

Ben Hill United Methodist Church

# Leadership Conference

# 2026



February 6  
5pm - 8pm

February 7  
11am - 4pm

2099 Fairburn Road, Atlanta, Ga 30331

**Honoring Our Legacy**  
**Aligning Our Leadership**  
**Advancing God's Mission**

# BHUMC Leadership Conference 2026

# Meeting

# Agenda



## **Fri., Feb. 6**

04:00pm	Registration & Fellowship*
05:00pm	Prayer & Inspirational Welcome
05:30pm	Fellowship Meal
06:15pm	"Spiritual Grounding" Ice Breaker
06:35pm	General Session 1: "Who We Are"
07:10pm	General Session 2: "Why We Exist"
07:30pm	Conference Day 2
07:35pm	Fellowship & Fun <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Line Dancing</li><li>• BINGO</li><li>• Ministry Mingle</li></ul>

## **Sat., Feb. 7**

10:00am	Registration & Fellowship*
11:00am	Prayer, Praise & Purpose
11:105am	General Session 3: "Vision Areas - How We are Organized for Mission"
11:45am	Grab N Go Lunch & Transition to Workshop 1
12:00 - 3:20pm	Concurrent Workshops* (See next page for details.)
3:20pm	General Session 4: "Leadership at Ben Hill - Your Role & Responsibility"
04:00pm	Conference Closing & Sending Forth





# WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

**“Honoring Our Legacy -  
Aligning Our Leadership -  
Advancing God’s Mission”**

**📅 Date: February 7, 2026**

**🕒 Time: 12:00 PM – 3:20 PM**

Choose one session from each time block.

<i>Fellowship Hall</i>	<i>Sanctuary</i>	<i>Room 109-113</i>
<b>12:00 PM – 1:00 PM</b> “Your Prayer Assessment”, Betty Maddox	<b>12:00 PM – 1:00 PM</b> (No session in the Sanctuary during Lunch N Learn)	<b>12:00 PM – 1:00 PM</b> “How SPRC Supports Ministries”, Eldridge Stephens
<b>1:05 PM - 2:15 PM</b> “Communications 101”: Winsome Jean & Jean Brown	<b>1:05 PM - 2:15 PM</b> “Our God Is BIG: Leading with Faith Beyond Our Comfort Zones”, Demarcus Fields	<b>1:05 PM - 2:15 PM</b> “Constructing Leadership”, Rev. Joya Abrams
<b>2:20 PM – 3:20 PM</b> “Financial Stewardship in Your Ministry Area”, Pam Bates and Kwaku “KD” Berchie	<b>2:20 PM – 3:20 PM</b> “Every Child, His Child: Love, Support & Care – Phase 1”, Sharron McIntyre	<b>2:20 PM – 3:20 PM</b> “Communicating in Love: Crucial Conversations”, Dyanne Cunningham
<b>3:25 PM-4:00 PM</b> <i>General Session 4: Sanctuary</i> Leadership at Ben Hill: Your Role & Responsibility The Leadership Challenge The Sending Forth		

**• We will gather 15 minutes prior to the start of each day to pray. You are welcome to join us. On Friday, we will be in the rear of the Fellowship Hall by the kitchen. On Saturday, we will be in the rear of the Sanctuary.**



# LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP PRESENTERS & WORKSHOP DETAILS

## GENERAL SESSION SPEAKER

**REV. DR. DERRICK R. RHODES  
SR. PASTOR**



***"How We are Organized for Mission"***

***"Leadership at Ben Hill"***

***"The Leadership Challenge"***

Dr. Rhodes presents a mini-series of topics throughout the conference to provide an in depth explanation of how structure supports strategy for Mission. We will discuss our vision areas and identify which Circle of Commitment it influences. We will understand what Leadership should look like at Ben Hill and will receive the Leadership Challenge to serve.

## GENERAL SESSION SPEAKER: SHERYL STONE



***" Who We Are"***

This session grounds leaders in identity, gratitude, and a shared commitment to excellence at Ben Hill United Methodist Church. Participants will affirm Ben Hill's recognition as a Church of Excellence within the North Georgia Conference and explore Racial Justice and Healing as a sacred calling, not an optional ministry. The session reinforces that pursuing excellence in leadership and ministry is an act of faith that honors God and strengthens the church's witness.

## FACILITATOR: DYANNE CUNNINGHAM

***Communicating in Love: Crucial Conversations***

This session helps participants navigate crucial conversations in the church—those marked by high stakes, differing views, and strong emotions. By learning to speak with truth, love, and grace, participants will gain tools that can be transformational in strengthening relationships within the church, family, and friendships.



## FACILITATOR: BETTY MADDOX

***"Your Prayer Assessment"***

In this session, we will evaluate our PERSONAL time with God. Do we take the Lord's Prayer seriously enough? Do we pray the kinds of prayer God makes available and encourages us to pray? Do we consider others during our time apart with God?



# LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP PRESENTERS & WORKSHOP DETAILS

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## GENERAL SESSION SPEAKER AND WORKSHOP PRESENTER: REV. JOYA ABRAMS & NATE ABRAMS

### *“Constructing Leadership”*

The Lord is always doing a new thing. We will present a series of hands-on exercises intended to challenge and build leadership skills in changing times. We will focus on discernment, leadership through uncertainty, and adaptive leadership.

## FACILITATORS: JEAN BROWN & WINSOME JEAN

### *“Communications 101”*

This practical workshop equips ministry leaders with the essential tools and best practices for clear, consistent, and effective communication at Ben Hill UMC. Participants will receive an overview of church communication channels strategically used to engage members, build trust, and strengthen ministry impact.



## FACILITATOR: ELDRIDGE STEPHENS

### *“How SPRC Supports Ministry”*

This workshop clarifies the vital role of the Staff–Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) in strengthening and supporting ministries across the church. Participants will learn how SPRC partners with leaders, nurtures healthy staff–laity relationships, and helps create the conditions for effective, mission-aligned ministry.



# LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP PRESENTERS & WORKSHOP DETAILS

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**FACILITATORS:  
PAM BATES & "KD" BERCHE**

***"Financial Stewardship"***



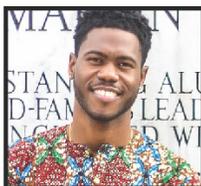
This workshop focuses on how collaboration across ministries helps align the vision and mission of Ben Hill UMC with the church's financial goals. Participants will explore how shared planning, stewardship, and transparent communication strengthen sustainability and faithful resource management.



**FACILITATOR:  
SHARRON MCINTYRE**

***"Every Child, His Child: Love, Support & Care - Phase 1"***

This faith-based training equips those who serve children and youth with the understanding needed to create welcoming, inclusive, and Christ-centered environments for children of all abilities. Phase 1 focuses on foundational awareness of neurodiversity, child development, and honoring every child as God's child, fully known, loved, and valued.



**FACILITATOR:  
DEMARCUS FIELDS**

***"Our God Is BIG: Leading with Faith Beyond Our Comfort Zones"***

When our leadership shrinks God to our systems, we limit the mission—but when we remember God is BIG, leadership expands. This workshop invites leaders to reflect on how faith, trust, and courage shape the way we lead in times of change and complexity.

# Special Thanks

*Thank you to all of our participants, members who donated, and workshop presenters for making this conference a meaningful and impactful experience for all.*

*To our Corporate Sponsors & Volunteers, Your time, service, generosity, and willingness to support our leaders has strengthened our collective purpose and brought the vision of this gathering to life. We could not have done this without you.*

*To the NLD Team, We are deeply grateful for your commitment to Ben Hill UMC and for helping advance God's mission through faithful leadership and collaboration.*

**Corporate Sponsors:**  
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Ben Hill United Methodist Church

# Leadership Conference Feedback Survey



Conference Materials are available on  
the Ben Hill UMC website:  
[benhillumc.org/leadership-resources](http://benhillumc.org/leadership-resources)

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