

Rev. Sharon L. Bowers, 60, is the Holston Annual Conference's Black Methodist for Church Renewal and the Committee on the Status and Role of Women's nominee for the 2020 episcopal elections. She is a General Conference delegate, Church and Society 2 and is presently serving as Executive Director and Lead Pastor at the University of Tennessee Knoxville Wesley Foundation.

Rev. Bowers is a champion of diversity and embraces ecumenism. She is a local and national member of Black Methodist for Church Renewal (BMCR) and was instrumental in reviving the local chapter in the Holston Conference. She is also the Chair of the Commission on the Status and Role of Women (CSRW). Rev. Bowers was the catalyst for planning, developing and establishing a Holston Conference relationship with the General Church Agency, Strengthening The Black Church for the 21st Century (SB21) and establishing an African American Task Force Team to monitor efforts of expressions of diversity in the Holston Conference. She is very active in the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church where she serves as the Chair of the Order of Elders, a member of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and the Tennessee Valley District Board of Ordained Ministry, a member of the Pastoral Oversight Committee for the Holston Conference Center for Well Being, the Sexual Ethics and Boundaries Task Force, the Clergy Convocation Committee, the Clergy Eight Year Assessment Task Force, the Out Reach and Advocacy Committee and various other ad hoc committees and initiatives.

Rev Bowers has led two of the largest African American churches in the conference and has helped each of them become financially solvent and develop leaders who are actively involved in district and conference ministry. Also, she served as lead pastor of a five-point charge cooperative parish. She is best known for developing leaders and has mentored many people in the provisional process. She most recently mentored four candidates who are all successfully leading as local pastors in diverse and cross racial appointments. Since July of 2018, Rev. Bowers has been serving in a cross racial appointment as the Executive Director and Lead Pastor of the University of Tennessee Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry.

Rev. Bowers has been teaching and preaching since 1977 and in full-time ministry since 1987. She is the founder and CEO of Character Based Leadership Institute, Inc., an innovative leadership and personal development ministry helping Christians and others lead and live with character. She is the author of *Mark the Perfect Man: Leading and Living With Character*, a tool for developing character, fostering accountability and empowering clergy and other leaders throughout the globe. She has a Master's Degree in Sociology from Morgan State University and a Masters of Divinity from Gammon Theology Seminary both graduating with honors. She has completed the requirements for the PhD in Political Science from Clark Atlanta University (ABD) where her current dissertation title is: *Reclaiming Intersectionality as a Form of Resistance to Hegemonic Power or Agency and Its Articulations Exhibited in the Formation of Race, Gender, Human Sexuality, Class and Nation*.

Rev. Bowers is a widow and her husband Rev. Carl Marshall also served in the Holston Conference until his death in April 2018. She is the proud "Auntie Sherry" to many nieces and nephews. Rev. Bowers solicits your prayers as she is committed to serving with character, faithfulness and integrity.