

Larry M. Goodpaster

Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster was elected to the office of Bishop in The United Methodist Church in 2000 after serving as pastor in Mississippi for more than 30 years. He served for eight years as the resident bishop of the Alabama-West Florida Conference (Montgomery, AL). He then served in the Western North Carolina Conference for eight years prior to his retirement on September 1, 2016.

Starting as a student pastor in 1967, his pastoral appointments in Mississippi included a five-church rural charge, a new congregation, district superintendent, and several larger membership churches. He has taught in a variety of settings and published in various denominational publications. His book, "There's Power in the Connection," was published in 2008 by Abingdon Press.

From 2005 through 2010 he was assigned as the bishop to lead the United Methodist Church's Southeast Asia Mission Initiative including starting churches and ministries in Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand. Since 2012 he has been the United Methodist Bishop on the council of bishops for the Methodist Church of Cambodia. He was elected to a two-year term as president of The United Methodist Church's Council of Bishops, which includes United Methodist bishops from around the world. His term as president ended at the 2012 General Conference in Tampa, FL where he preached the opening worship for the Conference.

Goodpaster earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Millsaps College, Jackson, Miss., and both the Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Candler School of Theology, Atlanta, Ga. He has also received honorary degrees (Doctor of Divinity) from Birmingham-Southern College (Birmingham, AL), Huntingdon College (Montgomery, AL), and Millsaps College (Jackson, MS).