

Monitoring at Jurisdictional Conferences

Last week, the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW) monitored Jurisdictional Conferences across the United States to ensure transparency and advocate for the equitable representation of women in leadership roles. Our monitoring efforts focused on the election of board members to the general agencies, Ecumenical Relationships, and the Connectional Table.

We are excited to announce that part 1 of our detailed report will be released in the next couple of weeks.

We also celebrate the election of two new female bishops in the Western Jurisdiction, bringing the number of active female bishops in the USA higher than that of male bishops. Please join us in prayer as we continue to work towards a Church that truly reflects the diversity and gifts of all God's people.

[VIEW EPISCOPAL PERCENTAGE DATA](#)



Parental leave efforts gaining momentum

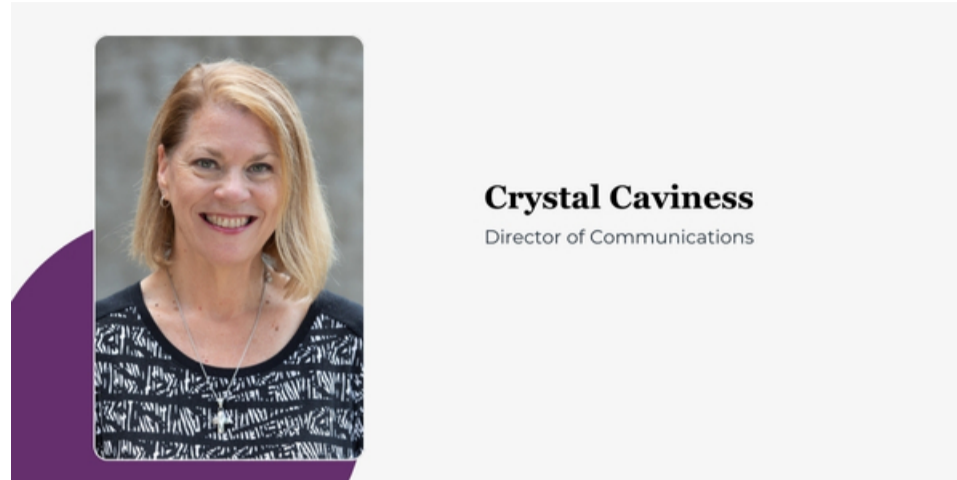
[Pictured: The Rev. Jee Hae Song's son Joshua, 5, dances at her 2023 ordination during the Upper New York Annual Conference in Syracuse, N.Y. Song presented legislation to the 2024 Upper New York Annual Conference to enact a parental leave policy for United Methodists of Upper New York.](#)

The Rev. Diane Kenaston, a United Methodist elder and consultant who trains pastors to become more effective, is helping lead an effort to improve parental leave policies in the denomination with assistance from GCSRW. Lobbying has been happening at annual conference meetings this year and will continue into 2025. "We basically want to expand parental leave coverage without increasing the (financial) burden on local churches," Kenaston said.

Some conferences are already on board, including the Western Pennsylvania, East Ohio, Illinois Great Rivers, Western North Carolina, Florida, Missouri, New York, Peninsula-Delaware and Upper New York conferences. "Interested leaders from an additional 20-plus conferences are working on legislation for 2025," she said.

We encourage you to visit our [UMC Parental Leave landing page](#) to get involved and learn more about this movement.

[READ STORY](#)



Crystal Caviness
Director of Communications

GCSRW announces transition in communications management

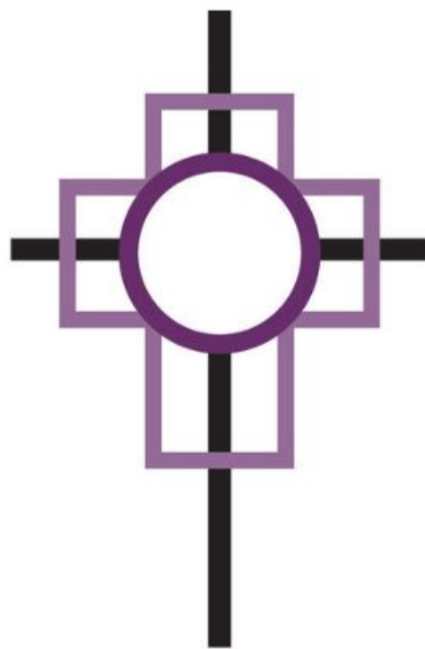
[Pictured: Crystal Caviness joins GCSRW with a wealth of experience in public relations, social media management, and content creation for UMC.org effective Aug. 2.](#)

The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW) announces a transition in communications management effective August 2, when United Methodist Communications' Crystal Caviness assumes responsibilities from Aileen Delgado.

"GCSRW is deeply grateful for Aileen's contributions as director of communications since the partnership with UMC began. Her dedication and passion have resulted in tremendous improvement in all areas of our agency's communication efforts. Aileen will always be part of the GCSRW family and we wish her the very best in her future endeavors," said Dawn Wiggins Hare, GCSRW's General Secretary.

In her new role as Director of Communications for GCSRW, Caviness will work with agency staff and the board in the upcoming quadrennium to build brand awareness, educate leaders about GCSRW's services and products, and drive engagement with new and active Annual Conference COSROW commissions.

[READ PRESS RELEASE](#)



Don't forget to use GCSRW's free resources:

[Episcopal Resources](#)

[Welcoming a Woman Pastor](#)

[Do No More Harm](#)

Our Purpose

... to challenge the UMC, including its general agencies, institutions, and connectional structures, to a continuing commitment to the full and equal responsibility and participation of women in the total life and mission of the Church, sharing fully in the power and the policy-making at all levels of the Church's life.

[GCSRW](#)

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