

# Ken Nelson | Episcopal Nominee

## MY FIRST 5 STEPS

How I  
Would  
Lead



*“Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundation of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in!”*

– Isaiah 58:12

### **Spend time getting to know the Annual Conference**

**1** I couldn't begin to fathom the unique complexities of any Annual Conference on my own. I will rely on people who have been on the front lines of ministry and mission in that Annual Conference to help me learn what it means to work among them. My first questions: Who is at the table? Who is missing? What is working well? What needs our immediate attention?

### **Identify strategies for stabilizing the Annual Conference**

**2** **Emotionally** – Our denomination is in the midst of an identity crisis and a time of trauma. We will rebuild authentic community and trust with one another. Our witness as a church has been damaged, and we must be “repairers of the breach!”

**Financially** – As we move in and through this season of transition, there will be losses – churches, relationships and giving. Yet, others will come! While our mission will not waver, we will re-align our vision with our resources, people and property. There will be both pain and joy in this. The pandemic has shown that we can thrive when facing uncertainty and upheaval.

**Missionally** – We will help the Annual Conference focus and engage, and renew our commitment to our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by focusing on:

- Congregational Vitality
- Leadership Development
- Community Engagement
- Reality, Then Possibility

*“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.” (John 15:1-2, NRSVUE)*

## Reset/Reboot

**3** Working with Annual Conference leaders – with input from all levels of laity and clergy – we will envision the life we want. What is God’s dream and call for us? How we will do life together? This will include:

- Determining our core values, and communicating and sharing them with everyone.
- Breaking down our goals into actionable steps – and immediately get busy being and doing!
- Setting clear goals for what we want to accomplish. To be fruitful, we must begin with the end in mind.
- Letting go of those things that don’t enable us to achieve our goals. What are we willing to stop doing?

## Pause/Breathe

**4** Take some time to clear our minds and hearts. Check on the team. Are we getting there together?

## Write the next chapter

**5** This is God’s story! This is a continuing story of a loving God who has been working from the beginning of time to transform the world into what that God intends it to be! That same God has invited us to join in that work of re-ordering the world by serving as repairers of the breach and as agents of reconciliation and transformation. It’s time to turn the page and begin to write the next chapter!

“I bring a spirit of calculated risk-taking, a willingness to think

**outside the box**

while staying

**in the book.**

I am strategic about naming current realities while dreaming about new

**possibilities.**

I am not afraid to surround myself with colleagues who

**think differently.”**

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