

Rev. Amy Coles

Rev. Amy Coles is the Western North Carolina Conference nominee for episcopal election at the 2022 SEJ Jurisdictional Conference. She was elected 2nd 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 understands 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 7 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, the Connectional Table Representative to the GCFA Economic Advisory Committee, and as the Co-Chair of the Board Makeup Task Force. She is also currently active with the Board of Rural Faith Development CDC, the ImagineHub Board of Advisors, 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 was also active with the Thriving Rural Communities Initiative at Duke,

She is the guardian of her 24-year-old nephew, Sergeant Brandon Estrada, who serves in the United States Army, and she now oversees care for her 21-year-old niece, Mae Coles.

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

Additional 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
Co-Chair, Board Makeup Task Force
Delegate to General Conference in 2012, 2016, 2019, & 2020

Jurisdictional Service

Associates Council, Lake Junaluska
Board member, Hinton Rural Life Center

Annual Conference Service

Board of Ordained Ministry
Board member, Disciple Bible Outreach Ministry
Board member, Givens Estates
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