2003, she was appointed to Evans, Georgia to plant a missional community where she has served as founding and lead pastor for 21 years. In that role, she has developed a strong staff team, conducted three effective capital campaigns, spearheaded the creation of a separate non-profit (The Mosaic Center), and is now leading this church through a winsome and positive transition from founding pastor to second-generation pastor. Carolyn was born and raised in Augusta, Georgia and graduated from the University of Georgia (B.A. – Religion, 1985) and Asbury Theological Seminary (Masters of Divinity, 1998; and Doctor of Ministry, 2018). Her doctoral degree focused on church planting with an emphasis on how women lead spiritually. She has also received an honorary doctorate from Asbury Seminary (2024). In addition to serving as a pastor, Carolyn served actively since its inception as part of the Wesleyan Covenant Association — first as Vice-Chair (2016-2020) and then as Chair (2020-2023). In those roles, she spear-headed and edited the publication of the WCA's first book, *A Firm Foundation*, which cast an early vision for an orthodox, Spirit-filled Methodism. She also served on or chaired the teams that hired both Keith Boyette and Jay Therrell. As part of the North Georgia Global Methodist Church leadership team, she participated in producing the strategy that led to the successful disaffiliation (through legal channels) of more than 270 churches. One of Carolyn's primary contributions during that season was the formation of a team and hiring of a publicist to tell the GMC story. As a result, publications including *New York Times*, *Christianity Today*, *The Tennessean*, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, and many local papers told this story, creating a more favorable atmosphere for disaffiliation. Carolyn has served in North Georgia with the WCA and its predecessor, as well as the Global Methodist Church Executive Leadership Team and Cabinet. She has served as Vice-Chair with the GMC Commission on Doctrine, Discipleship and Just Ministry, as a member of the GMC Church Multiplication Task Force, and on the GMC-Asbury Joint Committee for New Church Development Grants. In the UMC, she served on district Board of Ministry and strategic development teams. Carolyn hosts a weekly podcast and blogs on issues related to holiness, supernatural ministry and Wesleyan theology (artofholiness.com). She is the author of four Bible studies and two books, most notably, *When Women Lead* (Zondervan). She has served on various boards and commissions promoting missions and outreach, and currently serves as a Fellow of the Robert Smith, Jr. Preaching Institute with Beeson Divinity School. Carolyn has been joyfully married since 1985 to Steve Moore, a retired public school teacher and avid student of U.S. History. They have one daughter who is married with two children.

Rev. Gregory D. Stover

Interim Bishop Nominee Bio

Spiritual Life and Call to Ministry

At age seven I responded to an invitation to follow Jesus. At seventeen I made a significant commitment to seek God's will in all areas of my life. During my senior year at Ohio State, I responded to a call to ministry. After attending Asbury Theological Seminary for two years, I completed a Master of Divinity degree at United Theological Seminary.

Daily, I seek to live A. W. Tozer's description of faith: *"Faith is the gaze of the soul toward the one God who saves."*

Family

My wife, Linda, and I have been married for almost fifty-one years. We are the parents of three married sons, and grandparents to nine grandchildren.

Ministry

My ministry is characterized by Biblical preaching and teaching, passion for mission and evangelism, and discipleship development. A few highlights of 43 years under appointment in rural, suburban, county seat and urban areas include:

- Church of the Cross (1979 – 1989) adopted Faith Promise Mission Giving, producing over \$1,000,000 in contributions over the next thirty years.
- Sharonville (1989 – 1999) began one of the first UM contemporary worship services in our area; helped initiate a homeless ministry.
- Armstrong Chapel (2005 – 2016) embraced a new tutoring ministry, and assisted community rehabilitation efforts in a nearby urban area.
- Led major building programs in each of these congregations to accommodate growing ministries.
- Cincinnati District Superintendent (1999 – 2006). Collaborated with district leadership to implement a strategic plan addressing key growth opportunities that resulted in several fruitful mergers and missional re-direction of resources.

Ministry Across the Church

Many experiences have expanded my understanding of the strengths and opportunities of church at all levels.

- Delegate to five General Conferences and eight Jurisdictional Conferences. Two-time episcopal nominee.
- UMC Boards: Served 8 years on GCCUIC, and four on the Connectional Table; Advocated for streamlining structure through Plan UMC.
- Board member of UMC renewal groups for decades (Good News, Confessing Movement); served as a recruiter for the GMC through WCA.

- Current Director of the Global Methodist House of Study at United Theological Seminary; Adjunct instructor, teaching Evangelism, Wesleyan Doctrine and Theology, Methodist History, and GMC Polity.

The Global Methodist Church

- Served on the Transitional Committee Advisory Team in the formation of the Allegheny West PAC.
- Current Dean of AWPAC Cabinet, guiding our team of 25 Presiding Elders.
- Member Transitional Commission on Ministry; Chair of Educational Pathways Committee.

Interim Episcopacy

Interim Bishops will play a vital role as we continue to lay the Biblical, doctrinal, and practical foundations for the emerging Global Methodist Church. I believe, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, my experience and spiritual gifts will contribute to this end --- especially in the following areas:

- Preach/teach Scripture and the doctrines of the GMC.
- Coach conference superintendents and presiding elders to develop effective Cabinets.
- Ability to listen, work collaboratively, and help others make discerning choices.

I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in the birth and growth of the GMC.



Rev. Dr. Rob Townsend

Dr. Townsend is currently serving as the pastor of Moore's Chapel Global Methodist Church in Northern Cecil County, Maryland. He is also the Presiding Elder for the Northern Maryland District and the Dean of the Appointive Cabinet of the Northeast Annual Conference of the Global Methodist Church.

Previously in the United Methodist Church, Rob served on the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference Cabinet as the Salisbury District Superintendent and later as the Conference Director of Connectional Ministries. He served as Senior Pastor at Hockessin UMC in Hockessin, DE. from 2014-18 and as Senior Pastor of Bethesda UMC in downtown Salisbury from 2008-2014. He previously served as pastor at Grace UMC in Millsboro, DE. from 2003-08 and as pastor of Asbury UMC in Millington, MD., Crumpton UMC in Crumpton, MD and Double Creek UMC outside of Crumpton, MD from 1999 to 2003. Rob grew up on an Eastern Shore farm in Rock Hall, MD and was called into ministry his senior year of high school.

He holds a B.A. in Religion from Wake Forest University (1992), a Masters of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary (1999) and a Doctorate of Ministry from Asbury Theological Seminary (2017). Rob was commissioned a probationary member of the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference of the UMC in 2001 and ordained a full elder in 2004. Rob's transferred his clergy credentials to the Global Methodist Church in 2023. He was inducted into the Order of the Flame of World Methodist Evangelism of the World Methodist Council in 2005. In 2011, the Northeastern Jurisdiction of the UMC awarded Rob the Kim Jefferson Award for significant and effective urban ministry along with the covenant pastors of Salisbury Urban Ministries. Rob has served on various boards and committees of the annual and jurisdictional conferences. Most notably, he served as Chairperson of the conference Board of Ordained Ministry. Rob was elected to serve as a delegate to the United Methodist General Conferences in Portland (2016) and St. Louis (2019) as well as the Convening General Conference of the Global Methodist Church in Costa Rica (2024).

Rob is married to Laura and they reside in Northern Delaware. Rob has three biological children: Sarah, a graduate of Asbury University, Leanne, a graduate of the University of Delaware and Joel, a junior at U.D. Rob is "Ojczym" (Polish for stepfather) to Kyle, a freshman at Liberty University, Luke, a high school junior, and Leah, an 8th grader. Rob is a diehard fan of the Baltimore Orioles, Baltimore Ravens, the Washington Commanders, and the Wake Forest Demon Deacons. He has a love for reading, gardening, and hunting. Rob also competed on the Kansas City Barbeque Society competition circuit for 7 years with his team the Holy Hogs. They were "Smokin' for Jesus." His life verses are Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." (NIV) and Amos 7:15 "Then God took me off the farm and said, 'Go preach to my people.'" (MSG)