

Frequently Asked Questions

When is Pastor Kenny retiring?

Pastor Kenny plans to retire from full-time ministry as the Lead Pastor at Canton First Methodist in the Summer of 2027.

How will the new Lead Pastor be chosen?

While there are several options available to us in the Global Methodist Church, the Governing Board will take the lead in the search process for pastoral leadership -- screening, researching, interviewing, and selecting the next Lead Pastor in consultation with, and with the approval of, the North Georgia Conference Superintendent and the assigned Presiding Elder.

This option is available to us under the authority of the **Book of Doctrines and Discipline** (Superintendency, Section VI, APPOINTMENT-MAKING ¶ 610, #7), “. . .*While most churches will rely upon the cabinet to resource their pastoral appointments, a church may choose to lead their own search process for pastoral leadership upon the approval of the presiding elder and conference superintendent . . .*”

What is the timeline for the succession process?

Pastor Kenny has graciously provided Canton First a generous “ transition” timeframe, and the Governing Board is committed to taking the time needed to identify the right person for this very important position. While the Board would like to have the process completed by or before June of 2027, this is a general timeline based on Pastor Kenny’s wishes to retire that summer.

What is the Succession Task Force Team? What is their role in the process?

The Succession Task Force Team was appointed by the Governing Board in September of 2025 to guide the church through the search process. This Team consists of the 2025 and 2026 Staff Parish Relations Committees (also known as the Personnel Committee) and two staff members. Their role is to establish a framework for the search process and work with the leadership of the North Georgia Conference to identify candidates for the opening. The Team will take an active role in the interview and selection process, including research, reviewing applications, checking references, listening to sermons, making visits, and conducting interviews. The Succession Team, working in conjunction with the Conference leadership, will make a recommendation to the Conference, who will then appoint our next pastor.

These are the individuals serving on the Team: Jeremy Bowden, Susan Brown, Susan Dreschel, Gil Edwards, Mike Haire, Dana Hall, Rod Metcalf, Gini Mizelle, Kenny Ott, Nan Peters, Corey Shores, and Dave Sullivan. If you have questions about the process, please contact one of the Team.

When will the opening be advertised to the public?

After the Governing Board conducted information meetings with our congregation on February 1 and February 8, 2026, to preview the process and answer questions from our members, the opening was published on the church's website and the North Georgia Conference website, as well as websites for other Global Methodist conferences in the United States.

Can a non-Global Methodist pastor apply for the Lead Pastor Position?

Anyone may apply; however, the Pastor Profile for this position states that an applicant must be "theologically grounded in the Wesleyan tradition and fully aligned with the Global Methodist Church. Must be GMC ordained or seeking ordination."

Will the congregation receive updates from the Succession Task Force Team and Governing Board?

Yes! The first letter was sent via email on January 12, 2026, and regular emails will continue throughout the process. There will be periods of time that we may be in a "holding pattern," for instance, after the opening has been publicized in late February and the Team is receiving and reviewing applications. We will endeavor to be as open and transparent throughout the process as possible.

How can the church be supportive throughout this process?

Please be in prayer! Use these [Prayer Points](#) as a guide.

How does an interested party apply for the position?

Please send inquiries to The Reverend Herzen Andone, Presiding Elder for the North Georgia Conference, at handone@hillsidegmc.org.