

## **Rev. Amy Coles**

Rev. Amy Coles is the Western North Carolina Conference nominee for episcopal election at the 2020 SEJ Jurisdictional Conference. She was elected 2<sup>nd</sup> in the delegation at 2015 WNCC Annual Conference and serves as the group's secretary/treasurer.

Amy is a summa cum laude graduate of the University of North Carolina-Greensboro with a Child Development and Family Relations major and a 1992 graduate of Duke Divinity School, where she served as the Student Representative Assembly President during the 1991-1992 school year.

A lifelong United Methodist, Amy was ordained as a deacon in 1991 and as an elder in 1994. She served in a variety of local churches before becoming a district superintendent in 2009, a small rural church, a new church start, and a medium-size rural church. Guided by the Wesleyan understanding of holiness of heart and life, she understood her call as a pastor to include preaching, teaching, and modelling the interrelationship of discipleship and mission as a faithful response to Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

As a District Superintendent, she served as the missional strategist for the 86 churches of the Albemarle District followed by the 66 churches of the Smoky Mountain District. She was a member of the Conference's Transition Team, which facilitated the move from 15 districts to 8 districts. She then had the opportunity to implement that team's strategies while continuing to serve as a District Superintendent. For the past 5 years, she has served as the Assistant to the Bishop, supporting the Bishop and District Superintendents, coordinating the ministry of the Conference Staff, and working with the Conference Trustees in re-missioning and selling closed church property.

Rev. Coles is an active participant with the denominational Connectional Table, serving on the Agency Evaluation Advisory Group, the Leadership Discernment and Community Life Committee, the Budget Allocations Task Force, and as the Connectional Table Representative to the GCFA Economic Advisory Committee. She is also currently active with the Board of Rural Faith Development CDC, the Thriving Rural Communities Initiative at Duke, and the Junaluska Associates Council at Lake Junaluska. Previously, Amy served on the Boards of Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries, Givens Estates, Hinton Rural Life Center, Mount Shepherd Retreat Center, Pfeiffer University, and the Western Carolina Wesley Foundation.

She is the guardian of her 22-year-old nephew, Specialist Brandon Estrada who serves in the United States Army, and she now cares for her 18-year-old niece, Mae Coles, a student at Central Piedmont Community College.

### **Service Record**

Assistant to the Bishop	2015 – present
Smoky Mountain District Superintendent	2012 - 2015

Appalachian District Superintendent	2012
Albemarle District Superintendent	2009 - 2012
Fairview United Methodist Church	1999 - 2009
Covenant Church United Methodist	1996 - 1999
Hopewell United Methodist Church	1992 – 1996

#### Addition Training

- CAST 1 & 2 (Coach Approach Skills Training)
- Cabinet Leadership Development
- Denominational Leadership: Serving God and the Church as an Executive Leader
- OnBoarding Facilitator Training
- Royce and Jane Reynolds Certificate Program in Church Leadership

#### Denominational Service

- Connectional Table
  - Agency Evaluation Advisory Group
  - Leadership Discernment and Community Life Committee
  - Budget Allocations Task Force
  - Representative to Economic Advisory Committee
- Delegate to General Conference in 2012, 2016, 2019, & 2020

#### Jurisdictional Service

- Associates Council, Lake Junaluska

#### Annual Conference Service

- Board of Ordained Ministry
- Board member, Disciple Bible Outreach Ministry
- Board member, Givens Estates
- Board member, Hinton Rural Life Center
- Board member, Mount Shepherd Retreat Center
- Board member, Pfeiffer University
- Board member, Rural Faith Development CDC
- Board member, Western Carolina Wesley Foundation
- Commission on Equitable Compensation
- Conference Finance and Administration
- Location of Annual Conference Task Force
- Thriving Rural Communities Initiative, Duke Divinity School
- Transition Task Force – Chair, Finance & Property Sub-Committee