

REPORT OF THE ORDER OF ELDERS

“As members of the Order of Elder, all elders are in covenant with all other elders in the annual conference and shall participate in the life of their Order.” *The Book of Discipline.*

As Elders in the United Methodist Church we are members of the Annual Conference and are in a covenantal relationship with one another! I hold before us again the words of ¶333.1 of *The Book of Discipline*: ***“Elders in full connection with an annual conference by virtue of their election and ordination are bound in special covenant with all the ordained elders of the annual conference...They live with all other ordained ministers in mutual trust and concern and seek with them the sanctification of the fellowship.”*** It has been a pleasure to work hard to strengthen this relationship among the sisters and brothers within the Order of Elders.

I have tried to represent the concerns of the Elders of our Annual Conference as we plan various activities and opportunities for growth and development. Being a part of the planning team for the Bishop’s Retreat helps to ensure that there is a venue for growing, resting, bonding and regrouping as we come together with all of our clergy sisters and brothers in our Annual Conference. I’ve worked on the Clergy Excellence Team, whose report will be presented at this Annual Conference Session, as we move to more effective ministry and under-gird one another in our covenantal relationship as we support each other in ministry, and as we hold one another accountable in our calling.

The interview process is growing more hospitable and welcoming for our candidates as a result of suggestions made a few years ago and working with the Board. I continue to hear from candidates how disarming and relaxing the atmosphere is as our candidates move through our process of interviews.

I would like to take this time to welcome into the Order of Elders all those who are being ordained at this Annual Conference Session and pray that we will grow together in love, support and in ministry! As we continue to live out our covenantal relationship within our Annual Conference, please keep one another in prayer! If you have any comments or suggestions for me, please do not hesitate to pass them on! Again, I am honored and humbled to serve as your Chair and am open to anything that will help us be more faithful in our covenantal life together as Elders in the North Texas Conference.

May God bless you and your ministries **REAL** good!!!

Humbly submitted,
Tyrone D. Gordon, Chair
The Order of Elders