



The Advance Journal
Volume 2

**North Central Jurisdictional Conference
of The United Methodist Church**

**July 13-16, 2016
Peoria, Illinois
Illinois Great Rivers Conference**

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Volume 2 Introduction

Volume 2 of the 2016 NCJ Advance Journal contains the information delegates will need for the Episcopal election process and final reports that were not ready at the printing of Volume 1. All delegates need to bring both volumes of The Advance Journal with you to Jurisdictional Conference. There will not be extra copies available.

Delegation Room Assignments

The following rooms have been assigned for scheduled delegation meeting times as well as other times a delegation may wish to meet. All rooms are located in the Convention Center.

Dakotas Conference	Room 201
Detroit Conference	Room 218
East Ohio Conference	Room 209
Illinois Great Rivers Conference	Room 213
Indiana Conference	Room 221
Iowa Conference	Room 220
Minnesota Conference	Room 210
Northern Illinois Conference	Room 211
West Michigan Conference	Room 200
West Ohio Conference	Room 222
Wisconsin Conference	Room 212

Episcopal Nominee Room Assignments

The following rooms have been assigned for scheduled Nominee Forum meeting times. All rooms are located in the Convention Center.

Rev. Armando Areallano	Room 220
Rev. Dr. David Bard	Room 210
Rev. Dr. Frank Beard	Room 221
Rev. Kennetha Bingham-Tsai	Room 201
Rev. Dr. Charles Boayue, Jr.	Room 218
Rev. Susan Brown	Room 200
Rev. Dr. Jerry DeVine	Room 402
Rev. Dr. Lillian Gallo Seagren	Room 202
Rev. Dr. Gary George	Room 222
Rev. Laurie Haller	Room 401
Rev. David Meredith	Room 403
Rev. Dr. Christopher Ritter	Room 404
Rev. Dr. Samuel Royappa	Room 212
Rev. Dr. Tracy Smith Malone	Room 211
Rev. Dr. Barrie Tritle	Room 209
Rev. Dr. Sylvester Weatherall	Room 213
Rev. Dr. Zaki Labib Zaki	Room 405

Peoria Civic Center – Hall C
Plenary Session Seating
(This is a corrected Seating Chart from that printed in Volume I)

Stage			
1-6 (Epis. Spouses)	7-12 (Sec/Worship)	13-18 (Detroit)	19-24 (Detroit)
25-30(Ep. Spouses)	31-36 (Wisconsin)	37-42 (Wisconsin)	43-48 (W. Mich)
49-54 (West Ohio)	55-60 (West Ohio)	61-66 (West Ohio)	67-72 (West Ohio)
73-78 (West Ohio)	79-84 (West Ohio)	85-90 (No. Illinois)	91-96 (No. Illinois)
97-102 (Iowa)	103-108 (Iowa)	109-114 (Iowa)	115-120 (Iowa)
	Cam 1	Cam 2	
121-126 (Minn.)	127-32 (MN./Dak)	133-138 (E Ohio)	139-144 (E Ohio)
145-150 (Ind)	151-156 (Ind)	157-162 (E Ohio)	163-168 (E Ohio)
169 – 174 (Ind)	175-180 (Ind)	181-186 (Ind.)	187-188(Ind.)
193-198 (Gen Ch)	199-204 (Gen Ch)	205-210 (IGRC)	211-216 (IGRC)
217-222 (Press)	223-228 (Press)	229-234 (IGRC)	235-236 (IGRC)
Guest and Visitors			

Episcopal Spouses: 1-6 and 25-30
Dakotas: 129-132
East Ohio: 133-144, 157-168
Indiana: 145-156, 169-192
Minnesota: 121-128
West Michigan: 43-46 (Take out 47-48)
Wisconsin: 31-42
Press: 217-228

Secretarial Staff & Worship Leaders: 7-12
Detroit: 13-24
Illinois Great Rivers: 205-216, 229-236
Iowa: 97-120
Northern Illinois: 85-96
West Ohio: 49-80 (Take out 81-84)
General Church Representatives: 193-204

Mics placed on the outer and center aisles of Row 3 and 8

Treasurer's Report

A look at the NCJ Audit (in this workbook) and our June 30, 2016 financial statement (handed out) will reveal that the NCJ has well over \$600,000 on-hand.

This is the only job I've ever held where I have to apologize for making money.

But, of course, the object of the NCJ Treasury is not to make money. The object is to facilitate mission. I would just want to remind the delegates that this money won't go away. At some point, it will be used to facilitate mission and, we hope, will be effective in helping to make Disciples for Jesus Christ.

The budgetary surplus is a result of three factors:

1. The extraordinary apportionment support from the NCJ Annual Conferences
2. Budget surplus from the last quadrennium that carried over to 2013-2017
3. A reduction in spending activity among several NCJ-supported ministries

In detail:

1. Apportionment receipts: Annual conferences have just been outstanding in their support of the NCJ Apportionments. At this writing, most are current in their apportionment payments. At the end of 2015, all the conferences were current except for one. We fully expect that at the end of this quadrennium, all conferences will have paid 100%, just like they did at the end of the last quadrennium.
2. Last quadrennium's budget surplus: A former NCJ treasurer informed me that there would be a run on unspent budget line items at the end of the 2012 quadrennium. For whatever reason, that didn't happen. I had predicted that we would have \$50,000 cash in-hand on January 1, 2013. Instead, it was closer to \$350,000. That factor alone explains most of the current surplus. So the question becomes, "Will we see the ministry groups crank up at the end of 2016?" Since the financial year doesn't end until December 31, 2016, it remains to be seen.
3. Reduction in spending activity: I will not try to analyze why, but it seems like interest is waning in Jurisdictional ministries. There was a time when we could count on folks traveling long distances, meeting for days, and taking an interest in multi-state ministry efforts. This does not seem to be that time. At this writing, there were some groups that didn't get off the ground in this quadrennium. Others had less activity than anticipated at budget-setting time. Some were just downright thrifty – and the treasurer appreciates that. Once again, however, the question becomes, "What happens between now and December 31, 2016?"

Here are some things to celebrate:

1. The financial policies which were put in place by the 2012 NCJ Conference have been wholly successful, I believe. We have come a long way in IRS compliance and in sound financial accountability.
2. I was astonished to discover that the NCJ had no insurance. I think we had assumed that GCFA provided some insurance protection. That is not the case. So I hope it is

comforting to the delegates to know that you are now insured. The insurance is not very expensive, but it would be crazy not to have it.

3. The NCJ books are being audited annually now as required by the Book of Discipline. The audit complies with GAAP standards and a copy of the 2015 audit is included in this workbook. The audit found no deficiencies.

I hope you will remember that in 2012, the Mission Council agreed to underwrite the expenses of an ad-hoc task force which was created to examine jurisdictional structures. This, and two other unbudgeted expenses (insurance and audit) will probably take the Mission Council over budget, especially when the expenses of the fall 2016 organizational meeting are realized.

I will be laying down the mantle of the NCJ Treasurer on December 31, 2016. I am especially grateful for your patience with me and for many new friendships. There are wonderful people all throughout the Jurisdiction whom I would have never met had it not been for this opportunity. Thank you very much for these last eight years.

SUPPORT FOR THE NEW BUDGET APPROACH

As the outgoing treasurer, I want to encourage your support for the new approach to funding jurisdictional ministries, as reflected in the proposed budget.

I think that when various jurisdictional ministries began, they were bold, fresh, innovative and probably lacking support from annual conference budgets. So, when support emerged from the NCJ, it provided an opportunity for wonderful and helpful ministries to get off the ground floor. I'm not sure that it was ever the intent of the jurisdiction to provide perpetual financial support to various ministries for past decades and decades to come.

Further, we find that our connections to some of the ministries under the jurisdictional umbrella have lost their vitality. The Mission Council set up a "liaison" system which has had limited success. No one is to blame. I think everyone has tried to do their best, but communications have been difficult. We have lost touch with each other. Even the Mission Council meetings themselves are poorly attended.

Everybody I have met within the jurisdictional connection are warm, loving, mission-driven and responsible people. But, by nature, our systems lack the kind of accountability we would expect to find at the local church or conference level. Donors want to know – beyond a shadow of a doubt – that their contributions are making a difference.

The budgetary paradigm proposed by the Mission Council is an effort to return to a time when the Jurisdiction provided start-up funds for exciting and innovative emerging ministries that have a jurisdiction-wide impact. It also envisions continuing support for projects proposed by the current established ministries.

Funds would be distributed on the basis of grant applications, carefully considered by the elected members of your Mission Council. So, a project would have an application, a beginning, an end, and an evaluation.

A key part of the proposal is to involve the Directors of Connectional Ministries (DCMs) in each conference in an advisory role. This will give them the ability to integrate jurisdictional funding into the overall financial support of a proposed project. Wouldn't you want your program people involved in the program planning of the Jurisdiction?

In my eight years as NCJ Treasurer, I have spoken with DCMs, conference treasurers and even Bishops who had no idea that a jurisdictional ministry was operating within the bounds of their conference. Introducing widespread buy-in to a particular project will encourage better communication, we hope.

Further, established ministries need not be threatened by this new paradigm. Perhaps this is simplistic, but I have said that "The NCJ distributes funds to various ministries and they figure out how to spend it." In the new paradigm, they will figure out how to spend it, and then receive the funds.

As with anything new, it will take some time to work out the kinks and become comfortable with a new way of doing things. I hope you will keep your new treasurer and your new Mission Council in your prayers and please be as patient with them as you have been with me.

Respectfully,

Rick Van Giesen

**THE NORTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

December 31, 2015 and 2014



ECK, SCHAFER & PUNKE, LLP
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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Independent Auditors' Report

To the Mission Council of The North Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church
and to the College of Bishops of The North Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church

The North Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church Springfield, Illinois

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of The North Central Jurisdictional Conference of the United Methodist Church (the Jurisdiction), a nonprofit organization, which are comprised of the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditors consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness

of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The North Central Jurisdictional Conference of the United Methodist Church as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Eck, Schaefer & Puntke, LLP

Springfield, Illinois April 27, 2016

The North Central Jurisdictional Conference
of The United Methodist Church

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 742,149	\$ 684,394
Accounts receivable	<u>13,560</u>	<u>8 519</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ <u>755,709</u>	\$ <u>692,913</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$ 3,392	\$ 3,306
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	<u>52,317</u>	<u>689,607</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ <u>755,709</u>	\$ <u>692,913</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

The North Central Jurisdictional Conference
of The United Methodist Church

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

Years Ended December 31

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
REVENUES		
Apportionments	\$ 268,075	\$ 268,075
Special Missions	55,912	41,724
Tuition	6,400	1,755
Investment Income	1,851	2,331
Other Income	<u>-</u>	<u>22</u>
Total Revenues	332,238	313,907
EXPENSES		
Jurisdictional Conference	7,785	4,336
Mission Council	15,360	9,071
Committee on Episcopacy	17,782	13,478
Archives and History	200	200
I-75 Project	50,000	-
Urban Network	-	768
Volunteers in Mission	6,250	12,500
Town and Country Network	-	6,140
Korean Ministries	105,023	60,305
Hispanic Ministries	26,700	20,025
Native American Ministries	21,969	15,116
Youth Ministries	-	3,392
Religion and Race	5,949	292
Midwest Mission Distribution Center	1,500	1,125
NCS Developers	1,000	2,087
Transitional Assistance	-	18,000
Miscellaneous	<u>10,010</u>	<u>11,519</u>
Total Expenses	<u>269,528</u>	<u>178,354</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSESTS	62,710	135,553
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>689,607</u>	<u>554,054</u>
NET ASSESTS AT END OF YEAR	<u>752,317</u>	<u>689,607</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

The North Central Jurisdictional Conference
of The United Methodist Church

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

Years Ended December 31

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Change in net assets	\$ 62,710	\$ 135,553
Adjustments to reconcile the change in net assets to net cash flows from operating activities		
Changes in operating assets and liabilities		
Accounts Receivable	(5,041)	19,401
Accounts Payable	<u>86</u>	<u>3,306</u>
Net cash flows from operating activities	<u>57,755</u>	<u>158,260</u>
CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	57,755	158,260
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>684,394</u>	<u>526,134</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF YEAR	<u>742,149</u>	<u>684,394</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

The North Central Jurisdictional Conference
of The United Methodist Church

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2015 and 2014

NOTE A - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A summary of the significant accounting policies consistently applied in the preparation of the accompanying financial statements follows.

1. Nature of Activities

The North Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church (the Jurisdiction), a not-for-profit organization, operates as a religious organization. The Jurisdiction is one of five Jurisdictional Conferences in the United States. The Jurisdiction is supported primarily through the apportionments of the eleven United Methodist Church conferences in the jurisdiction. It was created to provide connections for the unique leadership, spiritual and outreach development across the jurisdiction, and to provide for election and assignment of bishops in the jurisdiction.

2. Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Jurisdiction have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when incurred.

3. Financial Statement Presentation

Under accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the Jurisdiction is required to report information regarding financial position and activities according to three classes of net assets: unrestricted net assets, temporarily restricted net assets, and permanently restricted net assets. The Jurisdiction has no temporarily or permanently restricted net assets at December 31, 2015 and 2014.

4. Cash and Cash Equivalents

For purposes of the statement of cash flows, the Jurisdiction considers all highly-liquid debt instruments purchased with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash and cash equivalents.

5. Contributions

Contributions received are recorded as unrestricted, temporarily restricted or permanently restricted support depending on the existence and nature of any donor restrictions. As permitted, contributions with restrictions that are met in the same reporting period are reported as unrestricted support.

The North Central Jurisdictional Conference
of The United Methodist Church

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

December 31, 2015 and 2014

NOTE A - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT POLICIES - CONTINUED

6. Income Taxes

In an annually updated ruling, the Internal Revenue Service has held that the agencies, instrumentalities and educational, charitable, and religious institutions operated, supervised, or controlled by or in connection with The United Methodists Church, its territories or possessions appearing in the annual update are exempt from federal income tax under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Jurisdiction is listed in annual update and therefore is exempt from income tax. Accordingly, the accompanying financial statements reflect no provision for income tax and the Fund does not file a Federal Form 990 or the state equivalent.

Management evaluated the Jurisdiction's tax positions in accordance with the accounting standard on accounting for uncertainty in income taxes and concluded that the Jurisdiction had no uncertain tax positions that require adjustment to the financial statements to comply with the provisions of the accounting standards. In addition, management is not aware of any matters which would cause the Jurisdiction to lose its tax-exempt status. ·

7. Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results may differ from those estimates.

8. Subsequent Events

The Jurisdiction assessed events that have occurred subsequent to December 31, 2015 through April 27, 2016, the date the financial statements were available to be issued, for potential recognition and disclosure in the financial statements. No events have occurred that would require adjustment to or disclosure in the financial statements.

NOTE B - RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Jurisdiction is affiliated with the eleven conferences in its area. The Jurisdiction's fiscal viability depends on these eleven conferences.

ECK, SCHAFFER & PUNKE, LLP
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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To the Mission Council of The North Central Jurisdiction
of The United Methodist Church
and
to the College of Bishops of The North Central Jurisdiction
of The United Methodist Church
The North Central Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church
Springfield, Illinois

We have audited the financial statements of The North Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church (the Jurisdiction) for the year ended December 31, 2015, and have issued our report thereon dated April 27, 2016. Professional standards require that we provide you with the following information related to our audit.

Our Responsibility under Auditing Standards Generally Accepted in the United States of America

As stated in our engagement letter dated November 20, 2015, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to express an opinion about whether the financial statements prepared by management with your oversight are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your responsibilities.

Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; therefore, our audit will involve judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested.

Our audit will include obtaining an understanding of the Jurisdiction and its environment, including internal control, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures. Material misstatements may result from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the entity or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the Jurisdiction. We will communicate our significant findings at the conclusion of the audit.

Required Communication (SAS 114)

We performed the audit according to the planned scope and timing.

Significant Audit Findings

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter, we will advise management about the appropriateness of accounting policies and their application. The significant accounting policies used by the Jurisdiction are described in Note A to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2015. We noted no transactions entered into by the Jurisdiction during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. There are no significant transactions that have been recognized in the financial statements in a different period than when the transaction occurred.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. There were no particularly sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements.

The disclosures in the financial statements are neutral, consistent and clear. Certain financial statement disclosures may be particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. There were no particularly sensitive disclosures affecting the financial statements.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. In addition, none of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Required Communication (SAS 114)

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditors' report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated April 27, 2016.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Jurisdiction's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditors' opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

This information is intended solely for the use of the Councils and management of The North Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Eck, Schafer & Panko, LLP

Springfield, Illinois April 27, 2016

Required Communication (SAS 114)

PROCEDURES FOR EPISCOPAL ELECTIONS

The secretary of the jurisdiction shall assign a voting number to each clergy delegate and any others who have properly submitted an Episcopal Nominee Information Form. A person who has not been assigned a voting number may secure one by requesting such in writing from the secretary. The bishop presiding shall report the additional name(s) and voting number(s) to the Jurisdictional Conference.

Balloting and Procedures

A 60% majority of the valid votes cast on any ballot is needed for the election of a bishop (see Rule 25-E).

Prior to every ballot, a bishop or member of the Committee on Episcopacy will lead the conference in prayer.

1. Reporting the first ballot:
 - a) In the event of an election, the name and vote tally of the elected person shall be announced first and that person introduced to the conference by a member of the Committee on Episcopacy. After such introduction, the bishop presiding will continue reading the names only on the rest of the first ballot.
 - b) All persons receiving ten or more votes shall be introduced alphabetically by the chair of the Committee on Episcopacy. Upon introduction, each nominee will give name, community where presently residing, and current appointment. An opportunity for withdrawal from nomination shall be given by the bishop presiding.

If any of these nominees has not completed an Episcopal Nominee Information Form previously, one will be furnished by the secretary. The nominee will have thirty (30 minutes) to return the form to the secretary who will copy it for distribution to the delegates prior to the next ballot.

- c) The names and vote totals of the nominees will be read in descending order of votes received following the interviews and before the second ballot is taken.
2. Interviews. All nominees, having been introduced to the conference will be assigned rooms for interviews. Space for these interviews will be arranged by the Local Arrangements Committee. The interview moderators shall be the lay members of the Committee on Episcopacy with additional lay members of the Jurisdictional Conference being selected by the committee as needed. Three twenty-minute periods shall be scheduled with ten-minute breaks between each period, providing every delegate an opportunity to hear and question three candidates. This process will be followed by a thirty-minute period for delegation meetings.
 3. After the interviews and report of first ballot votes, balloting shall continue for the second and subsequent ballots in this manner: In the event of an election, the name and vote tally of the elected person shall be announced and that person introduced to the conference by a member of the Committee on Episcopacy. After such an

introduction, the bishop presiding will continue the reading of the results of the ballot in descending order of votes received by those who obtained ten or more votes.

4. Balloting shall continue until the elections are completed **by 12:00 noon on Friday (unless the conference shall suspend this rule)**. To facilitate the election process, a variety of opportunities for dialogue shall be offered: nominee interviews, spot conversations, delegation meetings or other processes determined by the jurisdictional conference.
 - a. Spot conversations are for those situations when delegations might need a brief time together.
 - b. Delegation meetings provide opportunity for delegations to converse among themselves regarding the election and to receive further information regarding any of the nominees.
5. A nominee may formally withdraw his/her name before the beginning of any ballot by either:
 - a. submitting a withdrawal in writing to the Jurisdictional Conference secretary who will immediately notify the bishop presiding and who, in turn, will report the withdrawal, or
 - b. submitting their withdrawal orally through a point of personal privilege (two-minute limit recommended).

Episcopal Nominee Information
for
Rev. Armando C. Arellano



Name: Armando C. Arellano

Conference: East Ohio Conference

Street/PO Box Address: 26370 Edgecliff Drive

City/State/Zip: Euclid, OH 44132

Telephone: 440-813-1415 **Fax:** 216-261-9735 **Email:** armandoarellano1964@yahoo.com

Current Appointment: East Shore United Methodist Church

Family: Wife: Deborah C. Arellano, Registered Nurse
Sons: Shalom C. Arellano and Armando C. Arellano II

Background and Experience:

Formal and Significant Continuing Education:

Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering: Far Eastern University, Manila, Philippines
Master of Divinity: Union Theological Seminary, Cavite, Philippines
Master of Theology: Western Theological Seminary, Holland, Michigan
Doctor of Ministry: Ashland Theological Seminary, Ashland, Ohio (Student)
Pastors of Excellence Program: Ashland Theological Seminary, Ashland, Ohio
Church Planting Seminar (Ashland Theological Seminary)
New Church Start Academy: East Ohio Conference
Practical Ministry Training: Incheon, South Korea
Inter-Faith Peace Builder: Palestine/Israel

Ordination Dates and Conference of Which You Were a Member:

Deacon: 1991- Philippines Annual Conference
Elder in Full Connection: 1992: Philippines Annual Conference
Elder/Full Connection: 2000: Transferred membership to East Ohio Conference

Previous Work Experiences and Pastoral Appointments:

1986-1991: Student Local Pastor- Philippines Annual Conference
1991-1992: Puno Memorial United Methodist Church- Philippines Annual Conference
1992-1994: Kamuning First United Methodist Church- Philippines Annual Conference
East
1994-1995: To attend school- Western Theological Seminary, Holland, Michigan
1995-2001: Emmanuel United Methodist Church- East Ohio Conference
2001-2005: East Conneaut United Methodist Church- East Ohio Conference
2005-2011: Garfield Heights United Methodist Church- East Ohio Conference
2011-2015: Henrietta United Methodist Church- East Ohio Conference
2015-Present: East Shore United Methodist Church- East Ohio Conference

Connectional and Ecumenical Church Experiences:**Current:**

8th Year as chairperson of the Commission on Religion and Race, East Ohio Conference
(I am the first non-African-American to chair the CORR)
Lakeshore Ministry Group
Newly elected Vice-Chairperson of the North Central Jurisdiction Commission on
Religion and Race
I am honored to be elected a delegate to General Conference: 2012; 2016
I am honored to be elected a delegate to Jurisdictional Conference: 2008; 2012; 2016

Previous:

2004-2008: Board of Ordained Ministry- East Ohio Conference
Committee on Racial-Ethnic Empowerment- East Ohio Conference
Compass Group, Convener
Conneaut Area Ministerial Association, President

Community Service Activity:**Current:**

“Soup’s On” a Community Meal sponsored by the East Shore United Methodist Church;
Cleveland Critical Mass Bike Ride
Pedaling Parsons: Pedaling for Mission

Previous:

Numerous Years: Volunteers in Mission (Red Bird Mission, Urban Mission, Nehemiah
Mission, Good Works, Sower, Mississippi UMCOR)
2006-2010: Order of the Knights of Rizal, Past Chapter Commander (Non-Religious,
Non-Political, Civic Organization Chartered by the Republic of the Philippines).
2014: Mercy Thrift Store (volunteer) Lorain, OH

Publications, Awards, Honors:

2001 Town & Country Small Church Award (Emmanuel United Methodist Church)
Increased in membership and attendance, mission and outreach to the Filipino
ethnic minority.

Writing books is not one of my gifts and graces. But I love to read books!

Special Interests and/or Hobbies:

Traveling to historical places; reading, and watching movies (action and adventure)
Biking (Pedaling Parsons: Pedaling for Mission)

Faith and Leadership Issues

Describe Your Understanding of the Nature and Mission of the Church:

The United Methodist Church's nature is a Body of Christ that is universal/ global in nature. The UMC's primary mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ crossing all boundaries, culture, color, gender and even sexual orientation.

Share Your Vision for The United Methodist Church:

My vision for the United Methodist Church is to remain a church that is faithful and united in reaching out to the world by making disciples of Jesus Christ. A Body of Christ with a global presence meeting the needs of all people that is grounded in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Furthermore, my vision for the UMC is to be a church that provides hope to the poor, hungry, and destitute; assisting people who are victims of injustices.

Describe Your Concept and Style of Leadership:

I believe in the concept of shared or team work style of leadership. I believe that this style of leadership works best for a maximum or optimum effectiveness considering that the United Methodist Church's structure is a partnership between clergy and laity, from the pulpit to the pew, from the church corner to the street corner. I am a visionary, risk-taker and not afraid of doing and introducing new things.

Describe Your Gifts and Graces:

I was born and raised in the Philippines (both identified as Asian and Pacific Islander). I am Bilingual and fluent both in English and *Tagalog-Pilipino*. I grew up in the Asian/Filipino culture and nurtured in the Western/American culture. Trained, educated and served churches both in the Philippines and the United States. I have the experience of helping in the organization of and the formation of, a mission church into a full-local church in the Philippines.

I served churches in the Philippines for eight years and I am on my 21st year serving churches in the United States. I have a gift of leading and serving cross-racial/cross-cultural and even multi-cultural appointments.

Describe How You Have Experienced the Call to the Episcopacy and How God Has Prepared You for the Episcopacy:

I have a deep love and passion for our beloved denomination and it breaks my heart seeing and experiencing that our church is on a membership decline, particularly in the United States. God has gifted our denomination with the structure and resources that can be used more effectively in making disciples of Jesus Christ to transform the world. For the past 103 years of the Filipino Methodist presence in the United Methodist connection in the United States, we have not elected a Filipino-American bishop. It is my hope and prayer that through the North Central

Jurisdiction's discernment, the First Filipino-American bishop will be elected as a gift to the global church.

My pastoral experience for the past 28 years serving churches both in the Philippines and the United States, from city churches to country churches, has prepared me to have a better understanding of the diverse and multi-cultural nature of our global denomination. I have spent more than half of my life pastoring congregations at the local church level, while maintaining my connection within the denomination by serving the district, conference, jurisdiction, and general church levels of The United Methodist Church. On two different occasions (2011 & 2015), delegates to the East Ohio Conference raised my name to be considered for the Episcopal office. I am honored to be part of the Top 10 nominees. For me this is a confirmation of what people see in me when it comes to gifts and graces, as well as the leadership that I can provide for our jurisdiction and denomination.

Endorsements:

- National Association of Filipino American United Methodists
- Korean American Caucus of East Ohio Conference

Episcopal Nominee Information
for
Rev. Dr. David A. Bard



Name: David Alan Bard

Conference: Minnesota

Street/PO Box Address: 230 E. Skyline Parkway

City/State/Zip: Duluth, MN 55811

Telephone: 218-727-5021 **Cell:** 218-340-3666 **Fax:** 218-727-5022

Email: pastor@fumcduluth.com

Web Page: www.davidabard.org

Current Appointment: Lead Pastor, First United Methodist Church, Duluth, Minnesota

Family: My wife Julie, to whom I have been married since 1982, is a first grade teacher. We have three adult children: David L. who works in public service and politics; Elizabeth (Beth) who is an Ob/Gyn resident; and Sarah who is completing her studies in Physical Therapy (graduating with her doctorate in May 2016)

Background and Experience:

Formal and Significant Continuing Education:

BA, University of Minnesota, Duluth, 1981. Majors: philosophy and psychology
M.Div., United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, 1984
Ph.D., Southern Methodist University, 1994. Focus on Christian ethics

Among some of my important continuing education experiences: School of Congregational Development; Blandin Community Leadership Program; United Methodist United Nations Seminar Program; workshops on Intercultural Competence using the IDI, including a denominational workshop on cross-racial, cross-cultural appointments; workshops on conflict transformation; training in Respectful Conversations; Soul Leaders retreat; study group on The Agile Church; Day-long

workshops with Jim Harnish, Susan Beaumont, and Ken Nash; District Superintendent training. I consider the work trips made to Wesley Community Center, Robstown, TX, United Methodist Boy's Ranch, Gore, OK, Tree of Life Ministries, Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota to have been wonderful education opportunities.

Ordination Dates and Conference of Which You Were a Member:

Ordained Deacon, granted probationary membership, Minnesota Conference, 1984

Ordained Elder, granted full membership, Minnesota Conference, 1986

Previous Work Experiences and Pastoral Appointments:

First United Methodist Church, Duluth, 2005-present

Northwest District Superintendent, Minnesota Conference, 1998-2005

Central Mesabi United Methodist Parish, 1994-1998

Ridgewood Park UMC, Dallas, TX: part-time associate pastor for youth ministry
(while appointed to attend school), 1987-1994

Roseau United Methodist Church, 1984-1987

Adjunct Faculty, College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, MN, 2006-present.

Religious Perspectives in Health Care Ethics; Religious Perspectives on
Living, Dying and Grieving

Freelance writer, *The Duluth Budgeteer*, 2014-present

Adjunct Faculty, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, 1999-2005. United
Methodist History and Polity

Connectional and Ecumenical Church Experiences:

Current: Study on Ministry Commission; Committee on Faith and Order; Delegate and Head of Delegation to General and Jurisdictional Conference; North Central Jurisdiction Committee on the Episcopacy (currently serving and served 2005-2008); Chairperson, MN Conference Committee on the Episcopacy; Chairperson MN Conference Higher Education Ministry Team; MN Conference Board of Ordained Ministry (I have served in various roles on the Board including Cabinet representative, vice-chairperson, registrar); MN Conference Congregational Response Team; Teacher of United Methodist Studies for Minnesota-Dakotas Lay Servant Ministries; Participant in FACT process in the MN Conference; Bishop's Task Force on Human Sexuality; MN Conference parliamentarian.

Previous: Delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conference (2000, 2004, 2008, 2012), chaired legislative committee on Higher Education and Ministry, 2012 General Conference; General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, 2004-2012, chaired the legislative committee 2009-2012; Commission on General Conference, 2004-2012, served on the Plan of Organization and Rules of Order Committee; United Methodist Commission on Theological Education of the University Senate, 2008-2012; Minnesota Council of Churches Nominations Committee, 2007-2012, chairperson 2010-2012; MN Conference Commission on Religion and Race; Part of the writing team for MN Conference document on United Methodism and Marriage; MN Conference Conflict Transformation Team; MN Conference Restructuring and Structure Review task forces; Instructor at UMW School of Christian Mission, 2006 – *Shalom, Salaam, Peace*

Community Service Activity:

Current: Heading Home St. Louis County Governance Board, 2015-present; Partner Advisory Board, Youth Theology Institute, College of St. Scholastica; planning teams for community forums on gun violence, racism, Native Americans and the Doctrine of Discovery (all events held in the winter/spring of 2016); leading an interfaith book group in the community since 2008, coordinated by the Oreck-Alpern Interfaith Forum, College of St. Scholastica

Previous: Life House Board of Directors, 2009-2014, secretary 2010-2014 (Life House provides services to youth who are experiencing or are in danger of experiencing homelessness); University of Wisconsin, Superior planning team for two events on congregational conflict transformation; College of St. Scholastica Institutional Review Board, 2005-2008; mentor in the Superior, WI public schools; Service Learning Committee, ISD 709, 2006-2008; Founding Board Member Open Hands, Open Hearts Food Shelf, Nashwauk, MN; Board Member, Second Harvest North Central Food Bank; Board Member, North Central Ministry Development Center

Publications, Awards, Honors:

I am honored to have the endorsement of the Minnesota Conference as nominee for the office of bishop in The United Methodist Church. I was the first recipient of the Schubert Ogden Award for Academic Excellence in Theology in the Graduate Program in Religious Studies, Southern Methodist University, 1993-1994. George Dayton Scholarship, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, 1981-1984. "Thank a Professor" award, Center for Teaching Excellence, College of St. Scholastica, 2013.

In addition to a monthly column in a local small press newspaper, here are other publications and noteworthy public presentations:

Panelist, *Pathways to Peace, An Interfaith Response to Gun Violence*. Temple Israel, Duluth, MN. February 28, 2016.

Therefore Go... And Stop... And Go. Sermon preached at the chapel of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, February 25, 2016.

Out Through the In Door. Sermon preached at the chapel of Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, MN, February 18, 2016.

Men... Full of the Spirit and of Wisdom. Guest Speaker, Men's Retreat, St. Mark AME Church, Duluth, MN. May 4, 2014.

At the Intersection of Information and Integrity, Northeastern Minnesota Health Information Management Association, November 17, 2011.

What Do the Churches Teach About Assisted Suicide in What Do the Churches Think series, College of St. Scholastica, November 1, 2010.

What Do Methodists Think About Seeking Perfection (Process and Results)? In What Do Protestants think series. College of St. Scholastica, October 5, 2009.

Review of Ducking Spears, Dancing Madly. *Circuit Rider* on-line, September/October 2005.

“The Wild Energy of Hope,” *Circuit Rider*, March/April 2005.

Panelist, “When is Justice Served?” St. John’s School of Theology (Collegeville, MN), *Rethinking Justice and Forgiveness: a forum on moral leadership*, July 7-9, 2004.

Wildly Wise and Winged, Sermon preached at the Minnesota Conference of The United Methodist Church, June, 1995

Political Majorities, Political Minorities and the Common Good: an analysis of understandings of democracy in recent Christian Political Ethics. Ph. D. dissertation, Southern Methodist University, 1994.

Special Interests and/or Hobbies:

I enjoy reading of many kinds – theology, philosophy, psychology, leadership, history, biography, fiction, poetry, mysteries; movies; I enjoy music – primarily jazz and classic rock; I am a baseball fan; I like walking and exercise; spending time with my family is always a joy; I enjoy cooking

Faith and Leadership Issues

Describe Your Understanding of the Nature and Mission of the Church:

The church exists because of the grace of God in Jesus Christ. In and by the power of the Holy Spirit the church is called to be a witnessing community. We witness to God’s love in Jesus by proclaiming the good news of that love and by joining in God’s work of love and justice in the world. At the heart of our proclamation is also an invitation to others to join us in the journey of discipleship, a journey that transforms persons and the world. I affirm the stated mission of The United Methodist Church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Share Your Vision for The United Methodist Church:

The United Methodist Church shares with the broader Christian tradition the basic affirmations that God is love, Jesus is Lord, and the church exists in the power of the Spirit to witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ in word and deed. Within the wider Christian tradition, The United Methodist Church seeks to embody Wesleyan emphases including the vital importance of on-going growth in grace, on-going transformation by the Spirit, a faith that engages heart and mind, and concern to make a positive difference in the wider world. My vision for the United Methodist Church is that we would live out these Wesleyan values with joy and vibrancy. I am committed to working with all clergy and lay people to help our congregations foster a Christian faith that is thoughtful, passionate, and compassionate. Together we can build church

communities that are vibrant, resilient, and have a generous spirit. We want United Methodists to be people who are joyful, genuine, gentle, generous and concerned for justice. In our day and time, I think this requires a “new connectionalism” where within our Wesleyan stream of the Christian tradition we have the flexibility to take ministry contexts more deeply into account in decision-making. In a new connectionalism we find our unity in our shared Wesleyan values, providing a powerful witness to a dangerously divided world that people can love alike even when we do not think alike. The gifts I have for deep and careful listening, building bridges, and working with people from differing backgrounds and perspectives can help build this new connectionalism. I envision a United Methodist Church that is spiritually powerful – reaching out in a complex and rapidly changing world, welcoming people to faith in Jesus, and helping people grow in love of God and neighbor; communally vibrant – diverse and inclusive; and a force for compassion, peace, justice, reconciliation and repair. The broader Christian tradition benefits from a vibrant Wesleyan stream. The world, torn apart by division and violence, losing sight of common goods, where too many are spiritually adrift, where too many go hungry, where too many are abused, where we are not caring for our planet as we should, benefits from a spiritually powerful, communally vibrant, globally connected United Methodist Church. Working together, inspired by God's love, energized by God's Spirit, we can create this kind of United Methodist Church.

Describe Your Concept and Style of Leadership:

- A listening leader
- A thoughtful leader/reflective practitioner. The world is wonderfully complex, and adaptive challenges ask of us that we learn as we go.
- A collaborative leader. No one of us has all the gifts and knowledge by themselves to lead the church where it needs to go.
- A bridge-builder, someone who works well with persons with different backgrounds, experiences and perspectives.
- Describes reality well, and with hope, and can be a joyful cheerleader for persons and congregations. Even when circumstances are difficult, there are often signs of new life to be found. Our God is a God of life and new life, a God of resurrection and hope, even when death is a pre-condition for resurrection.
- Leading entails listening deeply, thinking creatively, dreaming imaginatively, praying fervently and joyfully, and working courageously, strategically and joyfully.

Describe Your Gifts and Graces:

- Thoughtful and reflective, take joy in learning
- Balance task and relationship concerns well
- Balance day-to-day work of leading with a concern for the big picture
- Good communication skills interpersonal, in preaching, teaching and writing

I have training and experience in conflict transformation and congregational intervention. My Myers-Briggs type is ENFJ, a highly relational person. On the DiSC profile I am a high “I,” meaning I prefer to lead relationally, through influence and persuasion. My Strengths Finder strengths are: Input, Learner, Strategic, Maximizer and Achiever. The first two speak to my love of learning and interest in deep listening. I put what I hear to work in collaboratively formulating strategy. I have a strong desire to bring out the best in others, in

situations, and in myself – hence the Maximizer strength. I work toward making things better as an Achiever. In my most recent IDI profile, I was in the Adaptation Developmental Orientation.

Describe How You Have Experienced the Call to the Episcopacy and How God Has Prepared You for the Episcopacy:

I am more comfortable saying that God has called me to be part of this process for electing bishops, and I feel deeply called to be in this process. God has called me to offer myself – my gifts, my graces, my person – to this process. I am honored to share this journey with so many other fine people, many of whom it has been my privilege to work with over the years.

I have the gifts, graces and character needed now in a bishop in The United Methodist Church as we engage in mission in a rapidly changing and challenging world: balancing the big picture (vision and strategy) with the day-to-day, balancing relationship and task. God has also given me a tremendous amount of energy for whatever work God calls me to. A favorite verse of mine in thinking about church leadership is Colossians 1:29: *For this I toil and struggle with all the energy that God powerfully inspires within me.*

Reflecting how God has prepared me for the Episcopacy, I think of the words of Henri Nouwen. *It is a difficult discipline to constantly reclaim my whole past as the concrete way in which God has led me to this moment and is sending me into the future.* All I have learned and experienced in my life, in my relationship with God through Jesus, in my relationships with others, has brought me to this point. Only time will tell how God might be sending me into the future.

Endorsements:

- Minnesota Conference Delegation to General and Jurisdictional Conference
- The Minnesota Annual Conference

Episcopal Nominee Information
for
Rev. Dr. Frank J. Beard



Name: Frank J. Beard

Conference: Indiana

Street/PO Box Address: 7160 Shadeland Station

City/State/Zip: Indianapolis, IN., 46256

Telephone: 317 849-2947

Fax:

Email: frankb@castletonumc.org

Current Appointment: Castleton UMC Indianapolis, Indiana

Family:

Wife – Melissa Beard

Daughters – Eleanor Lee; Emily Beard

Grand Children – Maya (8); Elijah (3)

Background and Experience

Formal and Significant Continuing Education:

B.A. Degree from Taylor University, Upland, IN – 1979

M.Div. Degree from Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY – 1982

S.T.M. Degree from Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, IN – 1986

D.Min. Degree from Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY – 1997

Over thirty-four years of seminars, workshops and continuing education experiences related to pastoral ministry and leadership.

Ordination Dates and Conference of Which You Were a Member:

Probationary Membership – 1982; Elder – Full Membership – 1985

I am a member of the Indiana Conference.

Previous Work Experiences and Pastoral Appointments:

Castleton United Methodist Church, July 1, 2012 - present
Kokomo District Superintendent, June 1, 2004 - June 30, 2012
Warsaw Walnut Creek UMC, January 1, 1997 - May 31, 2004
Elkhart Faith UMC, Associate, July 15, 1993 - January 1, 1997
Kokomo Beamer UMC, 1986 - July 15, 1993
Anderson New Hope UMC, 1982 - 1986
Kentucky: Clark Chapel UMC and Wiley Chapel UMC, 1980 - 1982

Connectional and Ecumenical Church Experiences:**Current:**

General Commission on General Conference: 2004-present
Vice Chair of the Commission
2016 Response Team
2020 Site Selection Chair

General Conference Delegate – 2016 (First elected Clergy)

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM): 2012- present
Racial Ethnic/Cross Cultural Pastors of Large Churches

Jurisdictional Conference Delegate - 2016
North Central Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee, 2004 - Present
NCJ – Election Committee 2008 - Present
NCJ – Committee on Investigation – 2008 - Present

Previous:

General Commission on General Conference:
Site Selection Committee 2008 - 2015
Programming Committee Chair 2012

General Conference Delegate 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012 (First-elected Clergy since 2004)

General Conference –
2008 - Legislative Committee Chair
2004 - Legislative Committee Vice-Chair

General Board of Discipleship 2004-2012
Secretary of the Board 2008-2012
Executive Committee 2008-2012
Finance Committee 2008-2012
Grant Committee 2004-2008
Ministries Committee 2004-2008

Jurisdictional Conference Delegate - 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016

NCJ – member of Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) – 1982-current

Community Service Activity:

Current:

Volunteer – Habitat for Humanity
Volunteer for Community Service projects

Previous:

Gathering Committee member – Warsaw, IN
Adjunct Professor, Michigan City Prison
NAACP – Indianapolis and Anderson, IN
Regional Board of Directors of *Youth for Christ*
Adjunct Professor - Miami Correctional Facility
Adjunct Professor – Michigan City Prison (Grace College - Winona Lake, IN)
Urban League – Anderson, IN
K-21 Foundation of Kosciusko County
Adelphos (African American Pastors Assoc.) - Kokomo, IN
Greater Warsaw Ministerial Association

Publications, Awards, Honors:

Contributing author: *The Andrew Paradigm: How to Be a Lead Follower of Jesus* by Michael Coyner, 2012
Contributing author: *Black Coal into Diamonds!* edited by J. Robert Boggs, 2003
Dissertation: *A Study to Explore the Process of the Merger of Four United Methodist Churches in Elkhart, Indiana*, by Frank J. Beard, 1997
Recipient of the *Lilly Endowment's 2003 Clergy Renewal Program for Indiana Congregations*
NCJ – BMCR – 2015 “Hall of Fame”
NCJ-BMCR – 2008, 2004 Certificates of Recognition

Special Interests and/or Hobbies:

Fishing, Sports, Cooking, Garage Sales

Faith and Leadership Issues

Describe Your Understanding of the Nature and Mission of the Church:

The church is a community of people “called out” and connected in covenant relationship with God and with each other under the lordship of Jesus Christ. This covenant community is called to unity in Christ while being witnesses to God’s redemptive love and desire to be in relationship with all of humanity. The church is a community that intentionally engages in worship, in the edification / discipleship of believers, and in mission and ministry as a witness for Christ in the world.

The church is called to be a community of love and conduits of God's grace. This community is connected through our baptism and our understanding of our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The church gives witness to its faith by proclaiming the "good news" sharing God's grace and inviting all to join in the process of becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ connected together through his sacramental act of unconditional covenant love. The mission of the church is to be the hands and feet of Jesus inviting, reaching and welcoming people to become disciples.

Share Your Vision for The United Methodist Church:

My vision is for a renewed church – a church that is not afraid to address crucial and critical issues in a worldwide context. My vision is for the restoration of our passion for Jesus Christ and for proclaiming the good news of the Gospel. My constant prayer for the church is, "Lord, send the wind of your Holy Spirit to blow across the embers of our hearts, fanning us into flame once more."

My vision for the United Methodist Church is to be a global connection of believers that offers hope, help, healing and transformation for individuals and communities through the power and presence of Jesus Christ. My vision is for renewal, restoration, and reconciliation as we return to our primary task of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Describe Your Concept and Style of Leadership:

I am a gifted relational servant-leader and seek to build consensus as I lead people into a closer walk with Christ and with each other.

I lead by example and by empowering others and assisting them in becoming leaders. I am more of a relationship-centered leader than a task-oriented leader. The tasks get completed, but I find that both I and those I lead are more productive as we build trust, unity, friendship, fellowship and as we get to know each other's heart. I believe that effective leaders care for the people they serve and work to build open, honest relationships. I would also characterize my leadership style as being visionary. I led by *pulling* people alongside rather than by *pushing* them in the direction that I want them to go.

Describe Your Gifts and Graces:

My primary gifts are preaching and evangelism. I have a passion for reaching the lost and assisting folks in coming to faith in Jesus Christ. God has used these gifts and graces at every level of ministry along my faith journey.

I have the gift of discernment and am able to give spiritual appraisal in difficult situations. This is a grace gift of spiritual sensitivity that operates through prayer.

I also have the gifts of hospitality and giving. Through these gifts I am able to serve with grace passion and enthusiasm while ministering to the needs of others. My gifts and graces are suited for episcopal leadership because they are relational focused.

Describe How You Have Experienced the Call to the Episcopacy and How God Has Prepared You for the Episcopacy:

After spending much time in prayer and after being encouraged by colleagues, friends, episcopal leaders, trusted confidants, and a host of clergy and laity, I believe God has called me to be available for consideration as an episcopal leader.

My vow to serve Christ and the church has never been restricted to ease or to convenience. I am willing to present myself as one who is open to serving the church as an episcopal leader. Our Wesley covenant states, *“Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee.”* We could debate which category episcopal leaders fit into; “exalted” or “brought low” but either way, I feel called to be available for the discernment of the delegates.

This call has been gradually extended over a period of twenty years. I am available should the delegates discern that this is the proper time. I have gifts and graces that have been discerned and affirmed by others, and I believe have been shaped and honed by the Holy Spirit as partial preparation for this call.

Endorsements:

- Indiana Conference General/Jurisdictional Delegation.
- Indiana Annual Conference

Episcopal Nominee Information
for
Rev. Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai



Name: Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai **Conference:** West Michigan Annual Conference

Street/PO Box Address: Lansing District Office, 2111 University Park Dr., Ste. 500

City/State/Zip: Okemos, MI 48864

Telephone: 517-347-4173 (wk), 517-242-2442 (cell) **Fax:** 517-347-4798

Email: lansingds@miareaumc.org **Website:** www.bighamtsai.org

Current Appointment: Lansing District Superintendent

Family: Kee Tsai, spouse; Keeton Bigham-Tsai and Kamden Bigham-Tsai, children

Background and Experience:

Formal and Significant Continuing Education:

Harvard University, Bachelor of Arts

Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Austin Texas, Master of Divinity

Other Significant Continuing Education

- Training related to congregational vitality and development Schools for Congregational Development
- REACH Summits (annual Michigan-area initiative on congregational vitality and leadership development)
- MultiSiting—2015 Michigan area conference on church multiplication Training on *Adaptive Leadership* with Susan Beaumont (formerly of the Alban Institute)
- Training events on cross racial/cross cultural appointments and ministry (General Commission on Religion and Race)

- Conflict Resolution/Family Systems Training (with Richard Blackburn of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center)
- Training in Congregational Systems (Dr. Peter Steinke, Healthy Congregations)
- Many years of participation in Calvin Institutes of Christian Worship (Calvin College) and the Festival of Homiletics

Ordination Dates and Conference of Which You Were a Member:

Ordained Elder in the West Michigan Annual Conference in 2009

Previous Work Experiences and Pastoral Appointments:

Previous Work Experience:

- Educational publishing and freelance writing (Holt, Rinehart & Winston, D.C. Heath, Boy's Life Magazine, Current Health Magazine)
- Public relations for non-profits (Massachusetts General Hospital, Earthwatch, an environmental research organization, UNICEF, etc.)

Previous Church-Related Work Experience:

- District Peace with Justice Community – Grand Rapids, MI 2002 – 2006; Director – Planned and coordinated educational events; served as an invited speaker at district churches and community events. Served as a liaison with churches, church agencies, community groups and national and local media to provide advocacy around justice issues. Responsible for fundraising and budgeting.

Pastoral Appointments:

- Milwood United Methodist Church – Portage, MI 2011-2013
 Pastor – Provided pastoral leadership for a congregation in a diverse urban neighborhood, guiding parishioners in faithfulness to the ministries of evangelism, outreach, and witness. Restructured the congregation for vitality, creating a vision leadership team that provided focus for ministry efforts and an operations team that streamlined the administrative work of the church. Efforts better equipped the congregation to carry out its vision of bringing people into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and greater connection to each other. During my years at Milwood, the church paid 100% of its ministry shares and had an average of 10 professions of faith each year.
- University United Methodist Church – E. Lansing, MI 2006 – 2011
 Pastor – Provided pastoral leadership for a large university congregation. Functioned as sole pastor for the last six months of the appointment. Led the congregation to re-envision its relationship with a Wesley Foundation associated with the church, bringing reconciliation in the relationship and positioning both ministries for greater collaboration. Also started a mid-week Christian education and fellowship program and helped lead the congregation in efforts at visioning and revitalization. During my years at University, the church paid 100% of its ministry shares, saw an increase in Christian education attendance, and had an average of 14 professions of faith each year.

Connectional and Ecumenical Church Experiences:

Current:

- Lansing District/West Michigan Annual Conference Cabinet Superintendent – Provide leadership and supervision for 65+ churches and their pastors and serve as chief missional strategist of the district. Also serve as a conference superintendent in the appointment-making process.
 - Developed a process for assessing the viability of local churches, with more than 35 district churches participating.
 - Helped lead six churches through the process of closure, creating a legacy fund for new church starts and a fund to support an urban ministry program.
 - Supported the creation of a cooperative ministry, a new church start, the expansion of multi-site ministry, the involvement of eight churches in the conference's "Vital Church Initiative," and the ongoing development of an urban strategy.
 - Have utilized the appointment process to bring vitality and growth to district churches, including the strategic use of cross cultural/cross racial appointment.
- 2016 Jurisdictional Delegate/General Conference Alternate (2nd Elected Clergy)
- Connectional Table
Executive Committee
Vice Chair, Missional Administration Group on the General Conference Human Sexuality Task Force
Chair Legislative Writing Team (Third Way)
 - As a CT member and member of the Executive Committee, I have provided leadership on vital CT initiatives including the Four Areas of Focus, Vital Congregations and the Worldwide Nature of the Church.
 - Also, as a member of the Human Sexuality Task Force and chair of the Legislative Writing Team on Human Sexuality, I designed and facilitated a process that brought together highly divergent viewpoints to create a compromise on human sexuality. The resulting legislation is a compromise that seeks to preserve the unity of The United Methodist Church.
 - Presenter: 2016 Pre-General Conference Briefing and 2016 Annual BMCR Meeting

Previous:

2012 General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate (2nd Elected Clergy)

2012 Chair, General Conference Subcommittee of Church & Society II Legislative Committee. As chair of the subcommittee that dealt with reproductive rights, brought people from highly conflicting viewpoints together to listen deeply to one another and develop legislation via consensus.

Frequent preacher and teacher at area churches and at annual conference and jurisdictional events, including:

- Michigan area Schools for Pastoral Ministry
- Schools for Christian Mission
- United Methodist Women's district and annual conference meetings
- Annual conference and jurisdictional Commission on Religion and Race events (most recently, the 2015 *Beyond the Divide* event in Lansing).

Ecumenical Church Experience:

Note that my background in the church is ecumenical. I grew up Baptist and have a background in urban ministry in the A.M.E. Church. For instance, as a layperson at Bethel A.M.E. in Boston, I worked with young girls as part of the *TenPoint Coalition*, an ecumenical anti-violence ministry. I helped develop a ministry called "*Do the Write Thing*," in which I used my love for poetry and writing to minister to teenage girls involved in gangs or at risk for gang membership.

Community Service Activity:

Current:

For the past 20 years, working with people in recovery from addictions.

Volunteer at my children's schools.

Regularly advocate for issues of justice in our community, including initiatives on violence and policing in urban areas and efforts to address the water crisis in Flint, MI.

Previous:

Served as a speaker for ecumenical and interfaith events.

Volunteered for community organizations, including the community advisory board for a public radio station (WGBH Boston), and a literacy program for homeless children.

Publications, Awards, Honors:

West Michigan Annual Conference Peace Sermon of the Year award.

"*Woman of Word Poetry and Power*," blog post for the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, March 31, 2014

"*Why I Choose to Be United Methodist Today*," blog post for *About the Connection*, a blog of the Connectional Table, March 11, 2013

"*No Excuses*," Circuit Rider (Call to Action Issue, 2012)

Special Interests and/or Hobbies:

I love to read, write, watch movies, take long walks and vacation with my family. I enjoy theater and music, tennis and cross-country skiing. I enjoy watching my children play

sports and am a regular spectator of my husband's various musical pursuits (violin, mandolin and guitar).

Faith and Leadership Issues

Describe Your Understanding of the Nature and Mission of the Church:

The Church is the gathered people of God, inspired, empowered and enlivened by the Holy Spirit. It is a redemptive and prophetic community, shaped by the preaching of the Gospel and formed and nurtured through the sacraments. It also is the Body of Christ, called to be the extension of Christ's love to humanity and of God's care to all of creation.

The mission of the Church, as God's gathered people, is to love God in corporate worship and to allow the inflow of the Holy Spirit to guide and inspire transformation of individuals and human systems. As a redemptive and prophetic community, the Church's mission is to bring people into relationship with God in Christ and to bring about God's "kingdom" which will come when we fully honor the image of God in every person and in creation.

As the Body of Christ, the Church is to be an out-reaching and justice-seeking presence that welcomes all to the waters of baptism, invites all to the table of God's mercy, and offers to all the healing, reconciling love of Christ.

Share Your Vision for The United Methodist Church:

Thriving, vital, living, change! I imagine The United Methodist Church like a tree.

In Utah, there is a colony of aspens that actually comes from a single root structure. The colony is, in a sense, just one tree, with a root structure that covers more than 43 hectares and is believed to be more than 80,000 years old. It is the largest living thing on earth. Fires sometimes kill off parts of the surface of the colony, human activity has sometimes damaged it, but because the roots run so deep and wide, the tree itself lives on.

This is my image of and my vision for The United Methodist Church. Our root structure comes from a single root, which is Jesus Christ. Because we are connected and rooted in Christ, our United Methodist Church is indestructible. For all our concern over the decline of The United Methodist Church (in North America), I imagine that God is simply pruning us. I hold onto the promise of Isaiah that when we walk through fire, the flames will not consume us and to the promise expressed in Matthew that the gates of hell shall not prevail against the Church, (Isaiah 43: 2b, Matthew 16:18).

My vision, therefore, is of a United Methodist Church that is at this moment remaking itself, innovating, experimenting, and transforming in order to grow in its mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

My vision is of a United Methodist Church that will continue to be strong in its connection and to be vital and alive in its ministry and mission, even as it faces the challenges of doing ministry in ever changing environments. In other words, I have a vision of a United Methodist Church that, despite its challenges, still feeds the hungry, provides water for the thirsty, brings justice to

the oppressed, and includes those who have been pushed to the margins. This is a vision of a United Methodist Church that will continue to find ways to give people the hope that can only come from an awareness of the mysterious and abounding love of God expressed in Jesus Christ.

Describe Your Concept and Style of Leadership:

I believe we are in a time in the Church where our former solutions to challenges no longer work. We must build our capacity to adapt to a constantly changing environment and to innovate and thrive within that environment.

This requires leaders who are theologically reflective, spiritually open, creative and collaborative, and unafraid to try new things. This requires leaders who are comfortable with ambiguity and tension and can effectively invite others into the messiness of the creative process. Such leaders must have a high degree of spiritual and emotional intelligence, and be able to self-regulate and connect with others in ways that keep the tension of change within tolerable limits. I believe this kind of leadership begins with oneself. We must manage ourselves, care for ourselves, and deal with our own issues to be able to lead in ways that are healthy. From healthy selves come healthy relationships, the very foundation of effective leadership.

I am a relational, collaborative and innovative leader who makes my own physical, emotional, and spiritual health a priority. I am vision-directed and willing to experiment. I believe in surrounding myself with strong leaders, then equipping and allowing those persons to lead. I enjoy leading with people who are open to the creative movement of the Spirit, and I enjoy mentoring and developing leaders.

I believe one can lead from the center or from the margins and that leadership does not require position. Leadership is an action and a way of life that only needs the power of the Holy Spirit, a vision of the coming Kingdom of God, and the willingness of the leader to risk.

Describe Your Gifts and Graces:

- I have a consistent practice of prayer that has been developed over decades as the bedrock of my life.
- I am disciplined in my spiritual practices, including study, fasting, prayer, worship, giving, and fellowship.
- I am a strategic thinker and visionary, with a passion for the unity, health, and vitality of The United Methodist Church.
- I bring to tasks creativity, passion, and an openness to the Spirit's leading. I enjoy experimenting on the way to innovation.
- I have made theological reflection on my ministry and life a regular practice.
- I am teachable.
- I am a reconciler. I hold strong convictions about many matters, but I am able to listen respectfully to other opinions and bring together people with divergent viewpoints.
- I am relational and collaborative. Other leaders want to join me in leadership.
- I have been and am a consistent and passionate voice for justice and inclusion for all people. I take seriously the call of the Gospel to care for the "least of these" as we would for Christ himself.

- I know how to help people grieve, and I believe that one of the key challenges to helping facilitate change in the Church is knowing how to walk people through the grief and mourning that is involved with change.
- I communicate effectively through my speaking and writing.
- I love deeply and am deeply loved by family and friends.
- I am resilient.
- I have disciplined and consistent practices of self-care.

Describe How You Have Experienced the Call to the Episcopacy and How God Has Prepared You for the Episcopacy:

Throughout my ministry, many people have shared with me that they see in me the gifts and graces of an episcopal leader. About two years ago, someone I greatly respect asked me if I would pray about offering myself for the episcopacy in 2016. I began to pray and discern, using Wesley's Covenant Prayer as a central part of my discernment process.

"I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you."

This prayer expresses what has always been my stance before God. I have always sought to be surrendered to God's will. And, I have indeed discerned that it is God's will for me to offer myself as a candidate for the episcopacy. I believe that God has prepared me for this ministry.

I believe that God has prepared me for the episcopacy through the long years of a devotional life that has deepened me spiritually. God has prepared me by surrounding me with loving family and friends who have been able to offer support and accountability.

I also believe that God has prepared me for the episcopacy through my work in the local church. God has given me a vision for congregational vitality and has helped me understand how issues of grief interplay with change. Indeed, every time I have been at the bedside of a dying person, God has been preparing me to minister to a Church that must grieve and let go in order to change and grow.

God also has prepared me through my work as superintendent. I have seen and grappled with issues of lay and clergy leadership development. I am very clear that a central challenge and opportunity for our church lies in the development of spiritually grounded, healthy, and effective clergy and lay leaders. I have had ample opportunity as superintendent to identify, develop, position, and encourage such leaders. And I have had opportunity to create and innovate with such leaders as we have sought new ways to revitalize the church.

In addition to this work, I believe God has prepared me for the episcopacy through my work on the Connectional Table. My service on the CT has given me insight into issues facing our worldwide church and has placed me on the frontline of seeking a way to unity and healing around the matter of homosexuality.

As I travel this journey, I have felt affirmed in my call. A wonderful group of people has come alongside me. Delegations of both annual conferences in the Michigan area as well as caucus groups have affirmed my call.

However, if it is God's will, the final affirmation of my call will come between July 13-16 at Jurisdictional Conference in Peoria. Until that time, I will continue to be faithful and surrendered. I will continue to pray, and I will seek to maintain myself in a place of openness to the Spirit. No matter the outcome, I want to be able to say, *"I freely and heartily yield all things (especially this) to [God's] good pleasure and disposal."*

Endorsements:

- General/Jurisdictional Delegations of the West Michigan and Detroit Annual Conferences
- West Michigan Annual Conference
- NCJ Committee on Native American Ministries
- The Black Clergy of Michigan
- The Michigan Area Black Methodists for Church Renewal
- The Training & Equipping African-American for Ministry—Detroit Annual Conference [T.E.A.M]
- The Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Ministers of the Detroit Annual Conference
- Methodist Federation for Social Action, West Michigan
- Black Clergy Women of The United Methodist Church
- Detroit Annual Conference Methodist Federation for Social Action.

**Episcopal Nominee Information
for
Rev. Dr. Charles S. G. Boayue, Jr.**



Name: Rev. Dr. Charles S. G. Boayue, Jr. **Conference:** Detroit

Street/PO Box Address: 35361 Stratton Hill Court

City/State/Zip: Farmington Hills, Michigan 48331

Telephone: 313-459-6614

Fax:

Email: revboayue@aol.com

Current Appointment: Detroit Renaissance District Superintendent

Family: Elizabeth Duncan Boayue (wife – since 12/22/90); Charles Boayue, III (son – born 9/15/94)

Background and Experience:

Formal and Significant Continuing Education:

United Theological Seminary (Dayton, Ohio) – Doctor of Ministry (4/95)
Duke University Divinity School (Durham, NC) – Master of Divinity (5/89)
Florida Southern College (Lakeland) – Master of Business Administration (4/86)
Bethune-Cookman College (Daytona Beach, FL) – BSc., Business Administration (4/84)
University of Liberia (Monrovia) – Major: Economics – transferred (8/83)

Ordination Dates and Conference of Which You Were a Member:

June 1993 – Elder - Detroit Annual Conference
June 1991 – Deacon – Detroit Annual Conference

Previous Work Experiences and Pastoral Appointments:

Detroit Renaissance District Superintendent (2015 – present)
Senior Pastor, Detroit: Second Grace UMC (1999 – 2015)
Associate Council Director/Urban Missioner (1993 – 1999)
Pastor, Detroit: Jefferson Avenue/Assoc. Pastor, Detroit: Metropolitan (1991 – 1993)

Associate Pastor, Detroit: Metropolitan UMC (1990 – 1991)

Connectional and Ecumenical Church Experiences:

Current:

Board Member, Center for Parish Development – Chicago, Illinois (2013-Present)

Previous:

General Conference:

Chair, Detroit Conference Delegation Conference – 2016 Portland, Oregon
Chair, Structures Subcommittee (General Administration) – 2012 Tampa, Florida
Member, Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters (2008 – 2012)
Chair, Global Ministries Legislative Committee – 2004 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Author, Motion to Admit Protestant Methodist Church of Ivory Coast into the UMC – 2004 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Vice Chair, Detroit Conference Delegation – 2004 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Clergy Delegate: 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016
First Reserve Clergy Delegate: 1996, 2000

General Church:

Director, General Board of Global Ministries (1996 – 2004)
Chair, Church & Community Ministry National Advisory Committee (2000- 2004)
Vice Chair, GBGM Mission Development Committee (1996 – 2000)

North Central Jurisdictional Conference:

Clergy Delegate: 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016
Member, NCJ Committee on Episcopacy (2004 – 2008)
Chair, NCJ Urban Network Steering Committee (1996 – 2000)

Detroit Annual Conference:

Member, Board of Ordained Ministry (2001-2015)
Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry (2004)
Vice Chair & Chair of Conference Relations, Board of Ordained Ministry (2001-2004)
Ex-Officio, Board of Global Ministries (1996 – 2004)
Staff Consultant, Board of Church & Society, Alliance for Urban Ministry, and Commission on Religion & Race (1993 – 1999)

Liberia Annual Conference:

Founding Member & Inaugural Delegate, West Africa Central Conference (Feb/1983)
Member, Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee, Liberia Annual Conference 1983)
Conference UMYF President (1980 – 1982)
Conference UMYF Secretary (1978 – 1980)

Ecumenical:

President, Cody-Rouge Faith Alliance, Detroit, MI (2010 – 2014)
Presidium Member, World Methodist Council (1986 – 1991)
Executive Committee Member, World Methodist Council (1981 – 1991)

Chairperson, Youth Committee, World Methodist Council (1981 – 1986)
Youth Steward, World Council of Churches Central Committee, Geneva (1983)
Organizing Chair, African Methodist Youth Council (1981 – 1983)
Secretary General, National Student Christian Council of Liberia (1978 – 1980)

Community Service Activity:

Current:

Board Member, Methodist Children's Home Society, Michigan (2001-Present)

Previous:

Detroit: Second Grace UMC – built a health clinic and founded a 501©3 community development corporation for poor, uninsured people in southeastern Michigan (2001)

Publications, Awards, Honors:

Honors:

2015 Drum Major for Justice Award – given my Detroit Renaissance District for exemplary leadership in social justice and economic equity.
Detroit City Council's "Spirit of Detroit" Award for improving the quality of life (2005/2007)
Honorable Order of Jerusalem – highest distinction from World Methodist Council for International contribution to the growth of ecumenical Methodism
Nelson Mandela Leadership Award – granted by United African Community Organization (UACO) for outstanding leadership in bringing African and African American Communities together in Southeastern Michigan
Detroit Conference Church Growth Award – given for fastest church growth among small membership churches in 1992

Publications:

Christian Social Action Magazine – Article about the experiences of Central Conference delegates at the 2004 General Conference – 2004
Doctoral Dissertation – "The Role of Cross Racial/Cross Cultural Appointments in Nurturing Inclusiveness in the Congregations of the Michigan Area of The United Methodist Church" [United Theological Seminary – Dayton, Ohio, 1995]

Special Interests and/or Hobbies:

Soccer, basketball, travel, and volunteer in mission

Faith and Leadership Issues

Describe Your Understanding of the Nature and Mission of the Church:

The Church is God's instrument of reconciliation in the world. It comprises all persons who accept Jesus Christ as savior and Lord, and witnesses to Christ's saving act on the cross for the redemption of the world. Its mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Disciple-making is the primary means of reconciliation as it bridges the chasm between God and humanity caused by sin. Therefore, the church participates in God's mission and offers hope to all.

Share Your Vision for The United Methodist Church:

The United Methodist Church has a distinctive role to help Christians balance personal piety with social holiness in order to create a world that honors God's will for all people. In balancing these essential aspects of the Christian life and faith, The United Methodist Church is an extension of God's divine activity in human history and provides to all people a faithful response to Christ's invitation: "Come unto me all ye who labor and are heavy burdened, and I will give you rest." [Mt. 11:28]

Describe Your Concept and Style of Leadership:

A leader is one who faithfully invites others to follow Jesus Christ for the edification of all people and the glory of God. Hence, leadership is humble and faithful following of Jesus Christ. It seeks to emphasize the will and way of Christ above self, and offers justice and righteousness to all. My style of leadership is collaborative and consensual. I believe that people must be active participants in all aspects of Church life and work. Leaders are servants and enablers, equipping people for the work of ministry. Hence, I believe that the best leaders are those who collaborate with others in service to all.

Describe Your Gifts and Graces:

I am a good listener; a patient leader; a visionary thinker; and a humble servant. I listen to the deeper stories of people in order to understand them better. I have learned the enduring values of patience and approach issues with caution and consideration before acting. This allows for good judgment and wise counsel. I am visionary and have exemplified that throughout my ministry. I believe that vision must be shared – shared by all, if not most, of the people who will participate in its fulfillment. I also believe that humility is the way of Christ. Humility allows leaders to be open to God's leading and to the input of others who are important to the mission of the Church. And my global experience, gained over the past 35 years of direct involvement in the United Methodist Church and the ecumenical movement, has given me awareness of the rich contributions of United Methodist from various contextual realities and sensitivity to the valuable contributions of those who see things different than me. I value the diversity that enriches the Church and covet the opportunity to enable it to enrich the Church's life and witness.

Describe How You Have Experienced the Call to the Episcopacy and How God Has Prepared You for the Episcopacy:

Being a pastor was never my plan. And certainly, becoming a bishop would not have crossed my mind 15 years ago. But after "running away" from the call to ministry for most of my early years, I accepted the call to ordained ministry about 30 years ago, and have given my all to the call since then. Over the past 26 years of ministry, colleagues and parishioners have affirmed my gifts of leadership. They have chosen me six times to represent them at general and jurisdictional conferences, and have elected me to positions of trust within the annual conference. I have a strong relationship to leaders across the United Methodist global connection and have participated in global life of the Church from Asia to Africa, and from Europe to the Americas. At a time when our denomination is in need of leaders for general superintendency, many of my colleagues have encouraged me to allow my name to be placed in nomination for the episcopacy. They tell me that my ecumenical and United Methodist experiences, as well as my leadership style can be an asset to the Church. In the last four years, I

have experienced a deeper sense of call to allow God to use me as God chooses, even if it is in the episcopacy. Once I made this decision, a sense of peace has come to me. And I am now willing, ready, and available if God's people decide to give me the privilege of serving as a bishop in The United Methodist Church.

Endorsements:

- Detroit Annual Conference
- United Methodist Black Clergy of Michigan (UMBCM)
- Michigan Area Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR)
- Training and Equipping African Americans for Ministry (T.E.A.M.) of Michigan

Episcopal Nominee Information
for
Rev. Susan E. Brown



Name: Rev. Susan Elizabeth Brown

Conference: East Ohio

Street/PO Box Address: 122 Morningview Circle

City/State/Zip: Canfield, OH 44406

Telephone: 3305334196

Fax:

Email: sebrownmc@gmail.com

Website for additional information: www.revsusanebrown.com

Current Appointment: Canfield United Methodist Church

Family: Husband, Jerry Krueger

Background and Experience:

Formal and Significant Continuing Education:

Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC, *Doctor of Ministry*, May 2015 (anticipated)
Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Delaware, OH, *M.Div.*, May 2006
Otterbein College, Westerville, OH *B.A. Communication/B.A Dance*, May 1990
Do No Harm (Denominational Sexual Ethics Training), 2015, 2011
United Methodist Women's History: Voices Lost & Found, 2015
School of Congregational Development, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2011, 2010
Route 122 Network, 2013, 2012, 2011
Large Church Initiative, 2012, 2008
Twelve Keys to a Healthy Congregation, Ken Callahan, 2012, 2011
Healthy Church Initiative, Facilitator and Coach Training, 2010
Leadership Institute, Church of the Resurrection, 2011, 2010
Perkins School of Youth Ministry, 2007, 2006
Disney Institute, Disney World "Leadership, People Management and Customer Loyalty", 1999

Ordination Dates and Conference of Which You Were a Member:

Full Member, Elder, Ordained June, 2009, East Ohio Conference
Probationary Candidate on the Elder Track, Commissioned June, 2006
Served Under Appointment at Northwest Texas Annual Conference (346.1) 2010-2012

Previous Work Experiences and Pastoral Appointments:

July 2012 – Current

Senior Minister, Canfield United Methodist Church, Canfield, Ohio

July 2010 – 2012

Director of Discipleship, Northwest Texas Annual Conference, Lubbock, Texas

July, 2007- July, 2010

Minister, Randolph United Methodist Church, Randolph, Ohio

July, 2006-June, 2007

Associate Pastor, United Methodist Church of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio

October, 2005-July, 2010

Director, Youth Ministries, East Ohio Conference, North Canton, Ohio

August, 2004- June, 2006

Student Pastor, McZena Hope United Methodist Church, McZena, Ohio

Connectional and Ecumenical Church Experiences:

Current:

East Ohio Board of Ordained Ministry Registrar for Elders, begin July 2016
General Board of Church and Society Consultation on *The Social Principles* – January 2015

East Ohio Board of Ordained Ministry Clergy Ethics Training Co-Coordinator, 2014-current

East Ohio Board of Ordained Ministry, 2013-Current

Compass Group Coordinator, 2013-Current

Mahoning Valley District Strategy Team, 2012-Current

Annual Conference Worship Committee, 2013-Current

Coach, Healthy Church Initiative, 2012–Current

Previous:

Northwest Texas Annual Conference Designer and Coordinator, 2012

Northwest Texas Leadership Team, 2011-2012

Seminar Leader, South Central Jurisdiction Clergywomen's Gathering (Seminar Leader), 2011

Staff person to conference ministry teams, Northwest Texas Conference, 2010-2012

Lubbock District Committee on Ministry, Northwest Texas Conference, 2010-2012

Staff person to Conference Council on Youth Ministry, East Ohio Conference, 2005-2010

Conference Council on Ministries, 2005-2010

East Ohio Leadership Team, 2005-2010

Observer, General Conference, 2008, 2004

Lay Delegate, Jurisdictional Conference for North Central Jurisdiction, 1992

Lay Delegate, World Methodist Conference, Singapore, 1990

Alternate Lay Delegate, Jurisdictional Conference for North Central Jurisdiction, 1988
Staff Person, East Ohio Conference Camps, 1987, 1988, 2003
Lay Delegate, World Methodist Conference, Nairobi, Kenya, 1986
Page, Jurisdictional Conference for North Central Jurisdiction, 1984
Conference Council on Youth Ministries, East Ohio Conference, 1981-1986 (Chair, 1986)
Lay Delegate, Annual Conference for East Ohio Conference, 1981–1995 (approx.)

As a youth leader in East Ohio, I served on various committees throughout the structure of the Canton District and the Annual Conference.

I have participated in United Methodist Women in various ways as a teen and young adult including School of Missions, Global Gathering, United Methodist Women General Assembly, and Women's Division consultations, as well as local church and district participation.

Community Service Activity:

Current:

Canfield Community CareNet, board member, 2013-Current
Good Shepherd Kitchen, volunteer, 2012-Current
Canfield Ministerial Alliance, 2012- Current
Operation Blessing – chaplain rotation, 2012-Current
Family Camp Co-Leader, Camp Wanake - Current

Previous:

UMVIM Mission Trip, March 2014
Order of Elders Mission Project, 2014
Habitat for Humanity, Lubbock, 2011
Hope Community of Shalom, Lubbock, volunteer, 2011
Family Promise, volunteer, 2010-2012
Salvation Army, bell ringer, 2010-2012
Southern Portage County Ministerial Association, 2006-2010
Canton Calvary Mission, dance/arts instructor, 2004
US Coast Guard, family ombudsman, 1996-1997

My career prior to ministry was in community service through non-profit organizations related to the arts, and military and veterans concerns

Publications, Awards, Honors:

Developed and taught denomination's first hybrid Licensing School for Northwest Texas Conference and New Mexico Conference, 2012

Circuit Rider Magazine, "Sermon Starters", Spring 2011.

Before the Amen! Resources for Worship -edited by Maren C. Tirabassi and Maria I. Tirabassi, published by Pilgrim Press, Fall 2007. Contributor, nine original liturgical prayers included in publication.

“Worship Arts” (FUMMWA publication) - author, "Prayer for Illumination: as the Word is heard" May- June 2006

“Lexington Seminar Project” - Multiple-Constituency Survey Designer and Interpreter to assess issues in theological education, particularly the tension in being an institution serving both the church and the academy. Results published by Dr. Sarah Lancaster, 2005

Significant experience as workshop presenter and retreat designer/leader on topics related to worship, confirmation, preaching, lay leadership, strategic planning and intergenerational ministry, at events including East Ohio School of Missions, UMW District gatherings, SCJ Clergywomen’s Convocation, East Ohio District Leadership events, Northwest Texas Leadership RoundUp, and East Ohio Camps Confirmation retreats, among other instances.

Special Interests and/or Hobbies:

My current special interests relate to two major initiatives in my personal life. The first is my doctor of ministry degree. I am at the thesis-writing phase and this takes quite a bit of time and focus. Second, I am working with a hospital-based nutrition/weight management program for personal weight loss. This process also requires intentional personal time and travel to work through the program. Beyond these two activities, I love spending time with my dogs and my family. Jerry and I enjoy camping and short trips to historical sites and railroad locations. Once a year we take a longer vacation to visit family in Texas to enjoy the food and cultural opportunities there.

Faith and Leadership Issues

Describe Your Understanding of the Nature and Mission of the Church:

Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church so its nature and mission should reflect the nature and mission of Christ. As an embodiment of Christ’s nature, the Church is called to be loving, gracious, compassionate, and merciful, among other traits. Driven by the mission of Christ, the Church engages the world with the purpose of bringing healing to brokenness and transformation to current reality. Jesus Christ is lived into the world through the Body of Christ, individual believers connected by Jesus Christ, gathered in the community of faith, and sent into the world as witnesses of the Gospel. For Christians, the nature and mission of the Church are intertwined and complementary.

As United Methodists, we express this mission as “make (and mature) disciples for the transformation of the world.” We understand this to be a combination of personal piety and social piety. As an individual we step into this mission through discipleship, growing in the grace of God through worship, Bible study, prayer, etc. Through personal spiritual growth the nature of Christ becomes our nature. As individual believers gather they are moved to carry God’s grace into social, cultural, economic, and political situations that keep God’s creation from wholeness.

For me, the understanding of a personal faith lived out and through a community of faith is fundamental and profound. It is a theological specific that indicates United Methodists are about

more than an eternity that is “someday”. We profess a salvation through Jesus Christ that is here and now. This understanding calls me to be active and engaged in my personal faith with encouragement and accountability found in the Body of Christ.

I connect to this understanding of the nature and mission of the church through our recognized sacraments of baptism and communion. These rituals express the individual believer acting within the corporate setting to claim an identity now that is realized in its fullness when “we all feast at the heavenly banquet.” Through the sacraments we hear God’s expectation that each life can grow to be more like Jesus with the gifts and passion to help others find life in Christ.

Share Your Vision for The United Methodist Church:

My vision for The United Methodist Church is that we would be the church known for proclaiming the grace of God into the world. This may seem simplistic and non-specific but I believe that it encompasses the best of our Wesleyan identity with the challenges of life today:

- This vision begins and ends with grace. Our United Methodist identity is bound up in our experience of God’s grace as a transforming power. We profess a belief that grace can bring wholeness to brokenness, healing to affliction, and righteousness to injustice.
- By proclaiming the power of grace, we speak the truth that God’s grace is active in our lives and in the lives of all people. But proclamation is no mere speech, when we proclaim we do so with energy, passion, and boldness. The act of proclaiming demonstrates a strength of belief not found in indifferent and dispassionate witness.
- Our popular culture (United States, specifically) is one that delights in destroying hope by creating division among peoples and producing despair in individual lives. The United Methodist Church’s proclamation of grace becomes a saving word in a world that feels focused on destruction. Our communities of faith become true sanctuaries.
- This vision is one that reflects the global nature of our church. No matter our geography, culture, or nationality, we recognize the brokenness of our context and can proclaim the grace of God into it. While the need may vary, the hope of God does not.

For this vision to become a reality, we must first believe in the power of grace and claim it as our life force. We must also exercise the expression of that grace in our relationships with other believers and within our denomination. When our denomination reflects our culture’s disunity and discord, we undermine our own proclamation of grace. This vision, then, is also my prayer.

Describe Your Concept and Style of Leadership:

I believe that a leader must be passionate about the mission of the organization she represents and must model that mission to those who are looking to her for leadership. As a Christian leader, I must reflect the mission of the church in how I conduct my ministry and must actively engage the work of the mission as a personal experience of belief. As an episcopal leader, I believe it is important to continue to live as a Christian disciple called into ordained ministry as an elder. My confirmation promises and ordination vows continue to shape my presence as a leader. This would include supporting the church with “my prayers, my presence, my gifts, my service, and my witness”, and the continued practice of word, order, sacrament and service. This combination of personal faith and corporate leadership connects the individual to practice of living out the mission which is the daily experience of clergy and laity. In this way, a Christian

leader is seen as authentic and relevant and connected to what is happening in the Church and lives of the churches.

Specifically, I strive to be a collegial leader. I like to work within a team of people for insight, accountability, and perspective on tasks and issues. I strive to make well-informed decisions and like to be able to consult others, as needed. I am comfortable taking responsibility for decisions and understand the necessity for an episcopal leader to make or support difficult judgments. I prefer to work out of a mission and vision as a guide for decision-making and organization. I enjoy surrounding myself with staff and colleagues who can bring a different perspective or additional information to the discussion.

As a leader I hope that I am aspirational to others. I try to be transparent about my own life challenges or faith questions and demonstrate a Christian response to the brokenness I encounter, including my own. I find it rewarding to help lay people and other clergy discover and grow into their own gifts for ministry, remembering how others have influenced my formation as a Christian leader.

Describe Your Gifts and Graces:

The most recent spiritual gifts inventory I participated in identified wisdom, evangelism, and administration as my primary spiritual gifts. For many years, administration has been a constant on my spiritual gifts list with other gifts moving on and off the list as God's needs and my faith role requires. These current gifts reflect the work I am doing in current ministry in the local church and the denomination while representing gifts that continue to be strengthened and refined with the Spirit's help.

As a more practice-based survey, the StrengthsFinders survey (<http://strengths.gallup.com/default.aspx>) identified these as my top five strengths:

- **Achiever:** People strong in the Achiever theme have a great deal of stamina and work hard. They take great satisfaction from being busy and productive.
- **Strategic:** People strong in the Strategic theme create alternative ways to proceed. Faced with any given scenario, they can quickly spot the relevant patterns and issues.
- **Arranger:** People strong in the Arranger theme can organize, but they also have a flexibility that complements this ability. They like to figure out how all of the pieces and resources can be arranged for maximum productivity.
- **Responsibility:** People strong in the Responsibility theme take psychological ownership of what they say they will do. They are committed to stable values such as honesty and loyalty.
- **Relator:** People who are strong in the Relator theme enjoy close relationships with others. They find deep satisfaction in working hard with friends to achieve a goal.

I find these categories to reflect how I understand myself and my style of work and ministry.

In respect to ministry and Christian leadership, I have experienced the grace of God through the power of the Holy Spirit in many ways, and in particular, through the laying on of hands on several occasions. First was when my home congregation laid hands on me as a blessing before I left for seminary. Second was the ritual laying on of hands by Bishop John Hopkins and others at my commissioning and ordination. At the third experience, God used my hands to bring healing to a student colleague through laying on of hands and prayer. These experiences of the

Holy Spirit working through human touch reminds me that, as I use my spiritual gifts in ministry, it is God working through those gifts, making grand our simple gestures of faith. This is a grace that I try to carry into my ministry: the recognition that God works through people (no matter our perception) to save the world (in ways we can't imagine).

Describe How You Have Experienced the Call to the Episcopacy and How God Has Prepared You for the Episcopacy:

My call to the episcopacy is rooted in my call to ordained ministry. The episcopacy is not another "set-apartness" but is a position of leadership chosen from among the order of elders. I hear the opportunity for episcopal service not as a separate call, but as an expression of my call to the ministry of an elder with the responsibility to word, order, sacrament and service. Over a 20-year period, God has called and gifted me for ordained ministry, a calling which was affirmed by the Church; and has prepared and equipped me to serve that calling in many ways, including in the role of episcopal leader. To clarify this statement, I want to share part of my call story.

I was a member of Conference Council on Youth Ministry (CCYM) for many years in junior and senior high school, culminating with my service as president of the council in 1986. As members of CCYM, we were often called upon to be ushers, acolytes and other participants in Annual Conference worship services. One of our favorite things to do was help with the ordination services. It is one of these times that I identify as my initial call from God to a life of full time ministry.

My friend, Chris, and I were acolytes for the ordination service held in Hoover Auditorium at Lakeside, Ohio. As Bishop James S. Thomas laying his hands on the head of an ordinand, I heard a voice say "You will be up there one day." I came to hear these words as a call to ministry. Like many call stories, I got off track several different times in several different ways. It was almost two decades later, that I again found myself on the Hoover stage as Bishop John Hopkins said the words of ordination over me. Looking back over those years, I recognize God's hand in preparing and equipping me for ministry. During my lay career in marketing, public relations and non-profit leadership, I learned valuable skills in finance, human resources, and project management that have served me well in ministry. My work in the arts broadened my definition of creativity which I now apply to strategic planning and problem solving. Just as my ministry extends beyond the local church, my lay work broadened in scope as well. As a corporate spokesperson, I was a public figure representing a benevolent mission that effected the lives of hundreds of thousands of people around the world. And as a management executive in an international organization, I gained experience in leading global teamwork with worldwide objectives. As I consider the role of the episcopal leader, I have a confidence in my ability to serve in the practical work that is required.

It is the role of spiritual leader that is more daunting to consider, as I imagine it would be for anyone considering the episcopacy. I feel a profound responsibility at the prospect of being a spiritual steward for our denomination. I could certainly list spiritual formation training and experiences that I have had, but I think, in this situation, "success" as a spiritual leader comes not from what I have done in the past but how I lean into God as spiritual guide and companion so that God's will would be my bar for leadership.

This summer found me again at Hoover Auditorium thinking about that initial call into ministry: “You will be up there one day.” I began to consider that being “up there” perhaps meant more than simply my ordination, perhaps it was a call to respond to the fullness of ministry of an elder. I remember feeling unworthy of that initial call, uneasy at the idea of responding positively to God. This time, though, as I looked at the stage thinking about the episcopacy, I felt peace. I did not feel unworthy because I knew that God had already found me worthy when I was called into ministry. Now the call is to obedience, to place myself into a process of discernment, assessment and examination for the purpose of servant leadership to the people and mission of The United Methodist Church for the glory of God. I humbly submit myself to this call.

Endorsements:

- East Ohio Clergywomen’s Association

Episcopal Nominee Information
for
Rev. Dr. Jerome R. DeVine



Name: Rev. Dr. Jerome R. DeVine **Conference:** Detroit Annual Conference/Michigan Area

Address (office): 1309 North Ballenger Highway, Suite 1, Flint, MI 48504

Telephone: 810-730-5304 (c) 800-334-0544 (o) **email:** jdevine@detroitconference.org

Current Appointment: Director of Connectional Ministries, Detroit Annual Conference

Family: Spouse- Ruth; three adult sons, two daughters-in-law; one soon to be daughter-in-law; six grandchildren, ages 6 months to 9 years.

Background and Experience:

Formal and Significant Continuing Education:

American University, Washington, DC: Graduate Certificate in Project Monitoring and Evaluation [3/4 completed; anticipated graduation: Fall 2016]

Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC: Doctor of Ministry [Track: *Race, Ethnicity and Ministry in the Wesleyan Perspective*]

Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC: Master of Divinity

Westmar College, LeMars, IA: BA Degree [double major: Sociology, Religion; minor: Industrial Arts]

South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD: engineering/architecture general courses, no degree

Additional Significant Training: Kaleidoscope Institute: Holy Currencies Catalyst Training

Ordination Dates and Conference of Which You Were a Member:

Candidacy: South Dakota Conference 1978
Ordained Deacon 1984, Elder 1987 – Peninsula-Delaware Conference
Transferred to West Michigan Conference 1999
Appointed to Detroit Conference 2009
Transferred to Detroit Conference 2014

Previous Work Experiences and Pastoral Appointments:

- Director of Connectional Ministries (Detroit Conference), 2009 - Current
- Albion District Superintendent (West Michigan); 2004 – 2009, [Cabinet Dean 2007-08]
- Ministry Consultant, West Michigan CCOM Staff, 1999-2004 [and Interim Director, Native American Course of Study School, 2002-2003]
- Lead Pastor, First UMC, Chestertown, MD [550 members, county seat tourism town], 1995-99 [and Adjunct Consultant, Mission Caravan Program, GBGM, 1996-99]
- Coordinator for Mission Leaders, General Board of Global Ministries, New York, NY, 1993-95
- Pastor, Kingswood UMC, Newark, DE [385 members, suburban decline, outreach center], 1989-93 [and Conference Secretary of Global Ministries, 1989-93]
- Associate Pastor on team-style staff, St. Paul's UMC, Wilmington, DE, [1850 members, complete oversight of expansive program team], 1985-89
- Student Assistant-Pastor Grace UMC, Cambridge, MD [800 members, aging downtown], 1981-85

Other: Volunteer Assistant to pastor, Adaville UMC, Iowa / Summer Youth and Visitation Staff, 9th Ave. UMC, Watertown, SD / Farming and Retail management, 1973-78.

Connectional and Ecumenical Church Experiences:

Current: Association of Directors of Connectional Ministries, Executive Committee; Native American Course of Study Extension School, Advisory Board; Michigan Area [Vital Church Initiative, Executive Team /Area Full Cabinet / New Conference Design Team / Holy Currencies Catalyst Team / CFA / Act of Repentance Planning Team, chair /Communications Team/Area Program Committee]; DAC Conference Leadership Team; NCJ Commission on Religion & Race, Executive Committee; NCJ Committee on Native American Ministries; helped create DAC Committee on Asian American Ministry, and expansion of Hispanic/Latino Ministries staff position; GC2016 GCORR Writing Team.

Previous: Liberia Conference, Annual Conference Preacher, 2014; General Commission on Religion & Race, Board Member/Executive Committee/Strategic Plan Task Force; Mission U Study Leader (multiple times); 2008 General Conference, first reserve; GCORR/GCSRW Writing Team, GC 2008/2012; GBHEM National Course of Study Directors Council / NCJ VIM Board, officer / Board of Ordained Ministry / Global Ministries / CF&A / Board of Pensions and Health Benefits / Area Spiritual Formation / Area Christian Education / Prayer Center / Religion & Race / Prison Ministries-- Restorative Justice / Racial Ethnic Local Church / 2004 Acts of Repentance & Reconciliation Task Force / Area Indian Workers Conference / Equitable Compensation/ District Youth.

Community Service Activity:

Current: *"Beyond the Divide"* racial justice event team; *"Transforming Roadblocks into Building Blocks"*-NCJ CORR learning event design team; Four Directions Healing Foundation, Board Member; Four Direction Healing Foundation events.

Previous: I-75 Corridor Urban Ministry Task Force / Interfaith Lay Academy / Children's & Family Services Board / Delaware Epilepsy Association / Sierra Leone Relief Fund / Habitat for Humanity / State Police Advisory Board / Peninsula U.M. Homes Board of Directors / Chester Valley Ministers' Assoc. President.

Publications:

Blog: www.perspectivesonhope.blogspot.com Twitter: @DeVineJerry
Website: www.DeVineJerome.com / Featured in *"Truth and Wholeness: Replacing White Privilege with God's Promise"*, GCCUIC/GCORR DVD debuted at GC 2008 / cover and article photos for *New World Outlook*, May/June 1994, Africa study focus / Creating Editor of GBGM former *Mission Means* packet; former contributor to *"Idea Mart"* section of *Interpreter*.

Awards, Honors:

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., President's Award, Detroit Renaissance District / Westmar College *Distinguished Alumni "Vita" Award* / *American Bible Society Award* / *Quentin C. Lansman Memorial Award* (*"integration of Christian faith ...creative cutting edge ... with society..."*) / *John L. Buxton Award for Creative Leadership* / *Bishop's Ecumenism Award*, Peninsula-Delaware Conference / *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges* / Rotary Foundation International *Group Study Exchange Award* /.

Special Interests and/or Hobbies:

Cooking for family; global cuisines; home restoration/ enhancement; woodworking; playing with grandchildren; reading novels from a variety of cultural lenses; vegetable gardening; landscaping; motorcycling; continual learning; cross-cultural immersion [Immersion journeys: Jordan/Israel/ Egypt (1981); Appalachia Service Project (1983-1984); South India (1989); Guyana/Barbados/ Cuba (1993); Red Bird Missionary Conference (1994); Uganda/Kenya (1994); Los Angeles Shalom Zones (1995); Haiti (1995); Upper Sand Mountain Cooperative Parish Shalom Zone, Alabama (1998); Cuba (1999); Haiti (1999); Tree of Life Ministries/Rosebud Reservation, South Dakota (2004); Emiquon/Earth Healing Day, Peoria, IL (2005); Native Americans Speak events (2012-2014); Liberia (2014).

Faith and Leadership Issues

Describe Your Understanding of the Nature and Mission of the Church:

Jesus called those who would be his disciples to get into the boats and move away from the comfortable shoreline in order to go to "the other side" where the world awaits the healing touch of Christ (Mark 4:35). If the mission is to bring this healing to the other side, then the nature of

the church is not to build monolithic systems and structures, rather it is to equip flotillas of easily adapted boats.

Christ calls us to move out of isolationist survival and into being the body of Christ in relationship in the world. This is why we initiated three clear and compelling Vision Pathways in the Detroit Conference during my tenure as the Director of Connectional Ministries, and have aligned our energies and resources through them to fulfill our vision of creating and nurturing dynamic and fruitful congregations that bring transformation to their communities. People in our communities are hungry to see tangible hope. A key gift of United Methodism to the world community is our understanding and embodiment of the various forms of God's grace for the healing of the world and a willingness to be a movement in the midst of change.

Share Your Vision for The United Methodist Church:

I see a United Methodist movement going forward that is leaner, more flexible and nimble to adaptively respond to changing local, regional and global environments. I envision a people and connection even more deeply and passionately engaged as followers of Christ in the healing and strengthening of our communities. My deepest yearning is for United Methodism to discover anew our identity as a movement of God's grace and justice in the fabric of every community we are in.

The rich diversity of the Pentecost vision is here and now. In the midst of such potential the role of conference and episcopal leaders is to help bring that contextual vision to a clear focus in such a compelling way that we will want to realign ourselves to live into that new Pentecost. Vision becomes incarnational and relational when key leaders bring others' gifts, insights and voices to the table to plan the strategy for building the future in the present.

Describe Your Concept and Style of Leadership:

I strive to create a dynamic team that compliments one another's gifts in a diverse community. For me, visionary leadership requires continual self-examination, spiritual / theological / ecclesiological depth, humility, strength, relational intelligence and administrative excellence.

Leadership requires a distinct weaving together of courage and compassion as we lead individuals and institutions toward a compelling common vision and purpose, building a deep sense of community in Christ on the journey. Innovation requires disruption yet disruption without focus is merely chaos, and so I believe I am a thoughtful, wise and compassionate risk-taker.

Describe Your Gifts and Graces:

Close colleagues tell me that I bring excellence and depth to a broad range of gifts that they see as essential in a bishop: visionary, pastoral, administratively skilled, compassionate yet courageous, relationally/cross-culturally gifted, collaborative and genuine. I know, comprehend and love our denomination at every level, and feel that I have the experience to address the unique needs and requirements of guiding an annual conference through significant sustainable change toward greater vitality and relevance. I strive to keep attuned to what is transpiring within the world around us. I strive to be a conveyor of hope, and a persistent proclaimer that God is always doing a new thing in and through us. Perhaps one of the greatest gifts I would

bring to the Episcopacy is the gift to lead us as a diverse body from vision to realization. My most recent evidence of these gifts is how I worked with leaders to realign the financial resources, staffing, initiatives and program agency priorities of the Detroit Conference to live out our conference vision and *Vision Pathways*.

Describe How You Have Experienced the Call to the Episcopacy and How God Has Prepared You for the Episcopacy:

Faith is formed in the crucible of life experiences. My spiritual journey and ministry would not be anything without the grace and love of God and the wide human community that has shaped my world view. Apart from the movement of the Holy Spirit I could not have created or fulfilled the expansive involvement in our United Methodist Church that has been my life story. From pastoral empowerment of local churches to bringing transformation and realignment to an annual conference my calling has constantly compelled me to help shape the whole church locally, regionally and globally. From the very beginning of responding to God's call upon my life it has been made clear to me that I am to love and know the very fabric of our living connection of United Methodism. It has also been a compelling call to hold the institutional church accountable to the prophetic call of Christ to bind up the wounds of a broken and marginalized world. It is in this crucible of life experience and faith formation that I have heard God call me to the spiritual and administrative ministry of the Episcopacy. This inner deep call has been confirmed by those who have asked me to step forward at this time.

Endorsements:

- Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Michigan Area
- Detroit Conference Committee on Asian American Ministries
- Native American Course of Study Advisory Board
- NCJ Committee on Native American Ministries
- T.E.A.M. (Training and Equipping African-Americans for Ministry), Detroit Annual Conference
- The Korean Caucus of Michigan
- United Methodist Black Clergy of Michigan

**Episcopal Nominee Information
for
Rev. Dr. Lilian Gallo Seagren**



Name: Lilian Gallo Seagren

Conference: Iowa Annual Conference

Street/PO Box Address: 1806 S. Meadow View Avenue

City/State/Zip: Mount Pleasant, Iowa

Telephone: 319-931-2957

Fax:

Email: lilian.gallo-seagren@iaumc.org

Current Appointment: Conference Superintendent, Southeast District

Family: Husband, Rev. Kirk Seagren for 26 years

Children: Maria Fe Tagalicud and Jane Anne Seagren

Grandchildren: Ged Tagalicud and Zeph Tagalicud

Parents: Rev. Luis and Jacinta Gallo

Background and Experience

Formal and Significant Continuing Education:

Bachelor of Science in Social Work – 1981 -Philippine Christian University, Manila, Philippines

Graduate Diploma in Social Welfare Administration – 1987 – University of the Philippines

Master of Divinity – 1992 – Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary Evanston, Illinois

Doctor of Philosophy in Pastoral Care and Counseling – 1995 – Christian Bible College and Seminary in Independence, Missouri

Ordination Dates and Conference of Which You Were a Member:

1998 - Full Member, Iowa Annual Conference

1996 - Ordained Elder and Full Member, Northeast Philippines Annual Conference

1994 - Ordained Deacon and Provisional Member, Iowa Annual Conference

Previous Work Experiences and Pastoral Appointments:

Conference Superintendent - July 2012-present (Dean of The Cabinet, 2014-2015)
Pastor, Waterloo, Kimball Avenue UMC - July 2009-June 2012
Pastor, Guthrie Center, First UMC-Bowman Chapel UMC - July 2002-June 2009
Pastor, Hamburg, First UMC - June 1997-June 2002
Faculty, Union Theological Seminary, Philippines – July 1995-September 1996
Pastor, Fontanelle, UMC-Highland UMC – July 1994- June 1995
Student Pastor, Montgomery UMC, Illinois - June 1990-June 1992
Faculty, College of Social Work, Philippine Christian University, Manila, Philippines
1981- 1987
Part-time Pastoral Care Assistant, Central UMC, Manila, Philippines 1987-1989
Part-time Trainor, Trade Union Congress of the Philippines-Women's Group 1986-1989
Part-time Community Organizer, Central UMC Community Center, Manila, Philippines
1982- 1986

Connectional and Ecumenical Church Experiences:

Current:

2016 - Vice-Chair for Independent Commissions Legislative Committee – General Conference
2013-present – Member, Board of Directors, Commission on the Status and Role of Women

Previous:

2016 – Vice Chair, Legislative Committee of Independent Commissions, General Conference
2008-2012 – Member, Board of Directors, General Board of Global Ministries and UMCOR
2006-2008 – Vice Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry, Iowa Annual Conference
2004-2006 – Chair, Commission on Religion and Race, Iowa Annual Conference

Community Service Activity:

Current:

2012- present – Member, Board of Trustees, Iowa Wesleyan University, Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

Previous:

2002-2009 – Member, Kiwanis Club, Guthrie Center
2000-2001 – Member, Advisory Board, Hamburg School District
1997-2002 – Member, Lion's Club International, Hamburg
1997-2002 – Hamburg, Iowa Ministerial Alliance
1985 – Matron, Rosario Villaruel Chapter No. 2, Order of the Eastern Star, Philippines
1985 – Member, Board of Directors, Philippines Association of Social Workers
1985 – Member, Board of Directors, Philippines Women Temperance Union

Publications, Awards, Honors:

- 2008 – Harry Denman Evangelism Award, Board of Discipleship Evangelism Committee
- 2001 – Most Outstanding Community Member, Hamburg, Iowa
- 1981 – Philippine Christian University – Presidential Academic Scholar - Graduated Magna Cum Laude - Placed Number 5 in the Philippines National Licensure Examination for Social Workers. Recipient of The Karisan Leadership Award.
- 1985 – 1986 - University of the Philippines – Recipient of College Honors
- 1986- 1987 - The International Food for the Hungry Graduate Scholar by the International Food for the Hungry, Switzerland.
- 1990-1992 – Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary Evanston, Illinois – Recipient of Academic Honors Tuition Scholarship.

Special Interests and/or Hobbies:

Travel, music, gardening, and cooking.

Faith and Leadership Issues

Describe Your Understanding of the Nature and Mission of the Church:

My understanding of the nature and mission of the church has been shaped by four sources.

First is the claim Jesus has made that he will build his church upon Peter's faith-enabled confession, "You are The Christ, The Son of the Living God." (Matthew 16:13-20 CEV)

Second is the claim we have made as United Methodist people that the church is a redeemed "community of all true believers under the Lordship of Christ" offering to the world a "redeeming fellowship." (Preamble of the United Methodist Church, Book of Discipline, page 23)

Third is the proclamation we make at the Baptismal Font and at the celebration of Holy Communion. At the Baptismal Font, we claim our identity as that of God's own children "incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation" and "initiated into Christ's holy church" with our "new birth through water and Spirit." (Baptismal Covenant 1, The United Methodist Hymnal, page 33)

At the Lord's table of grace, we pray for the Spirit to be poured so that the gifts offered may become "the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by His blood." (A Service of Word and Table II, The United Methodist Hymnal, page 14)

Fourth is the mission Jesus has named in the sending of the disciples to "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. Look, I myself will be with you every day until the end of this present age." (Matthew 28:19-20 CEV) This, too, is the mission of the church.

Share Your Vision for The United Methodist Church:

Disciples from the global village pursuing holiness with their travelling sanctuaries so that church happens anywhere and everywhere.

Describe Your Concept and Style of Leadership:

Leadership is the art of mobilization and utilization of imperfect organizational parts and processes to reach a vision, live with a common mission, and fulfill a shared purpose. Recruiting, enlisting, equipping, deploying, investing, resourcing, and maximizing gifts and strengths are tasks that are essential in leading a disciple-making and transformational partnership with God, who is at work everywhere and anywhere in the world.

Spiritual leadership is God's gift of leading with God forming and shaping the community and leader's very own self in the likeness of Christ. A leader who is growing in knowledge and love of God finds her way to leading with God for the transformation of the world.

There are seven values that have been part of who I am as a leader:

1. I am only but a servant with Christ and with the Church for the world who takes as the center of all labors the formation of a life that is being formed into the likeness and image of Christ.
2. I have been gifted with natural abilities, with the Spirit's gifts and graces, with taught capacities and skills for Church leadership/pastoral ministries, and many years of a life of service through certain roles and tasks in the mission fields.
3. Every ministry field has its own context, culture, needs, theologies, ideologies, risks, and gifted servants who are living faithfulness and fruitfulness apart from me.
4. As a visionary and inspirational leader, I am convinced that naming and shaping the future is a sacred task.
5. I am a lifelong learner and being made perfect in every way, as are my partners in ministry.
6. High-impact mission happens even with fewer people and less resources when their biggest resource is who they are in God's world.
7. I strive to give what I ask "others" to give for the sake of the glory of Christ and Christ's Church. It is a joy to be a leader who follows.

Describe Your Gifts and Graces:

God has created me with an Extroverted-Intuitive-Feeling-Perceptive personality. My natural temperament is that of a choleric whose place on the team is leadership and whose emotional needs are loyalty, appreciation, sense of connectedness, and drive for achievement. I am best at inspiring people to action, mobilizing plans leading to vision, and creating/organizing resources for faithful and fruitful mission.

God has gifted me with these: (a) attentiveness in the daily practice of living in the presence of the Spirit, (b) religious imagination, (c) faithfulness and enduring suffering in the midst of life's troubles, being at my best in troubled times, (d) wisdom, (e) proclamation, evangelism and storytelling, and (f) healing prayer.

God has provided me life's experiences perfecting in me: (a) the grace to meet people at the point of their needs and to accept/relate people with this live imagination of God's delight and love for them, (b) the satisfaction to enjoy my own poverty, (c) the humility to be taught by people around me, (d) the joy of self-surrender and forgiveness, and (e) the courage to fail.

God has surrounded me with great teachers who taught me and helped me grow and perfect my skills in pastoral ministry, relationship, responsibility, communication, and self-confidence.

God has enabled me to partner with Christ and others in raising laity and clergy leaders for The United Methodist Church in Iowa, in the United States of America, my birth country, the Philippines, and around the world. There are bishops, pastors, theologians, missionaries, seminary professors, and lay servants around the world who claim my part in their journeys.

Describe How You Have Experienced the Call to the Episcopacy and How God Has Prepared You for the Episcopacy:

When I surrendered my life to Christ for credentialed and ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church at age 29 years old, I had one desire and that's to be faithful to God and to always seek the Holy Spirit's empowering and equipping as I am being shaped in the image of Christ. Every task along the way - from the task of offering a prayer with a wounded soul on the street, to the task of bringing order into a conflicted congregation, to the task of dreaming a future with denominational leaders - the space of Christ's love has increased in my life as I aged.

After many prayers with friends and family, I finally made the decision to offer myself to Christ for Episcopal Leadership in The United Methodist Church. I am convinced that Christ is always ready to clothe me for this next mission field. I imagined how God might use me in this role. During my season of discernment, God's Spirit visited me in a dream and nurtured this deep sense of gratitude, peace, joy, and confidence in what I already have been given. The Spirit that is always here has invested in my life and journey. I hear the Spirit's voice of affirmation as to why I should offer myself to those who have been privileged to partner with God in choosing and raising Episcopal leaders. The Spirit's voice reminds me of these great treasurers kept in my soul: Jesus loves me, and by his own work, I have grown in love with him and God's people. The United Methodist Church has loved and supported me, and by Christ's own grace, I have grown to devote my love and attention to Christ's Church. I was raised in The United Methodist Church parsonages and have experienced the church at her best as well as the church at her weakest. The Spirit has poured wisdom into my spirit, and my own imagination of how God may transform The United Methodist Church into the future includes the gifts and graces I have received from Christ. The Spirit has enabled me to respond to our Living Christ, "Here I am, Lord, send me."

Endorsements:

- The National Association of Filipino American United Methodists
- Iowa Annual Conference

Episcopal Nominee Information
for
Rev. Dr. Gary George



Name: Gary George

Conference: East Ohio

Street/PO Box Address: 8800 Cleveland Ave., N.W. P.O. Box 2800

City/State/Zip: North Canton Ohio 44720

Telephone: (740) 381-1688 **Fax:** 330-497-4911

Email: garymgeorge2016@gmail.com **Website:** garygeorge.net

Current Appointment: Assistant to the Bishop (Ohio East Area/East Ohio Conference)

Family: Married to Lorraine (35 years); two adult sons: Mark (married to Heidi) and Michael (married to Jamie); three grandchildren-Alexandria, Carter and Makenzie.

Background and Experience:

Formal and Significant Continuing Education:

Bachelor of Science in Education (Asbury University), 1979
Master of Divinity (Ashland Theological Seminary), 1983
Doctor of Ministry (Asbury Theological Seminary), 1998
Church Growth Seminar (Fuller Theological Seminary), 1988
Stewardship/Planned Giving Seminar (Gen. Board of Discipleship), 2003
Carver Policy Governance Seminar (Carver), 2006

Ordination Dates and Conference of Which You Were a Member:

Ordained Deacon (Probationary Member) East Ohio, 1981
Ordained Elder (Member in Full Connection) East Ohio, 1985

Previous Work Experiences and Pastoral Appointments:

District Superintendent (Steubenville & Tuscarawas Districts-East Ohio) 1999-2006

Pastor, Christ UMC (Newcomerstown OH), 1991-1999

Pastor, Mt. Zion UMC (Canton, OH), 1986-1991

Assoc. Pastor, Dueber UMC (Canton, OH), 1983-1986

Pastor, Dellroy & Leavittsville UMCs (Dellroy, OH), 1980-1983

Youth Director, Scott Memorial UMC (Cadiz, OH), 1979-1980

Substitute Teacher-Several Ohio public schools districts, 1979-1983

Other work experiences during my high school and college years include employment as a truck driver, airport line service, food service, buildings and grounds worker, retail/sales, and industrial laborer.

Connectional and Ecumenical Church Experiences:

Current:

Delegate, 2016 General and Jurisdictional Conferences

Director, General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, 2004-Present

Member, NCJ Committee on Episcopacy, 2004-Present

Previous:

Delegate, General and Jurisdictional Conferences, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012

Member, Church Systems Task Force 2008-2012

Member, Appalachian Ministry Network 2000-2004

Community Service Activity:

Current:

East Ohio United Methodist Foundation Board of Directors

Wesleyan Senior Living (CCRC) Board of Directors

Financial Peace University Coordinator

Previous:

Pack Treasurer, Cub Scouts Adult Volunteer

Rotary International

American Cancer Society Relay for Life participant

Coach-high school and youth sports teams (football, basketball and baseball)

Team Chaplain (Canton, OH South High School varsity football team)

Calvary Mission Board of Directors (Canton, OH)

Asbury University Alumni Board of Directors (Wilmore, KY)

Steubenville Urban Mission Board of Directors (Steubenville, OH)

Treasurer, Newcomerstown Schools Academic Boosters (Newcomerstown, OH)

Publications, Awards, Honors:

Phi Alpha Theta (National Honorary Society-History)

Who's Who in America

Steubenville Urban Mission, Inc. Directors Award

Special Interests and/or Hobbies:

Reading, Sports, Choral Music, History, Economics

Faith and Leadership Issues**Describe Your Understanding of the Nature and Mission of the Church:**

The Church is God's creation and consists of all persons who are faithful, committed followers of Jesus Christ and who seek to live in love, service, fellowship, and community with other Christian disciples. The Church is called and empowered by God to make disciples of all people by sharing the love of Christ, proclaiming the gospel, teaching, serving, and healing others.

I affirm the understanding of the Church as revealed in the Holy Scriptures as well as The United Methodist Church's official statements and teachings.

Share Your Vision for The United Methodist Church:

I love the Church and see a movement which is authentically relevant, passionately focused, sacrificially engaged, and willing to take the risks necessary to bring persons, communities, and the world to a saving knowledge and transforming relationship with God through Jesus Christ. My vision is grounded in God's call, sustained by God's hope, empowered by God's Holy Spirit, and made possible by God's love. I envision laity who are empowered and engaged for ministry with their respective communities and into the world. I envision clergy who are passionately engaged in equipping disciples for ministry, witness, and service and who have a growing, vital relationship to Jesus Christ and to each other (covenant community).

Describe Your Concept and Style of Leadership:

Modeled on the life of Jesus Christ, I believe the most transparent and powerful Christian leaders are grounded in love, passionate about the mission, seek to serve with integrity, continue to learn, demonstrate wisdom, and know the value of forming and being part of teams of leaders. I have faithfully sought to be this kind of leader throughout the course of the ministry God has given me. My leadership style is relational (people-centered), collaborative (team-oriented), and focused towards achieving a stated mission or purpose.

Describe Your Gifts and Graces:

I am grateful God has provided me with the grace to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and to exercise the ministry God has called me to serve Christ and others. During the course of my ministry, others have affirmed in me spiritual gifts in the areas of teaching, preaching, administration, wisdom and leadership. I have a demonstrated ability to take a vision and develop strategic steps (plan) in helping the vision become a reality.

Describe How You Have Experienced the Call to the Episcopacy and How God Has Prepared You for the Episcopacy:

As an ordained Elder, I have covenanted to serve where sent. My calling is to ordained United Methodist ministry which can include being called and sent by the Church to exercise the form of ministry known as the Episcopacy. I have been encouraged by others to be open to this form of calling and ministry. During the past several months, I have spent much time in prayer and in

conversation with several colleagues and friends who know me well to assist me in discerning God's calling for this season of my life and ministry.

I was blessed to have been brought up in a home where the Christian faith was modeled in a healthy way by my parents. I also had the experience of growing up in a parsonage family.

I have had 38 years of ministry experience as a youth director, pastor, district superintendent, and assistant to the bishop, which I sense can be helpful in preparing me to serve as an Episcopal leader. I've also had the benefit of serving and working with some of the most outstanding leaders in The United Methodist Church. I have learned much from them and appreciate their example.

I seek to be a disciple and a leader who continues to grow in my journey with Jesus Christ, my relationship with others, and the ministry God has called me to serve. I am grateful for the gift of family, friends, and colleagues who help me be accountable and real.

Endorsements:

- The East Ohio Conference General/Jurisdictional Delegation
- The East Ohio Annual Conference

Episcopal Nominee Information
for
Rev. Laurie Haller



Name: Laurie Haller

Conference: West Michigan

Street/PO Box Address: 1043 Chesterfield Ave.

City/State/Zip: Birmingham MI 48009

Telephone: 616-821-4802

Fax:

Email: laurie@fumcbirmingham.org

Current Appointment: First United Methodist Church, Birmingham MI (Detroit Annual Conference)

Family: Husband Rev. Gary Haller; three adult children; two grandchildren

Background and Experience:

Formal and Significant Continuing Education:

Master of Divinity, Yale University Divinity School:1980

Master of Music, Yale University School of Music and Institute of Sacred Music; Organ Performance:1978

Student, Berliner Kirchenmusikschule, West Berlin, Germany: 1974-75

Bachelor of Music, Wittenberg University; Organ Performance; Summa Cum Laude:1976

Ordination Dates and Conference of Which You Were a Member:

General Conference Mennonite Church:1982

Ordination credentials transferred to the West Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church:1987

Previous Work Experiences and Pastoral Appointments:

Senior Pastor, First United Methodist Church, Birmingham MI: 2013-

Pastor, Aldersgate and Plainfield United Methodist Churches: 2012-2013

District Superintendent, Grand Rapids District, United Methodist Church: 2006-2012
Co-senior pastor, First United Methodist Church, Grand Rapids MI:1993-2006
Pastor, Hart United Methodist Church, Hart MI:1989-1993
Associate pastor, Ludington United Methodist Church, Ludington MI:1985-1989
Pastor, Ogdensburg United Methodist Church, Traverse City MI:1982-1985
Director of Music, Stratford United Methodist Church, Stratford, CT:1976-1981

Connectional and Ecumenical Church Experiences:

Current:

2016 General and Jurisdictional Conference delegate
NCJ Episcopacy Committee member, 2012 -
Chair, Africa University Task Force of the Grand Rapids District, West Michigan
Conference: raised \$500,000 with a matching \$500,000 anonymous gift to build
the *Ubuntu Retreat Center*; completion, March 2016
Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary Trustee: 2013 -

Previous:

General Conference Delegate: 2012, 2008, 2004; Alternate Delegate:1996
West Michigan Conference Delegation Chair: 2012
North Central Jurisdictional Conference Delegate: 2012, 2008, 2004, 2000, 1996
Director, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry: 2004-2012
West Michigan Conference (WMC) Board of Ordained Ministry: 2000-2008
Chair: 2000-2004
Mission trips to Cuba, Haiti and Zimbabwe

Community Service Activity:

Current:

Ecumenical clergy group: Birmingham MI

Previous:

Ecumenical clergy groups in previous appointments
Hospice Board member, Ludington MI
Rotary Club: Hart and Grand Rapids MI
Grand Rapids MI inner city interfaith mission group
Soccer and softball coach

Publications, Awards, Honors:

Author: *Recess; Rediscovering Play and Purpose*, Cass Community Publishing House, 2015
Bible Study Leader: Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference, 2015
Preacher: Lakeside, Ohio Chautauqua, 2015
Preacher: Epworth Heights, Ludington, Michigan, 2009, 2004, 1997
Preacher and lecturer, Bay View Assembly, Petoskey, Michigan, 2010, 2002
Recipient of National Clergy Renewal Grant from the Lilly Endowment, 2000
Preacher, West Michigan Annual Conference, 1994
Numerous articles in the *Michigan Christian Advocate* and *Worship Arts*
Leading from the Heart weekly blog: 2006-present (www.lauriehaller.org)

Articles published in *Ministry Matters*, *United Methodist Reporter and Daily Digest*, *UM Insight*, *Faith in Action* of GBCS and *MiConnect*.

Special Interests and/or Hobbies:

Married to Gary Haller, senior pastor of First United Methodist Church, Birmingham, MI
Three young adult children and two grandsons
Avid long distance runner, cyclist, triathlete, golfer, and hiker
Lover of music, especially playing the organ
Traveling
Reading

Faith and Leadership Issues

Describe Your Understanding of the Nature and Mission of the Church:

The church is the visible body of Christ in the world and the vessel through which God's kingdom building work is accomplished. The church, God's people gathered for worship and the sacraments, is empowered by the Holy Spirit to fulfill its mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ around the world.

There are many layers to church. "Church" is not an exclusive community that gathers behind the closed doors of a building. Church happens whenever the doors are open for all to come and go and for God's people to embrace, interact with and transform the world. As followers of Jesus, we are called to live on the fluid margins at the intersection of the church and the world, where everyone is always welcome to taste and see that the Lord is good.

When the institution and traditions of the church become more important than boldly reaching out to the very least of God's children in mission and ministry, the church loses its power. Churches are not called to simply survive but to thrive and grow by giving themselves away to their communities.

The church remains relevant in an ever-changing world by offering hope and providing meaning to those who yearn for more than money, success and power. Through liturgy, the sacraments, discipleship, spiritual practices, mission, outreach, Bible study and spiritual friendships, the church continually challenges us to rethink our faith and keep our witness fresh. By speaking grace instead of succumbing to fear or internal conflict, the church offers a different way to live.

Share Your Vision for The United Methodist Church:

My vision for The United Methodist Church is that we would be the manifestation of the body of Christ in and to the world by how we model the radical suffering love of Jesus, honor differences and give ourselves away to the very least of God's children.

Describe Your Concept and Style of Leadership:

My style and practice of leadership is a spiritual leadership that demonstrates various qualities.

- It's servant leadership, which is not about power or about me. It's about being self-integrated, non-anxious, even-tempered, patient, transparent and vulnerable and having a servant's heart.

- It's collaborative, permission-giving leadership, which I practice by surrounding myself with people who are much more capable than I am, making decisions together and empowering others to be successful
- It's adaptive and contextual leadership, which changes according to context. Recognizing that there is no longer "one size fits all" in the church, this leadership seeks to understand the culture and community in which leaders serve.
- It's visionary leadership. Great leaders have the vision to see what others don't, think strategically, develop a plan to get from point A to point B, demand accountability, communicate well and evaluate.
- It's bold leadership that is determined, creative, able to think outside the box, willing to make mistakes and take the heat, and always seeks to try new things.
- It's reconciling leadership that continually asks the question, "Who needs to be at the table in order to make a decision, resolve a problem, build a bridge or make sure all voices are heard?" Reconciling leadership always demonstrates grace.

Describe Your Gifts and Graces:

- A deep faith that was taught and modeled since I was a child and that I claimed as my own as a teenager
- A spiritual undergirding of self-awareness and self-examination
- Servant leadership by example
- Authenticity and transparency
- Success in leading churches into greater fruitfulness and health
- Perseverance, resilience and courage to risk and fail
- A passion for saving souls as well as for mission and social justice
- Flexibility and resourcefulness
- Ability to embrace and honor differences
- Empowerment of others to discover and use their gifts
- Boundless energy and a positive attitude

Describe How You Have Experienced the Call to the Episcopacy and How God Has Prepared You for the Episcopacy:

It wasn't too far into my ministry career that clergy and laity alike began to say to me, "You have the qualities to be an episcopal leader in The United Methodist Church. Would you think and pray about it down the road?" I have always sought to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit in my life and believe that the many opportunities God has given me in The United Methodist Church have equipped me for the process of electing episcopal leadership in 2016. In a time when the need for outstanding episcopal leadership in The United Methodist Church is critical, I believe God has prepared me in various ways.

- God has given me a temperament that is well-suited to the episcopacy. I have an even-tempered, self-integrated personality, which means that I am able to be a non-reactive and non-anxious presence in times of tension and conflict. I seek to show grace to all, even in situations where difficult decisions need to be made.
- I have been blessed to serve in a variety of appointments, including rural, county seat, large downtown urban, small inner city to large metro suburban churches. In each church I have found a way to lead congregations to greater health and vitality. I've also helped a

small urban church make the choice to close so that a new church restart could happen in the building. I have served six years as a district superintendent as well as on many boards and agencies at the district, conference and general church level. I also led a campaign in the West Michigan Conference to raise money to build the Ubuntu Retreat Center at Africa University in Zimbabwe, which will make a transformative difference on the campus.

- In every appointment, I have been involved in fundraising for both mission and buildings and have significant experience in the area of stewardship.
- I am a detail person, have extensive administrative background and manage staff well.
- I am a visionary strategic thinker who knows how to envision a ministry or project, create a plan of execution, oversee implementation, communicate well, evaluate and celebrate.
- I am a relational, transparent and permission-giving leader who empowers others to lead.
- I have written regularly for many years and have posted a weekly blog for ten years, *Leading from the Heart* at www.lauriehaller.org. My book *Recess; Rediscovering Play and Purpose*, was published in 2015. My writing has been published in various denominational publications.

Endorsements:

- West Michigan and Detroit Conference Delegations
- West Michigan Annual Conference
- West Michigan Chapter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action
- Justice for our Neighbors (JFON) – West Michigan
- The Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members of the Detroit Annual Conference
- United Methodist Michigan Area Hispanic/Latino Ministries
- Detroit Chapter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA)

Episcopal Nominee Information
for
Rev. David W. Meredith



Name: David W. Meredith

Conference: West Ohio

Street/PO Box Address: 7000 Summit Ave.

City/State/Zip: Cincinnati, OH 45243

Telephone: 614.361.8433 **Fax:**

Email: dmeredith3416@gmail.com

Current Appointment: Clifton UMC and Director of Urban Ministry, Ohio River Valley District

Family: James P. Schlachter, spouse

Background and Experience:

Formal and Significant Continuing Education:

Bachelor of Music Education, 1978 - The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
Graduate Music Ministry Studies, 1980 - Garrett-Evangelical Theological School, Evanston, IL

M.Div., 1984; Doctoral Studies, 2000 - Saint Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, MO
Leadership Clermont and Leadership Cincinnati, 1994, 1996

Asset-based Community Development and Communities of Shalom Training, 1998-1999

Servant Leadership Mission Group and Formation Process, 1997-2007

Children's Defense Fund Social Justice Training for Faith Leaders – 1995, 2010

Training in Relational Organizing – Believe Out Loud, et. al. – 2007, 2009, 2011

Supervised Years Facilitator and Cluster Leader Trainings, 2000, 2012

Building Inclusive Faith Communities, 2012

Faith in Public Life, Media Training, 2015

Ordination Dates and Conference of Which You Were a Member:

Ordained Deacon, June, 1983 – West Ohio Conference

Ordained Elder, June, 1987 – West Ohio Conference

Previous Work Experiences and Pastoral Appointments:

Music Educator, Eastern Local School District, Pike County, OH, 1978-1981
Work Camp Associate, Jackson Area Ministries, Jackson, OH, 1981-1984
Seminary Student Intern, First Presbyterian Church, North Kansas City, MO, 1981-1984
CPE Chaplain, Research Medical Center, Kansas City, MO, 1984-1985
Associate Pastor, Oxford UMC, Oxford, OH, 1985-1990
Associate Pastor, Armstrong Chapel UMC, Cincinnati, OH, 1990-1993
Executive Director, Inter Parish Ministry, Newtown, OH, 1993-1997
Lead Pastor, Broad St. UMC, Columbus, OH, 1997-2012
Lead Pastor, Clifton UMC, Cincinnati, OH, 2012-present
Director of Urban Ministry, Ohio River Valley District, Cincinnati, OH, 2012-present

Connectional and Ecumenical Church Experiences:**Current:**

Mission u/School of Christian Mission – Dean, Assistant Dean, Study Leader, Musician – 2000-present
AMOS Project, Cincinnati, Board Member – 2016-present
Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati, Board Member – 2012-present
Clifton Interfaith Clergy (Jewish, Muslim, Unitarian Universalist, Episcopal, Catholic, Presbyterian, and United Methodist) – 2012-present
Methodist Federation for Social Action – 1984-present
Reconciling Ministries Network – 1984-present
Affirmation – 1982-present
General Conference Volunteer/Advocate – 1984, 1988, 1992, 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016
General Conference Clergy Reserve Delegate – 2008, 2012, 2016
Jurisdictional Delegate/Reserve – 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016

Previous:

Reconciling Ministries Network, Board, 2003-2014
Mission Trips – 1990-2011 - North Carolina, Oklahoma, Ohio, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Mexico, Iowa, South Dakota, Minnesota, Canada
Affirmation – 1983-present; council 2001-2007
West Ohio Urban Ministry, President – 2000-2007
Appalachian Development Council – 1998-2004
Ohio River Flood of March 1997 – Unmet Needs Committee – 1997-1998
Open Table – 1994-2004
West Ohio HIV/AIDS Ministry and Healing Weekends – 1986-2000
West Ohio Coordinator of UN/DC Seminars for Youth – 1987-1998
District Youth Coordinator: Cincinnati, 1990-1993 and Wilmington, 1985-1990
Peace & Friendship Trip Leader – 1989 - Estonia, Latvia, U.S.S.R.
World Methodist Youth Conferences – 1979 - England, 1980 – Bahamas

Community Service Activity:**Current:**

Children's Defense Fund, Freedom School Advisory Board – 1994-1997; 2009-present

Susanna Wesley Community Center at State Ave. UMC – 2012-present
Cincinnati Wesley Foundation – University of Cincinnati – 2012-present
Be A Neighbor Ministry in Liberia – 2014-present

Previous:

Art in the City (Art program community neighbors) – 2010-2012
Community Shares of Mid-Ohio, Board, 2005-2009, President, 2010-2013
Inn at Broad (Transitional Supportive Housing) – 2001-2012
Heart of the City (Community-based Funding Support) – 2006-2012
Manna Café (Community Meal Program) – 2000-2012
Planned Parenthood of Butler County, Cincinnati, and Southwest Ohio/Northern
Kentucky – 1986-1997
Oxford Teen Center – 1989-1990

Publications, Awards, Honors:

Launched Freedom Schools in Cincinnati and Columbus, 1995-7, 2010-2012, 2013-2016
Facilitated dialogue and focus on Race and Law Enforcement, Cincinnati, 2014-2016
Coalition of Ecumenical Pastors in Columbus, Ohio successfully challenged the illegal
political activity of two central Ohio churches and their pastors (World Harvest
Church and Fairfield Christian Church) – 2004-2008
Bayview Lecture Series on John Wesley, Grace, and the Contemporary Church, 2007
Matthew Shepherd Award – Columbus, OH - 2001
West Ohio Urban Ministry Award – 2000
Oxford Person of the Year – 1990
More than 40 persons, now candidates, commissioned, and ordained clergy, have been
nurtured for their call and prepared for ministry, in part, by my personal
involvement as pastor, colleague, friend, mentor, supervised years facilitator.
29 years of pastoral ministry in four congregational settings reveal evidence during my
appointment tenure of revitalized congregations and ministries in each, fully paid
connectional ministries every year, and statistical growth measured annually

Special Interests and/or Hobbies:

Piano, Oxford Choral Ensemble, Oxford Community Theatre, Ohio State Buckeyes

Faith and Leadership Issues

Describe Your Understanding of the Nature and Mission of the Church:

To embody and announce, as Jesus did, that every baby born, every broken heart, every cast-off stranger, every self-destroyed sinner, and every prayer-worn saint is a Beloved Child of God. To incarnate and declare, as Jesus did, the Beloved community of God that breaks down walls, reorders sacred structures, radically includes those at the margins, reaches deeply into the world to right injustice, and lovingly upholds the reconciling love of God through Christ. To enliven, as Paul did, the institutional church wherein leaders and local ministries of congregations and beyond congregations freely express and articulate the message in their own unique and particular contexts. To manifest, as the early church did, a glimpse of the reign of God, a unity of mission through diverse people and practices.

Share Your Vision for The United Methodist Church:

The gap between the institutional structures and the people of congregation and community has grown increasingly large. The current distrust from parishioners and pastors of the district, conference, and general church has never been more palpable. The United Methodist Church is called to reconnect directly with local ministries, local congregations, and the people of local communities. All systems, structures, staff, and personnel will need to be reoriented from the inside of the institution back onto the streets, into communities, and with local and congregational leaders. It is time to become “repairers of the breach and restorers of the streets.” (Is. 58.12)

This vision will deploy bishops and superintendents to more frequent and more regular contact with pastors and congregations and less time sitting in cabinet rooms or offices. This vision will also deploy conference and district staff to spend more time in the field with the people and ministries of the church. This vision recognizes that the local congregation is on the front line while the connectional church is the skeletal support structure. It calls forth a reversal of the flow of energy and spiritual vitality. Resources and energy should follow ministry and flow out into the world more than they follow privilege and flow into the maintenance of the connectional structure.

Furthermore, the words from Isaiah 58 describe the current reality and aspiring vision of the United Methodist Church. Our beloved church spends too much time and energy quarrelling, fighting, and striking out at one another with wicked fists. (Is. 58.4) While many of these conflicts are worthy of debate, the quality of worship or the character of faith community that God calls forth from the people of John and Charles Wesley is more than that. As Isaiah summoned, so John & Charles methodically practiced.

Disciples “loose the bonds of injustice, undo the thongs of the yoke, let the oppressed go free, share bread with the hungry, bring the homeless poor into their house, clothe the naked, and cover the vulnerable.” (Is. 58.6-7) The connectional structure will not only repair the breach between local pastors and congregation with their respective districts and conferences. They will also open the doors for the church in all aspects of its life and ministry to reconnect with the people of the community beyond the walls of the church and at the edges of congregational relationships. This will require an expansive inclusiveness and respectful contextual ministry with structures to support it.

Describe Your Concept and Style of Leadership:

At heart, I am a visionary who leans on a diverse team of trusted, empowered colleagues to dissect, refine, and then implement the vision. Freedom with accountability to one another and supervisor is the hallmark of my concept of leadership. Regular mutual interaction with key leaders is essential. Learning history, meeting people, and listening to others throughout the church, the conference/district organization, and the larger community is essential to contextualize leadership decisions.

Describe Your Gifts and Graces:

- Group Facilitator

- Passion and Empathy
- Energy
- Teacher
- Creative and imaginative
- Bold Witness and Prophetic Action
- Encourager
- Patient and trusting
- Compassionate
- Pastor and Shepherd
- Courageous Leader
- Love God.
- Love the church.
- Love the neighbors that God so loves.

Describe How You Have Experienced the Call to the Episcopacy and How God Has Prepared You for the Episcopacy:

My journey through Hebrew Scripture with another group of Disciples has opened my heart to the call to the office of Shepherd for the church. It is especially the call of Moses that frames my call.

I'm not the most eloquent or fiery preacher. I'm not the most organized administrator. I'm not the most practiced person of prayer. I'm not the most charismatic leader.

But God has heard the cries of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer United Methodist disciples, members, pastors, families, friends, and congregations. God has heard the cries of those held in bondage of the "incompatible with Christian teaching" statement in the Social Principles these long 44 years. God has heard.

Just as God called a Hebrew raised in the house of Pharaoh for the enslaved Hebrew people, God has called me, a gay, married, man in the ordained ministry of the United Methodist Church. The bush that burned but was not consumed for me has been the faithful community of United Methodists, many who call themselves Reconciling, many who yearn for a fully inclusive church but do not so identify, and a hopeful, remnant of those who have left the church that harmed them.

This movement toward full inclusion and reform has burned and burned and burned for 44 years but it is not consumed. God has been revealed to me in it and God, through them, as asked me to go to the seats of power and declare, "Let my people go!"

I can do no less. I have no more excuses. The time is now. While leaning on the help of others and trusting in the sanctifying of the Spirit, the redeeming power of Christ, and qualifying potency of God, I will stand and if elected, serve.

Endorsements:

- East Ohio Conference Reconciling Ministries Network
- East Ohio Conference Methodist Federation for Social Action

2016 North Central Jurisdictional Conference
Episcopal Nominee Information
for
Rev. Dr. Christopher Miles Ritter



Name: Rev. Dr. Christopher Miles Ritter

Conference: Illinois Great Rivers

Street/PO Box Address: 302 North State Street

City/State/Zip: Geneseo, IL 61254

Telephone: 309-944-2793

Fax: 309-945-1297

Email: c.ritter@peopleneedjesus.org

Current Appointment: Geneseo First – Cambridge Multisite Ministry

Family: Becky, my high school sweetheart, consented to marry me in 1988. This year we will celebrate our 28th wedding anniversary. Becky graduated summa cum laude from Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville with a degree in Elementary Education. She has worked as both a public school teacher and Director of Children's Ministry. Most recently she was employed at First United Methodist Church in Geneseo as Director of Children's Ministry where she developed new programming and instituted our first Safe Sanctuary Policy. We are blessed to be the parents of four young adults: Hannah, Isaac (Victoria), Sarah, and Samuel.

Background and Experience:

Formal and Significant Continuing Education:

Formal Education:

2008

Doctor of Ministry in Evangelism, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University. Doctoral project selected by the faculty for distinction

- 1997 Master of Divinity, magna cum laude, Candler School of Theology, Emory University
- 1996 Level One Clinical Pastoral Education, Riverdale, Georgia
- 1994 Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, magna cum laude, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale

Significant Continuing Education:

- 2016 Educational Opportunities 10-day Learning Tour of Israel and Palestine
- 2014 Society for Church Consulting Training, Nashville, TN
- 2012 In May I visited Liberia and Guinea as a guest of Bishop Innis as we surveyed the United Methodist work and formed partnerships. In November 2012 I led a team from our church to visit Liberia and Guinea.
- 2012 Large Church Initiative, Richardson, TX
- 2011 Leadership Institute, Church of the Resurrection, Leawood, KS
- 2010 School of Congregational Development, Nashville, TN
- 2009 Leadership Institute, Church of the Resurrection, Leawood, KS
- 2000 Participant in a two-week mission and learning trip to Costa Rica where we visited Methodist Churches, ecumenical ministries, and lectures at Universidad Biblica Latinoamericana in San Jose
- 1999 Inductee into World Methodist Evangelism's Order of the F.L.A.M.E. (Faithful Leaders at Mission Evangelists). Induction included several days of formal training at Epworth on the Sea, St. Simon's Island, Georgia
- 1997 Participant in World Methodist Evangelism's European Evangelism Seminar at Centro di Ecumene in Villettri, Italy

Ordination Dates and Conference of Which You Were a Member:

- 1999 Ordained Elder in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference, UMC
Full Clergy Member, Illinois Great Rivers Conference, UMC
- 1996 Ordained Deacon in the Southern Illinois Conference, UMC
Probationary Clergy Member, Southern Illinois Conference, UMC

Previous Work Experiences and Pastoral Appointments:

- 2009-Present Directing Pastor, Geneseo First United Methodist Church and the Director of the Geneseo First-Cambridge Multisite Ministry
Geneseo First United Methodist Church is the largest Protestant church in a community of 6,500 people. We have grown to over 450 in worship attendance and have developed a multisite ministry with a total of three locations. The church has been blessed to receive the Illinois Great Rivers Conference Church Growth Award in 2014 and the Discipleship Ministries "One Matters" Award in 2015. Both of these recognitions were reflective of our number of professions of faith. Geneseo First UMC is an intergenerational church with strengths in men's ministry, children's ministry, youth ministry, and prayer ministry. We provide

free counseling and practical financial assistance to people in our community. A new, free bed is provided to any child in our community who needs one.

Cambridge United Methodist Church was down to around 40 in average worship attendance when a revitalization process was triggered by our conference in 2010. Geneseo First began a formal relationship with the church in 2012 and now shares vision, staff, and programming. Cambridge UMC now averages 175 in worship as is one of the top ten churches in our district in terms of size. It is perhaps the most notable turn-around story in the recent history of our conference.

Roots QC is a new church start in Rock Island that was launched from our multisite ministry. The church began holding weekly worship in September 2015 and has an average worship attendance around 50 with even more in “missional communities” throughout the Quad Cities area. Gerald Aloran, the church planter, was a member of the Geneseo First UMC staff for six years before stepping into this new role. Roots QC is perhaps the most ethnically diverse congregation in the conference. It has been very successful in engaging young men and has a partner relationship with a local homeless shelter.

Geneseo First UMC has developed a meaningful partnership with the Guinea Ministry of the Liberia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. We have the goal of building that ministry into a Guinea District toward it becoming a Guinea Provisional Conference. Over seventy students are provided scholarships to the United Methodist School in Diecke, Guinea. We also provide the full salary support for all seventeen pastors in Guinea. We are sending a Guinean pastor to the Gbarnga School of Theology in Liberia on full scholarship support. In 2015 we sponsored Rev. Aaron Yankee’s first visit to the U.S. He is the former head of the Guinea Ministry and current District Superintendent whose district includes the work in Guinea.

Key accomplishments:

- Retirement of church debt in 2009.
- Led two successful campaigns to retain a prohibition on video gambling in Geneseo after it was legalized by the State of Illinois.
- Completion of a \$4.5 million sanctuary addition in 2014.
- Successful completion of two capital campaigns.
- Formation of a fruitful partnership in Guinea, Africa.
- Growth of a talented ministry staff.
- Launch of a multi-site ministry and a new church start.
- Significant increases in giving to the church.
- Easter attendance throughout our multisite ministry has reached 1,150.

2001-2009 Directing Pastor, New Bethel United Methodist Church in Glen Carbon, Illinois

Glen Carbon-New Bethel United Methodist Church is a suburban congregation on the Illinois side of the St. Louis metro area. Over eight years, we grew the church

from 140 to 250 in average worship attendance. We received the Church Growth Award from the Illinois Great Rivers Conference for the large number of professions of faith. Giving to the church nearly tripled over the eight years I served as pastor. The church completed a major building expansion and two capital campaigns. The church staff expanded during my tenure.

Key accomplishments

- Grew the average Sunday morning worship attendance from 140 to 250.
- Oversaw a major building expansion.
- Conducted two successful capital campaigns for construction and debt service.
- Grew the church ministry budget from \$120,000 to \$325,000.
- Over 225 new members received over eight years, many of these by profession of faith.
- Received a church growth award from Illinois Great Rivers Conference.
- Funded the reconstruction of two churches in Liberia.
- Led a full-time, part-time, and volunteer staff of ten people.
- Racial diversity of congregation expanded significantly.

1997-2001 Pastor, Camargo United Methodist Church

Associate Pastor, Villa Grove United Methodist Church

This was my first pastoral appointment after seminary. Camargo United Methodist Church was a struggling congregation in a very small town, population 400. Attendance and giving were tripled in four years as the church grew from thirty to over ninety in average Sunday morning attendance. The church had 212 people on my last Easter Sunday. Over seventy new members were added to the church, mostly by profession of faith, throughout my four years there. Camargo went from a half-time appointment to a 2/3 time appointment. We completed a \$55,000 addition to the parsonage without taking on debt. We also remodeled the chancel to better accommodate our growth. We received the church growth award from the Illinois Great Rivers Conference and our growth was studied by a team of students from Asbury Seminary.

I also served as the associate pastor at Villa Grove United Methodist Church in the area of evangelism and children's ministry. I started an after-school ministry that reached an average attendance of 90 children. This represented one-fourth of the local elementary school. I also launched an evangelism team at this church.

1994-1997 Pastor, St. James and Chalybeate Springs United Methodist Churches,
Manchester, Georgia

This was my student appointment during my three years of seminary at Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Manchester was a town of around 4,000 located near Columbus, Georgia. During my time at St. James and Chalybeate Springs UMC's, we completed major renovations at both churches. St. James UMC became racially integrated for the first time during my

pastorate and African American worship leadership was introduced for the first time at Chalybeate Springs.

1991-1994 Pastor, Grand Tower and Gorham United Methodist Churches, Illinois
This was my student appointment as I completed my bachelor's degree at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. We had a phenomenal three years of ministry at these churches in spite of the fact that we suffered together the Great Flood of 1993. I had the privilege of watching UMCOR in action as both churches were evacuated for one to two months during the flood threat. During my ministry in Grand Tower and Gorham I was one of the founding pastors of the Shalom Cooperative Parish which provided practical assistance to the rural poor. I was a supply pastor for my first year in this appointment until I completed License to Preach School in 1992.

1987-1989 Supply Pastor, Cypress, Center, and Luther's Chapel UMC's
This was my first pastorate at the tender age of eighteen as I served as the supply pastor of three very small congregations in the southern tip of Illinois. It was a very affirming experience and served to confirm my call into pastoral ministry.

1986-1991 Other Employment
I grew up on the family dairy farm and milked cows each morning, starting in high school and continuing through my second year of college. I taught for a year at a Christian school and sold water treatment equipment to help support my young family in our years before getting established in ministry.

Connectional and Ecumenical Church Experiences:

Current:

2016 Clergy Delegate to the General Conference of the United Methodist Church.
Author of the Jurisdictional Solution for Amicable Unity in the United Methodist Church.
Author of the Love Alike Plan for unity in the United Methodist Church.
Blogging about United Methodist, Wesley, and church leadership issues at www.peopleneedjesus.net.
Member, Congregational Development Team, Illinois Great Rivers Conference
Member, Congregational Development Team, Spoon River District
Member, Spoon River District Committee on Ministry
"Booster" of the Guinea Ministry of the Liberia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Previous:

2010, Hosted "Deepening Your Effectiveness" Event for Church Leaders at Geneseo First United Methodist Church.
2007 Hosted "Breaking 200" Church Leaders Event at Glen Carbon-New Bethel United Methodist Church.
2005, Hosted the Bicentennial Celebration of Illinois Methodism at Glen Carbon-New Bethel United Methodist Church, near the site of the log cabin Bethel Meetinghouse.

2001-2008, Member, Board of Ordained Ministry, Illinois Great Rivers Conference.
2004-2008, Member, Board of Ordained Ministry Executive Team, Illinois Great Rivers Conference.
2004-2008, Mentor Training Coordinator, Board of Ordained Ministry, Illinois Great Rivers Conference
1999-2001, Chair, Embarras River District Committee on Superintendency.

Community Service Activity:

Current:

I have served in the Geneseo Ministerial Association since 2009. I was instrumental in developing the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, a local observance of the National Day of Prayer, which just completed its third successful year.
Chaplain, Hammond-Henry Hospital

Previous:

I had the privilege of organizing our local clergy in Geneseo, Illinois to twice successfully petition our local government to prohibit the expansion of gambling into our community.

Member, Geneseo Chamber of Commerce

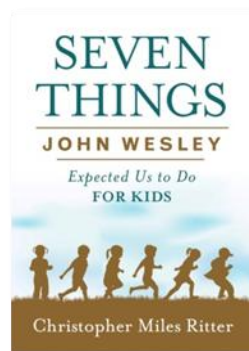
Clergy Member, Geneseo Food Pantry (2012-2015). I led an effort to fund the replacement of our roof and was involved in the study process for relocation of the pantry.

I participated fully in the ecumenical clergy group in every community in which I lived. Mission Trips to St. Louis (5), New Orleans (5), Costa Rica, Tennessee (2), Liberia and Guinea (2).

Chaplain, Hammond Henry Extended Care

Publications, Awards, Honors:

Publications:



Seven Things John Wesley Expected Us to Do for Kids (2016) Abingdon Press:
Nashville.

(Note: This book was listed as a Cokesbury best-seller at General Conference 2016)



“The Death of Homogenized United Methodism” May/Jun/Jul 2016, Circuit Rider Magazine, The United Methodist Publishing House: Nashville.

Widely Shared Posts at PeopleNeedJesus.net:

- “Seven Helpful Things the Council of Bishops Could Do Right Now”
- “Tears and Hope for My Church”
- “An Uncertain Future” (quoted in The Washington Post)
- “The UMC’s Messy Language about Sexuality”
- “44 Reasons to Question Rule 44” (republished in several outlets)
- “The Death of Homogenized United Methodism”
- “Bad Bishops”
- “Four Options for General Conference”
- “Seven Principles for Another Methodist Turnaround” (this post was translated into Korean and Norwegian)
- “Seven Things John Wesley Expected Every Methodist Preacher to do for Kids”
- “John Wesley’s Seven Tips for Personal Bible Study”
- “Elevating Effectiveness in the UMC”
- “Five Rules for a Flat UMC”
- “John Wesley’s Seven Tips on Sermon Content”

Quoted in:

“As United Methodists talk of splitting over gay equality, top bishop pleads for unity” May 17, 2016, The Washington Post.

“Quitting While Ahead” by Sarah Eekhoff Zylstra in Christianity Today, December 2014.

Tomberlin, Jim and Bird, Warren. Better Together: Making Church Mergers Work (2012) Jossey-Bass: San Francisco.

Awards

- 1999 Inductee into World Methodist Evangelism’s Order of the FLAME (Faithful Leaders as Mission Evangelists).
- Every church I served in full-time ministry has received the Church Growth Award from the conference.
- Geneseo First United Methodist Church received the 2015 “One Matters” Award from Discipleship Ministries.
- Doctoral Project chosen for distinction at Perkins School of Theology.

- Recognized with magna cum laude distinction at both Candler School of Theology and Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.

Special Interests and/or Hobbies:

I enjoy reading, history, travel, writing, walking, yard sales, and cooking.

Faith and Leadership Issues

Describe Your Understanding of the Nature and Mission of the Church:

The Confession of Faith we inherited from the Evangelical United Brethren describes the Church as one, holy, catholic and apostolic. These four classic marks are derived from the First Council of Constantinople in 381 and are faithful to New Testament vision for the Body of Christ.

Though we have many branches, the Church is one tree planted by Jesus Christ through his life, death, and resurrection. The oneness we share is a gift of the Holy Spirit and includes the Church Triumphant who ran the race ahead of us. The Church is holy as it is set apart for a special purpose by our Lord. None of the individual members of the church is free from sin, but we are going on toward perfection in love. The Church is necessarily catholic because our marching orders call us to “go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to all creation.” (Mark 16:15) Our apostolicity means that the Church continues the unbroken witness of the first followers of Jesus who were empowered by the Holy Spirit to bear witness to his life, teaching, and redeeming work.

The Church today continues to be empowered by the Holy Spirit as we share, embody, and enact the Gospel of Jesus Christ through word, sacrament, sign, and deed. This power, yoked with godly discipline, propels us forward in our role as the primary agent of Jesus’ global redemption project. The Church is at our best when we are humble, prayerful, engaged, radically focused on Jesus, and faithful to the apostolic witness we have inherited. Ministries with the poor, refugees, and the marginalized are essential to the character of our mission.

Share Your Vision for The United Methodist Church:

United Methodist hearts are hurting right now because we are seeing our church live up to neither our history nor our potential. We want a unified church and we see division. We want a fruitful church and we see decline. Our changing culture calls for a church that is entrepreneurial, nimble, and forward-looking, but we see a church that is painfully stuck.

The news is not all bad. We are blossoming in many parts of the world and we have some notable successes and strengths here in the U.S. United Methodists are good people with kind hearts and we often enjoy a favorable reputation in our communities. We have an impressive ministry network that is available to us. We need fresh winds of the Holy Spirit that will open us to renewed engagement with our mission field.

I have been a vocal advocate for reaching a comprehensive settlement to our divisions over human sexuality. I do not downplay the seriousness of the issue and find it to be indicative of a deep difference in how United Methodists are reading and interpreting scripture. Each proposal I

have put forward allows for divergence of approach while preserving us as one denomination. These solutions all appeared in either the ADCA or the DCA at General Conference 2016 and I hope the commission being formed by the Council of Bishops will utilize them in their work. You can read these plans at www.jurisdictionalsolution.org.

Beyond solving our divisions over human sexuality, we must refocus on ministries with children and youth. A Wesleyan blueprint for this is found in my book released by Abingdon Press in May 2016: Seven Things John Wesley Expected Us to Do for Kids. We need to expand the definition of “our kids” to include any child we can stretch ourselves to reach. Being a church with few children and youth is not a fate but a choice. We need to choose better.

The above vision fits into a larger seven-point program of renewal that I would seek to lead. These points are based my study of a plan developed by the British Methodists in response to numerical decline reported to the Liverpool Conference in 1820:

1. Renew the leaders. Church renewal must begin in the hearts of the leaders, both clergy and lay.
2. Renew the preaching. In times of decline we get in the bad habit of turning inward and talking primarily to ourselves. We need to turn outward and find fresh ways to communicate the Gospel to our culture. Wesley insisted that Methodists preach in the larger marketplace of ideas to people who have not yet heard the Gospel and who would not be showing up to church.
3. Prayer and fasting. We need to reconnect with our power source. The intensity of a church’s prayer life has direct relationship to the vitality of the mission.
4. New places for new faces. We need to reclaim our roots as an insurgent and entrepreneurial spiritual movement by starting new ministries in new places for new people.
5. Recommitment to children and youth. One of John Wesley’s parting pieces of advice for the movement near the time of his death was this: “Take care of the rising generation.” We need to redeploy on our resources in this direction.
6. Cultivate the existing membership spiritually. The early Methodist class leaders engaged with “careless” members to call them back into service so that the preachers would have time to focus on reaching new people. We need a new generation of class leaders.
7. Renewal of teaching. In 1820 the Liverpool conference recognized that a “spirit of strife and debate” had crept into the church and they committed to driving this out. Administrative sloppiness was corrected, especially as it related to organizing the spiritual nurture of the people. There was a renewed effort to make meetings “interesting and appropriate to... the state of the people.” The need was recognized for high-quality, relevant, and practical instruction. That need exists even more acutely today.

The above seven points have overlap with the Four Areas of Focus currently being championed by our Council of Bishops. There is a fruitful future awaiting The United Methodist Church as we draw richly from our past and plan expectantly toward our future.

Describe Your Concept and Style of Leadership:

Authentic Christian leadership is servant leadership. It is never based on a position over someone but a relationship with them and for them. Leadership is nothing more or less than the power to influence. Some influence is granted, but much of it is earned. Servant leaders use their influence to empower and equip others to be more than what they are.

Vision for leadership comes from listening deeply for the heart-cry of the people one would seek to lead. Vision is not imposing an outside agenda upon a group but identifying, naming, and framing a shared noble passion that has potential to create a verdant future. In order to lead effectively, a leader must understand the history and ethos of the organization. This will allow her or him to articulate the current reality as a step toward naming a preferred future.

My style of leadership is to first listen and study. This allows me to frame the current reality and create consensus about the ministry landscape. I always seek to understand the history and ethos of the people I am called to lead. As I do so, I communicate my own impressions as one coming in from the outside. I find that most organizations need to understand and tell their story in a new way. There is a missional line that can be drawn from the inception of the church/conference/organization that curves through its entire history, leading toward the future God has for it. My job as leader is to help identify that golden strand and help name where the Holy Spirit might be leading.

As a rule, I surround myself with people that are wiser than I am. There is safety in an abundance of counselors. Wisdom is not found exclusively in the aged. I am learning that some of our young people have tremendous gifts of insight to offer the church. It is important to have everyone represented at the table because a team that is not reflective of the church is not able to lead effectively.

Describe Your Gifts and Graces:

I have a gift of discernment. This means that I often know things in my “gut” before my mind is able to grasp them. This gift has been useful in selecting leadership and making decisions. I have learned to trust my instincts and celebrate how the Holy Spirit works through them. I have also learned, however, to be careful to substantiate and articulate what my instincts are telling me. The leaders around me need opportunity to question my intuitions, or even push against them, so that we all align together on where we are going and why.

I have the gift of leadership as described in the previous question. I am definitely a “big picture” leader. I am able to see a preferred future without knowing all the steps necessary to get there. This means that I need people around me who can ask questions and contribute to the fine details. I tend to work hardest at getting the right people in the right places and then let them move forward in their own ministries with great freedom. I tend not to micromanage... mainly because I am really no good at it.

God has graced me with a curious mind and the desire to communicate effectively. Both these things serve me well in ministry. There is a certain amount of playfulness that is needed in life. If we take ourselves too seriously, we usually end up in a rut of our own making. I am also usually able to recognize what is not working and redirect as needed.

Describe How You Have Experienced the Call to the Episcopacy and How God Has Prepared You for the Episcopacy:

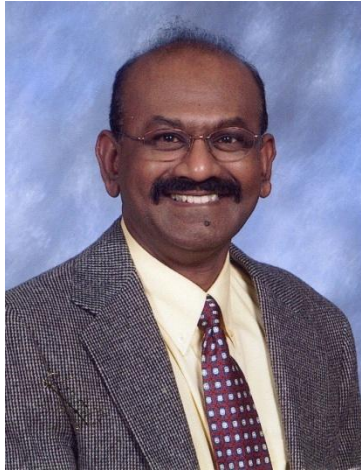
Two years ago I felt a profound call by the Holy Spirit to work constructively on the future of The United Methodist Church. In response to that sense of call I began working on proposed solutions to the deep divisions that exist in our church. This work put me in touch with bishops and people from the left, right, and center of our denominational spectrum. I gained a new appreciation for both the strength and stuck-ness of our church. Last year was the first time I submitted my name for consideration as a jurisdictional and General Conference delegate.

In some ways, working on denominational issues has represented a huge shift in my ministry paradigm. I believe so passionately in the local church that I had almost exclusively focused my energies there for twenty years. I have come to understand, however, that it is impossible to separate the ministry of the local church from our connectional expressions of our faith on the conference, jurisdictional, and General Church levels. Renewal is needed in each stratum.

Some fellow delegates have recently encouraged me to submit my name for the episcopacy. I do so out of my deep love for The United Methodist Church and from an appreciation for the crucial season in which we find ourselves. One colleague describes me as a “solutionist,” and so I am. Solutions are needed because further fracturing and decline is immanent. If we are to find unity and fruitfulness, it must be in the person of Jesus Christ and the distinctive threads that run throughout our Wesleyan and EUB roots. I believe that leadership in the office of bishop is the single best way I can contribute to our fruitful and unified future.

Bishop Jonathan Keaton recently remarked that discernment in episcopal elections is a two-step process. The candidate must discern whether God might be calling them to this work. The more significant discernment, however, is carried out by the church through the election process. I have done my part of the discernment knowing that prayerful work will be done by the delegates to the North Central Jurisdictional Conference. I humbly submit this profile as a tool in that process.

**Episcopal Nominee Information
for
Rev. Dr. Samuel John Royappa**



Name: Samuel John Royappa

Conference: Wisconsin

Street/PO Box Address: 750 Windsor Street

City/State/Zip: Sun Prairie, WI 53590

Telephone: 608-212-7375

Fax: 608-837-8547

Email: sroyappa@wisconsinumc.org

Current Appointment: Director of Connectional Ministries, Wisconsin Annual Conference

Family: Wife – Shanti Samuel, Children – Shalom Samuel, Shobi Samuel, Selwyn Samuel, son-in-law – Nelson Rajkamal, granddaughter - Adana

Background and Experience

Formal and Significant Continuing Education:

Bachelor of Arts - 1979

Bachelor of Divinity - 1983

Special Ecumenical Study, Lexington Theological Seminary, KY, sponsored by World Council of Churches, Geneva, Switzerland – 1992

Doctor of Ministry - 2002

Ordination Dates and Conference of Which You Were a Member:

17th April 1984 - Deacon Ordination, Methodist Church in India

26th January of 1986 - Elder Ordination, Methodist Church in India

02nd March of 2000 – Transferred to The Wisconsin Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church

Previous Work Experiences and Pastoral Appointments:

Pastoral Experience:

1979-80	Evangelist with Church of South India
1983-89	Two Point Charge with Bombay Annual Conference (first appointment)
1989-99	Single Point Charge with South India Annual Conference (lead pastor)
2000-04	West Bend UMC, Wisconsin Annual Conference (Associate)
2004-07	Wausau: Wesley UMC, Wisconsin Annual Conference (lead pastor)
2007-2015	District Superintendent, Capital and Coulee Districts
2015 -	Director of Connectional Ministries

Connectional and Ecumenical Church Experiences:

Current: Director of Connectional Ministries, since July 2015

Previous:

Methodist Church in India:

District Superintendent - 1994-99
Conference Treasurer, Madras Annual Conference - 1994-99
Member, Executive Council of Methodist Church in India, 1994-98
Member, General Conference, Methodist Church in India, 1994
Leader of delegation, General Conference, Methodist Church in India, 1998

United Methodist Church:

Director, General Commission on Christian Unity and Inter-religious Concerns
[2004-08 & 2008- 2012]
Chair of Elders, WI Annual Conference (2005-07)
Member, Board of Ordained Ministry (2004-07)
Member, Mission Motivational Team (2004-07)
Secretary, Asian Caucus, WI Annual Conference (2005-07)
Teacher, School of Christian Mission (2005 & 2010)
Dean of the Cabinet – 2011 & 2014
Delegate, General & Jurisdictional Conference (2008)
Member, Church System Task Force (2008-2012)
Member, East Angola Task Force (2008-2012)
Delegate, Jurisdictional Conference - NCJ, 2012
Delegate, General & Jurisdictional Conference (2016)
Led workshops for NCJ CORR (2005, 2010, 2013, 2015)
Contribution to The 2012 Book of Discipline ¶258.4. (Page 197)
Designate-Member of World Methodist Council, 2016-20

Community Service Activity:

Current: I am passionate about leading Volunteers-in-Mission, mostly international. In the past, I have led and participated in such VIM trips to India and Dominican Republic. I have been intentionally participating in supporting an orphanage called, “Philip and Timothy Memorial Children’s Home” in South India, which is committed to care for the semi and full orphans.

Previous: When I was an associate pastor at West Bend: Fifth Avenue UMC, I was involved in a Prison ministry at Dodge Correctional Institute, Waupun, WI, with weekly Bible Studies on “Jesus in the Gospels,” and periodical worship services.

Publications, Awards, Honors:

Harry Denman Award for Evangelism (2014)
United Methodist Women Mission Award (2015)

Written/Published Materials:

“Equipper” [Ten week Bible Study lessons]
“Kingdom Prayers” [Lenten Study 2004]
“Inclusive Nature of the Gospel” [Four week study 2005]
“Staying Spiritually Strong” [Lenten Study 2007]
“Seven Ships for Church Health and Growth” [Lenten Study 2008]
“UMC Membership Vows” [Lenten Study 2009]
“The Beatitudes” [Lenten Study 2010]
“God’s Call to Be a Channel: A Devotional Journey” [2011]
"A New Dawn in Beloved Community" co-author, edited by Bishop Linda Lee [2012]
Designed the clergy evaluation process for WI conference (2010) in collaboration with the cabinet and the BOOM;
Designed Ministry Plan Models for all UM congregations in WI conference - October 2010;

Special Interests and/or Hobbies:

Reading, watching movies and cooking channels, Riding Motor Cycle (summer), Writing articles and Study Materials, Making different kinds of Indian Tea including *chai*, Spending time with family

Faith and Leadership Issues

Describe Your Understanding of the Nature and Mission of the Church:

My understanding of the Nature and Mission of the Church is that it is primarily the Church of Jesus Christ which is to make a continuous fruitful impact upon the persons and communities, exactly as did the first-century church. In other words, the Church stands, then and now, to be an influence for good all over the world. Jesus has promised (Matthew 16:18) that He would build His Church and His beloved disciples are called to fulfill His promise in words and deeds which are the two wings of every Christian. I have every confidence that the Church of Jesus Christ is rising to meet the needs of the twenty-first century world. Our creeds, doctrines, theology, rites, ceremonies, and institution are the means to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to people of all ages, nations, and races.

Share Your Vision for The United Methodist Church:

My vision for the United Methodist Movement is to create a lasting impact as an authentic community, which in turn, transforms the world through prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. This is possible with God and His people, called “Methodists,” when local churches are

strengthened and vitalized; multi-cultural and multi-racial congregations are dreamed of and developed; collaborative leadership is fostered; clergy and laity are held accountable. My vision is also to make our *connectional system* more visible and fruitful with constantly and consistently lifting up what we are blessed with and also challenging people what we could do with what we are blessed. We can build a better and brighter future with all that we are and all that we have. We are all called to help each other believe that the best years are not behind us but before us.

Describe Your Concept and Style of Leadership:

My concept and style of leadership is missional. It's a missionary leadership. I believe God has called me with gifts and abilities needed to lead people missionally. Missionary leadership is about holistically seeing the needs of persons and communities and taking the responsibility of meeting the needs with collaborative efforts. This approach is based on the call to love God and to love people. God's mission through the church is all about agape, loving God and loving people. Missionary leadership begins and moves with loving relationships because it sees all people unique and valuable, as Jesus saw. The process for loving relationships includes discernment, engagement, strategy, and outcome-based implementation. I pray that God continues to grant me missional mindset or mentality that keeps fueling my passion, my courage, my positive attitude, and my wisdom with willingness to be held accountable first and to hold others accountable.

Describe Your Gifts and Graces:

Practicing and promoting The Means of grace; Teaching, preaching and proclaiming the gospel of love, mercy and justice; Need-based and contextualized evangelism, in word and deed; Developing multi-generational, multi-cultural and multi-racial ministries and churches; Helping lay and clergy to develop strategies for creative ministries to reach out to all people; My Strengths (as per *The Clifton Strength Finder 1.0 Assessment*) are: futuristic, Strategic, Learner, Incluser, & Achiever

Describe How You Have Experienced the Call to the Episcopacy and How God Has Prepared You for the Episcopacy:

I believe that the call to the Episcopacy is primarily an extension of the call to the Pastoral Ministry with additional tasks of general shepherding, vision-casting, being a prophetic voice, and strategically inviting lay and clergy to intentionally engage in the mission of the church, based on the Great Commission of Matthew 28:20. I feel greatly blessed to have had 33 years of ministry experiences, in India and USA, within the framework of The Wesleyan Methodist Movement, where I have emerged from a dot to a global circle. Born in a temple city in India, where the world's greatest missionary and ecumenist E. Stanley Jones offered Christ, I have been going through multiple spiritual experiences. God continues calling and nudging me to live my faith authentically and to do ministry joyfully.

Challenges and difficulties, as faced by the United Methodist Church, are opportunities to listen to each other, learn from each other, and grow together, for the sake of transforming the world. In Christ, law ends in grace, which means grace always abounds. In the midst of a broken world that is increasingly becoming pluralistic, diverse, violent, oppressive, and non-religious or religiously nominal, I hope to lead the global and connectional church to be a station of agape, hope, and healing, and above all, a church for all people. I am committed to be a source of

inspiration and challenge to potential lay and clergy of passion and courage who are committed to cause health, growth and vitality.

Endorsements:

- National Asian American United Methodists Federation (NAAUMF)
- Asian Caucus of Wisconsin Annual Conference
- Wisconsin Black Methodists for Church Renewal
- Ethnic Local Church Concerns of Wisconsin Annual Conference
- Hispanic/Latino Caucus of Wisconsin Annual Conference
- Executive Team of the Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women

Episcopal Nominee Information
for
Rev. Dr. Tracy Smith Malone



Name: Tracy Smith Malone

Conference: Northern Illinois

Street/PO Box Address: 77 W Washington St. Suite 1820

City/State/Zip: Chicago, Illinois 60602

Telephone: 773-307-9769

Fax: 312-346-9730

Email: tmalone@umcnic.org

Current Appointment: District Superintendent, Chicago Southern District, Northern Illinois Conference

Family: Husband: Derrick Malone (22 yrs); Daughters: Alexis (17) and Ashley (13)

Background and Experience

Formal and Significant Continuing Education:

BA, North Central College, 1990, Religious Studies and Sociology
Master of Divinity. Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, 1993
Doctor of Ministry United Theological Seminary, 2001,
Community Organizing Training, Metropolitan Alliance of Congregations and
Community Renewal Society
Conflict Mediation Training with Mennonite Peace Center
Inter-cultural Competency Training, General Commission on Religion and Race
And a host of additional workshops, conferences, and learning events

Ordination Dates and Conference of Which You Were a Member:

1993 Ordained Deacon, Northern Illinois Conference
1995 Ordained Elder, Northern Illinois Conference

Previous Work Experiences and Pastoral Appointments:

Pastoral Experience:

1989-1991 Jessie Walker UMC, Joliet, IL, Youth Pastor
1991-1993 St. Mark UMC, Chicago, IL, Assistant Pastor
1993-1996 First UMC of Lombard (Associate Pastor)
1996-2001 Southlawn UMC, Chicago, IL Pastor
2001-2007 Wesley UMC in Aurora, IL Senior Pastor
2005-2006 Adjunct Professor, Aurora, University
2007-2011 Gary UMC in Wheaton, IL Senior Pastor
2007-2011 Adjunct Professor, Northern Seminary, Lombard, IL
2011-Present, District Superintendent, Chicago Southern District
2014-Present, Dean of the Cabinet

Connectional and Ecumenical Church Experiences:

Current:

Chair of Agenda and Calendar Committee, 2016 General Conference
Board Member, General Commission on Religion and Race, 2012-Present
Member, Community Renewal Society, 2013-Present
Member, Board of Trustees, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, 2012-Present
Member, National Black Methodists for Church Renewal, 1993-Present
Member, National Black Clergy Women of the UMC, 1993-Present
Chair, Board of Visitors, Center for the Church and the Black Experience at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, 2012-Present
Delegate, 2016 General and Jurisdictional Conferences
Member, NIC Urban Strategy Leadership Team, 2011-Present
Member, NIC Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century Leadership Team, 2011- Present
Co-Convener of Chicago Pan-Methodist Initiative, 2011-Present Member, Community Renewal Society, Chicago, IL, 2013-Present

Previous:

Chair of Delegation, 2012 General and Jurisdictional Conferences
Chair, Legislative Committee, 2012 General Conference
Board Member, General Board of Church and Society 2006-2012
Member, NIC Board of Ordained Ministry, 1996-2008
Chair of Conference Relations, Board of Ordained Ministry, 2004-2008
Delegate, 2008 and 2004 General and Jurisdictional Conferences
Chair, Order of Elders, 1996-2000
Member, Interfaith Clergy Association, DuPage County 2007-2011
Co-Chair, NIC Committee on Religion and Race 1993-1996

Community Service Activity:

Current:

Community Renewal Society
Chicago Urban League

Volunteer at PADS
Mentor, Parker Jr. Middle School

Previous:

American Association of University Women
Mentor, Chicago Public Schools
Volunteer, Girls Scouts of America
Mentor, St. Charles Youth Correctional Center
Habitat for Humanity, Indiana
DuPage County Breaking the Cycle Of Violence, Lombard, Illinois
Kiwanis Club, Aurora, Illinois
Chamber of Commerce, Wheaton, Illinois

Publications, Awards, Honors:

Publications:

Dissertation: Evangelism: Restablishing A Historical Understanding of Mission and
Developing a Ministry that Partners Witness and Social Action, 2001
Book Review on Black Faith and Public Talk by James Cone for Theological Study
Journal, 2001
“Truth By Heart,” General Board of Discipleship, Preaching Resources, 2014
Contributing Author, Breaking Stained Glass Ceilings: Women Pastoring Large
Churches, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, 2013
Contributing Author, Black United Methodists Preach! Edited by Dr. Gennifer Brooks,
2012
“A Faithful Witness,” General Commission on Status and Role of Women, 2014
“Shapers of the Journey: Celebrating Women of Faith,” General Commission on the
Status and Role of Women, 2016

Honors/Awards:

Distinguished Alum Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, 2016
Distinguished Alum, North Central College, 2013
Bishop Dewitt Advocacy and Justice Award, Northern Illinois Conference
Leadership Hall of FAME, NCJ Black Methodists for Church Renewal
Leadership Excellence Award Chicago Black Methodists for Church Renewal
Outstanding Major in Religious Studies Award, North Central College
Established the Malone Scholarship for Minority Students, North Central College

Special Interests and/or Hobbies:

Reading, Bike riding, Movies, Traveling, Time with Family and Friends

Faith and Leadership Issues

Describe Your Understanding of the Nature and Mission of the Church:

The Church is a gift from God built upon the foundation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is always at work through the Church leading and guiding her so that she may be found faithful in her mission and purpose for existence. The Church exists to make known and

relevant the love, grace and transforming power of Christ in individual lives, families, communities and the world. The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The Church is the body of believers who proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and embody the love and example of Christ in their personal faith and witness. The Church is the place where people are invited, welcomed, nurtured (through worship, study and prayer) and are empowered and equipped to live as God's agents of love, reconciliation, justice and peace in the world. The Church is more than an institution, it is a movement of God; it is more than a system, it is transformational relationships; it is more than structures, it is a purposeful community.

Share Your Vision for The United Methodist Church:

We live in a world that is fractured, hurting, and broken...but I also see beyond to a world that CAN BE where people no longer go hungry, where violence is not the answer, where hatred is defeated through love, and where all the "isms" are overcome. I believe the church can and should be the place where that healing begins.

We also have a church that is hurting and broken and threatened with fracture...but I see beyond to a church that CAN BE the common, holy ground, where we fully embody the love and grace of Jesus Christ. This will bring about a vital, relevant, and thriving faith movement.

I see that what CAN BE takes place through the gift of God's hope and salvation...for I see that the Gospel of Christ and the mission of the church have the power to heal, unite and renew. And I believe that as each local church becomes the Beloved Community of God, welcoming and inclusive, and engages their community, addressing and ministering to the brokenness of the world, we will find our own brokenness healed as well. This is my vision and hope for the Church that we call United Methodist...that we incarnate the prayer "thy Kingdom come, thy Will be done on earth...."

Describe Your Concept and Style of Leadership:

Christ is first and foremost a servant leader. This is how I have chosen to live out my role as a leader. My style of leadership is collaborative and relational. I am one who values people's gifts, experiences and perspectives. I build strong teams and seek to inspire the best in others. I am an adaptive leader who envisions and enables systemic change. I am one who executes strategies and decisions with integrity and excellence. I believe that effective leadership is undergirded by communication, transparency and process. I am a leader who provides and welcomes constructive feedback. Energy and joy are the hallmarks my leadership. I continually pray for the wisdom, clarity and patience to be a Christ-like servant leader.

Describe Your Gifts and Graces:

I have the gift of administration. I am a skilled administrator, vision-caster, a good listener and a team player. I am gifted in stewardship and experienced in fundraising.

This gift of administration is always informed by the gift of evangelism and preaching...I bring a passion for the Good News of Jesus Christ and a heart for reaching the un-churched and the marginalized.

I bring the gift of energy, creativity, imagination and clarity to my work. I am a life-long learner and have a passion for equipping and developing leadership in others (lay and clergy).

I also bring my formative experiences which include: 1) a deep and abiding faith and prayer life, 2) a passion for the Gospel and compassion towards others, 3) being deeply rooted in the Wesleyan Heritage having been born and raised in the United Methodist Church and educated in United Methodist-Related Schools, 4) working with people of differing backgrounds, ethnicities, cultures and theological perspectives, and 5) working with laity and clergy in a variety of ministry settings: suburban, urban, inner-city and regional; small, mid-size and larger churches; cross-racial and cross-cultural; as associate, solo pastor and senior pastor; and as a district superintendent.

Describe How You Have Experienced the Call to the Episcopacy and How God Has Prepared You for the Episcopacy:

My call to the Episcopacy has been one that has been evolving over the course of my 25 years in ministry. When I reflect on my life and ministry I realize now that I was being shaped, formed and equipped for the Episcopacy (Office of Bishop). This is not something that I had on my list of ministry goals. Rather, it has been laity and clergy alike, over the years, that have identified and named this gift in me and have continuously called this out in me. I understand now that the Church had laid claim on my life for the Office of Bishop long before I had claimed and answered this call for myself.

My role as a pastor in different and varied settings; my role as a District Superintendent; and the variety of leadership positions I've held and the relationships I've formed through my work on General Boards and Agencies (which have provided me important and broad experiences, allowing me have an in-depth understanding of the work of the Global Church) have all together led me to feel prepared to serve the church in the Office of Bishop.

Endorsements:

- The Northern Illinois Conference General/Jurisdictional Delegation.
- The Northern Illinois Conference
- Chicago Black Methodists for Church Renewal
- National Black Clergy Women of The U. M. C.
- Fellowship of Asian Americans of the Northern Illinois Conference
- Gammon Theological Seminary National Alumni Association
- Black United Methodist Pastors (BUMP) of the Northern Illinois Conference
- United Methodist Women (UMW) of the Northern Illinois Conference
- The Korean Methodist Church Association in Greater Chicago, Northern Illinois Conference
- United Methodist Men, Chicago Southern District, Northern Illinois Conference

Episcopal Nominee Information
for
Rev. Dr. Barrie M. Tritle



Name: Barrie M. Tritle

Conference: Iowa

Street/PO Box Address: 3011 Pinecrest Rd.

City/State/Zip: Iowa City, IA 52245

Telephone: 319-338-9259

Fax: 319-337-0485

Email: btritle@icfirstchurch.org

Current Appointment: Iowa City First UMC

Family: Kae E. Tritle - Married in 1979; Grown sons: Joshua Tritle, Jacob Tritle (Katie), Michael Tritle and 3 grandchildren

Background and Experience:

Formal and Significant Continuing Education:

Morningside College – BA - 1980

Emory University - Candler School of Theology – M Div 1983

Calling and Caring Lay Ministries Trainer – John Savage 1984

Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary – D Min 1991

Academy for Spiritual Formation #9 Upper Room – 1994-1995

Mediation Skills Training Institute - Lombard Mennonite Peace Center 2000 & 2001

Stepping up to Staffing and Supervision – Susan Beaumont 2014

Healthy Church Initiative Pastors Leadership Development Group 2014-2016

Spiritual Leadership Inc. Operational Team Training; Greg Survant and Christin Nevins
2015-16

Ordination Dates and Conference of Which You Were a Member:

Deacon 1982, Elder 1985 Iowa Annual Conference

Previous Work Experiences and Pastoral Appointments:

Lead Pastor Iowa City First UMC 2010 - Present
Senior Pastor West Des Moines UMC 2004-2010
Cedar Rapids District Superintendent 1997-2004
Senior Pastor Burlington First UMC 1992-1997
Minister of Church Growth, Nurture and Adult Ministries – West Des Moines UMC
1989-1992
Pastor Sheridan Park and Capitol Heights UMCs – 1986-1989
Associate Pastor Clinton First UMC – January 1, 1983- 1986
Student Pastor Southbend UMC Atlanta Georgia January 1, 1981- December 31, 1982

Connectional and Ecumenical Church Experiences:

Current:

General Conference Delegate 2016
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry Board of Directors 2008-2016
Chairperson of the GBHEM Personnel Committee 2012-2016
GCFA's Committee on Personnel Policies and Procedures – CPPP 2012-2016
Bishop's Operational Task Force for the Iowa Annual Conference 2015- Present Rust
College Board of Directors, 2013-Present
Iowa City sub district Pastors group 2010-Present (Current Leader)
Iowa Board of Ordained Ministry 2004-2016

Previous:

General Conference Delegate 2012, 2008, 2004 and Alternate in 2000 IAC Staffing
Re- Design Team 2014-2015
Iowa Annual Conference Board of Ministry Chairperson 2004-2014
General Conference Ministry Study Task Force 2004-2008
General Commission on Christian Unity & Interreligious Concerns 2004-2008
Dean of the Iowa Cabinet 2000-2003
Academy of Spiritual Formation Leadership Teams for Academy 18, 23 and 28
Chairperson Conference Parish Development Committee
IAC Bd of Global Missions Education Secretary,
IAC Book of Resolutions Editor

Instructor for:

IAC Licensing School: Polity & Administration, School for Lay Ministry:
Doctrine/Polity, Preaching, Basic & Advanced Lay Speaker/Servant Ministries

Community Service Activity:

Current:

Kiwanis International, current President of Old Capital Chapter,
Iowa City Consultation of Religious Communities, Iowa City

Previous:

Operation Pride Chairperson – Clinton Iowa
Burlington Kiwanis

Publications, Awards, Honors:

God & Life Award from Boy Scouts of America
Eliminate Award from Kiwanis International (program to eliminate Tetanus)
Operation Pride Award from Clinton, IA City Council
UMW Missions Award

Special Interests and/or Hobbies: Family, Camping, Photography, Hiking & Movies.

Faith and Leadership Issues

Describe Your Understanding of the Nature and Mission of the Church:

The church is a means of God's Grace, a redemptive community, and a pathway for people to become and live as fully committed Disciples of Jesus Christ, who seek to transform the world with God's love.

Share Your Vision for The United Methodist Church:

The United Methodist Church is at a crossroads of an adaptive challenge. The world is rapidly changing and how we have done ministry is no longer leading the church to growth. We need to learn together how to join what God is doing in the world. Unfortunately, we are at odds with each other concerning our personal perspectives, positions and preferences. I long to serve a denomination that is growing both in God's love and in its influence upon the world by the power of that love. Let us turn to God, humble ourselves before the Lord and God will lift us up. (See James 4:10 NIV). As we do this, I believe God will lead us in the transformation of the church and the world.

Describe Your Concept and Style of Leadership:

I believe in a team-based, collaborative, collegial style of leadership. It is my goal that each person is empowered to both fully participate in and also be deeply invested in the success of the mission. Therefore, all are leaders. As a leader it is my responsibility to set the contextual tone for our work and to give direction that will align all the resources towards fulfilling the mission of the Church. I seek to always hold these two questions: What is God calling us to be and do to lead God's people? And the adaptive question - What do we need to learn to fulfill what God is calling us to be and do?

Describe Your Gifts and Graces:

- I strive daily to be a spiritually centered leader,
- Who operates out of relational sense with God & others,
- I am a colleague and friend with laity, deacons, local pastors, and elders. I work well with all theological perspectives. I believe we are all God's beloved who are called to be in ministry and are given the commission of the Holy Spirit to do God's mission.
- I am often called a strong and good communicator and preacher - one who is able to listen to others/groups and articulate cohesively the process that has gone on, what others have said as well as able to appropriately interject own thoughts within the process.
- I appreciate and am knowledgeable about the Discipline of our church
- I am a systems thinker; administration is second nature to me

- I have a deep passion and heart for Missions

Describe How You Have Experienced the Call to the Episcopacy and How God Has Prepared You for the Episcopacy:

Foundational to me is that I am called to serve the Lord wherever I am and wherever I have been placed – it is my responsibility to always make myself available to God and where God sends me. At this time in my life, my colleagues have been encouraging me to make myself available to the Episcopacy. I feel called by God to make myself available to serve in this way.

I believe God has been and is preparing me for something new through my experiences in the different arenas of ministry – as a DS, through the BOM, within the General Church and within the breadth and depth of God’s world, outside the confines of Iowa and into the world – through my work on the IAC Operational Team and in my understanding of adaptive change/challenge; God has been working in me in ways that are growing my skills for the betterment of Church.

In an ever-changing society and world our denomination is facing a Perfect Storm of expectations for our clergy, denomination, & local churches. The church is slowly finding its way towards embracing and becoming a vital incubator of grace; for people to experience, grow, thrive, and live out God’s grace in the world. This is what I am sensing and I want to help make this happen. I want to be part of this process.

Endorsements:

- Iowa Conference Delegation to General & Jurisdictional Conferences
- Iowa Annual Conference
- The Iowa Korean Caucus

Episcopal Nominee Information
for
Rev. Sylvester Weatherall



Name: Sylvester Weatherall

Conference: Illinois Great Rivers

Street/PO Box Address: 120 North Kellogg Street

City/State/Zip: Galesburg, IL 61401

Telephone: 309-344-1435

Fax: 309-344-1161

Email: sly4234@gmail.com

Current Appointment: District Superintendent Spoon River District of the IGRC

Family:

Wife – Aletha R. Weatherall

Sons -- Monty Weatherall (44); Rico Weatherall, (41); Cartavas Weatherall, (39)

Daughters- Rhoda T. Warner (22) Blessen Pratt (13)

Background and Experience:

Formal and Significant Continuing Education:

College: McKendree University, 1988, B.A.

Seminary: Eden Theological Seminary, 1991, M. Div.

Significant continuing education work completed. Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary—2yr Clergy Mentor Program. A Certificate of Completion was awarded.

Inter-cultural competency training.

Thirty years of workshops, training and equipping events designed for pastoral leadership.

Ordination Dates and Conference of Which You Were a Member:

Year of ordination as deacon. 1990 Southern Illinois Conference

Year of ordination as elder. 1993 Southern Illinois Conference

Previous Work Experiences and Pastoral Appointments:

Lebanon First UMC 1988-1990 – I supervised no Staff. I preached about five times a year. Position: served as Student local Pastor

East Saint Louis Metropolitan Ministry, 1990 – 1992 – Lead Organizer prior to starting the local church in Washington Park. I had no staff.

Washington Park Grace UMC. 1990-2002 – Washington Park Grace was chartered by Bishop White in 1992. At the Chartering service nearly one hundred youth and 60 adults joined the church that day. When I left in 2002, the Church averaged 150 in worship with there were 320 on the rolls. The church was also served by an appointed Deacon and a paid staff of four. A host of volunteer staff helped staff this 7 day a week ministry. In 2002 the church became a part of a parish which consist of all three East St. Louis churches. They were staffed by 2 fulltime pastors. While I was there, we build a family life center that was paid for the day it was opened. We completely renovated the old church building. And, we installed a state of the art playground. All of which were paid for upon completion. When I left in 2002, the church had no debt. These were very significant achievements in a city that is among the poorest in the nation.

Springfield East Side Mission Parish, 2002 – 2012 – (Springfield Grace-Springfield Kumler) (Sometime in 2005-2006 they dropped the parish name and just went by Springfield Grace-Springfield Kumler.) When I came, Grace was averaging 50 in worship while carry 175 on the rolls. Kumler averaged 35 people while carry 200 on the rolls. The Bishop and the Cabinet called this appointment the great experiment. It was so named because this was the first time a Black pastor served a Caucasian and African American congregations. They are only 12 blocks apart. I was given a half time associate for both churches. Together both churches had about 75 people on the sick and shut in list and they were not use to sharing a pastor. Both churches also had community ministries program, received large state grants and both were staffed by laity who were not members of the churches. Kumler had a staff of 10 fulltime and part-time lay people. The lead pastor was the supervisor for the staff of the Kumler Outreach ministries. Grace UMC had a community ministry called Grace Urban Ministries.

When I left these two ministries, we were serving more constituents. But, we intentionally cut State funding. That was done so the ministries were not dependent on state funds to remain in operation. The number of staff at Kumler UMC was cut to four. The number of volunteer staff increased tremendously. At Kumler UMC the number of volunteers numbered well over a hundred in all the ministries.

Worship attendance the first year of appointment/Worship attendance the last year of appointment – The Washington Park Grace Church was a new church start. That was in the days before the Congregational Development Team. There were no funds. In fact I was in seminary and I had to work a fulltime job in addition to starting the church. When I left in 2002 they had over 150 people worshipping. The worship attendance at Kumler UMC in 2002 was 25 to 35. When I left in 2012 it was 135-150. And, the church maintained two facilities. Both were completely remodeled with no debt incurred. Grace UMC averaged 50-70 in 2002. When I was reassigned in 2012, they averaged 100-125. It also underwent major renovations. Again, with no debt incurred.

In 2012 I was appointed The District Superintendent for the Spoon River District. I followed a long history of successful DS's including my colleague on the Cabinet, Janice Griffith. Spoon River has long been a leader in paying its' apportionments as well as starting innovative ministries.

Connectional and Ecumenical Church Experiences:

Current:

North Central Jurisdiction Commission on Race and Religion
North Central Jurisdiction of Black Methodist for Church Renewal
North Central Jurisdiction Structure Task Force
General Conference Delegate – 2016 (First Clergy elected and head of the Delegation)
Jurisdictional Conference Delegate -- 2016

Previous:

General Finance Administration Task Force for Tithe Based Apportionments
Conference Commission and Race Chair
Member of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry
General Conference Delegate 1996 (1st Reserve) 2000, 2008, (2nd Reserve) 2012
Jurisdictional Conference Delegate -- 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016

Community Service Activity:

Current:

Member of the Board of Trustees McKendree University
Member of the Wesley Village Board
Member Macomb Wesley Foundation

Previous:

Member of the Springfield IL Homeless United for Change Coalition
Member of the Washington Park Improvement Association
Member of the Enos Park neighborhood improvement association

Publications, Awards, Honors:

Two time recipient of the Harry Denman Award from the Foundation for Evangelism
(An Affiliate of the of the Board of Discipleship of the UMC)

Special Interests and/or Hobbies:

Fishing, Bike Riding, B.B. Que competitions, cooking at home, shopping.

Faith and Leadership Issues

Describe Your Understanding of the Nature and Mission of the Church:

The mission of the Church is to make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of God's world. I believe this is done one heart at a time through a relationship first with Christ and with our Neighbors. The Church is to equip the saints for this mission and ministry. Jesus the Christ said, "If love me?"....."Feed my sheep!" The church exists to:

- Dip into the Fountain of Forgiveness and feed Christ's sheep the food of the heaven.

- We are to feed them the joy that is unspeakable and full of glory.
- We are to feed them the peace that passes all understanding.
- We are to feed them the touch of the Divine Physician.
- We are to feed them the support of God's everlasting arms.

Share Your Vision for The United Methodist Church:

My vision for our United Methodist Church is to be a Global leader in leading people to Christ. My vision is for us to make the absolute purpose of the church to introducing people to Jesus. To become a global leader in teaching people how to be disciples. Our church is both universal and local, therefore uniquely in places where God can use us to make disciples. Our church is a unique expression of God's universal church. We are universal because there is literally a UM Church on every continent in the world. We are uniquely in all places at all times. God strategically has us placed to transform the world. We are local in that UMC congregants include Christians who come together in local assemblies to carry out God's work. It's best to think of the UM church as a living organism rather than a cold lifeless institution. The church is not buildings or even great programs, it is people! Transformed People.

In spite of the dangers of the journey our UMC face. In spite of the troubles and difficult circumstances we must face, we must come together corporately; we do so as the body and bride of Christ, and the building of God! So rather than approaching our discipleship responsibilities with a spirit of detachment or duty or "here we go again," let us enter God's world with a sense of joy and celebration—because each time people see the people called Methodists they should see the visible expression of God's presence on earth.

Describe Your Concept and Style of Leadership:

I am one who brings a "fire in my belly" to the table for innovative approaches to ministry in this century, while not losing concern for the smaller ministry settings where pastoral care is the primary focus with little hope of re-birth.

I am a "Bridge Builder" between theological perspectives represented within the Spoon River district and our conference. I believe those same skills and personality traits would serve the General Church well.

My leadership style is relational. I believe that each person is a unique gift of God. I lead by equipping. My equipping style is to help people discover their God giving gifts for the Church. To help people use those gifts in the Church and the world. I approach churches, districts and our global church as a living system. The term "systems" is derived from the Greek word "synistanai," which means "to bring together or combine." The United Methodist is a global system. I believe successful leaders (Pastors, Superintendents and Bishops) must create precedents in supervision successfully by following innovative ways and means so that it becomes a good precedent for our Districts, Churches and Conferences. In the United Methodist Church there is always change, (The Itinerant System and the assignment of Bishop). Change is the inevitable. I believe that Bishops, Superintendents and Pastors must have standards in place that future incoming Leaders can follow. They can incorporate their gifts, ideas and innovations in to Churches, Districts and Conferences. The system I put in place is one that is collaborative, relational and respectful of all people's gifts and abilities.

Describe Your Gifts and Graces:

I bring to Spoon River a broad range of gifts and experiences, from Urban, Suburban and small Town. I have been gifted with the ability to bring a people together. I love people and have the ability to see Christ in all people. I love preaching. God has blessed with me oratorical gifts. I love to teach. I have the heart of a teacher. Some of my other gifts are: service, encouragement, generosity, church growth, music, and hospitality.

Describe How You Have Experienced the Call to the Episcopacy and How God Has Prepared You for the Episcopacy:

I was loved into The United Methodist Church. I believe my life story is a model of how to disciple people. The United Methodist Church has given so much to me. As a young man, I had many doubts about the Church and God. The environment I grew up in was not conducive to learn of the love of all people no matter their ethnicity. And it was not conducive of experiencing the love of God. First United Methodist Church in Lebanon, IL (a church that was mostly Caucasian) changed all of that. The church and its' pastor the Reverend John Grob loved me into experiencing an authentic relationship with Jesus. They became, for me, a visible expression of God's love for me. An example of how the United Methodist can make a difference in the world and individuals. At age sixty, I believe that God is calling me to share with the Global Church that same love and be the visible embodiment of Jesus. I believe God is asking me to give back to the United Methodist Church, the Leadership in the person I've become and the Christian I have become because of the United Methodist Church. In the office of Bishop, the world would truly be my parish.

Endorsements:

The Illinois Great Rivers Delegation to General & Jurisdictional Conference.

Episcopal Nominee Information
for
Rev. Dr. Zaki Labib Zaki



Name: Zaki Labib Zaki

Conference: Northern Illinois

Street/PO Box Address: 7730 N Oconto Ave

City/State/Zip: Niles, IL. 60714

Telephone: 773-497-4141

Fax:

Email: zlzaki@msn.com

Current Appointment:

District Superintendent, Chicago Northwestern District of The Northern Illinois Conference

Family: Rev. Ayla Samson, wife (married in 1992)

Khalid Zaki, son (22 years)

Nura Zaki, daughter (21 years)

Mariam Zaki, daughter (18 years)

Isis Zaki, daughter (16 years)

Myra Zaki, daughter (13 years)

Background and Experience:

Formal and Significant Continuing Education:

B.Sc. Business Administration

Diploma in Marketing Management

Graduate Diploma in Management and Strategic Planning

Master of Arts in Theological Studies

Doctor of Ministry

NIC Institute of Congregational Development, 2000

NIC Institute of Congregational Development, 2005

Ordination Dates and Conference of Which You Were a Member:

Northern Illinois Conference, Probationary member - 2000
Northern Illinois Conference, Full Member – 2007

Previous Work Experiences and Pastoral Appointments:**Previous Work Experiences:**

Program Director, Sudanese National YMCA (1982-1984)
Director, Sudan Northern Region, Joint World Food Program (UN) and ADRA
Development and Relief Agency Relief Program (1984-1987)
Director of Field Operations, Middle East Reformed Fellowship (1987-1988)
Resident Chaplain, University of Chicago (1994-1996)
Tinley Park United Methodist Church, Youth Pastor (1993 -1997)

Pastoral Appointments:

Pastor, East Side United Methodist Church, 1997-2012
Church Planter and Pastor, G2G Church (Generation To Generation New Faith
Community), 2010-2012
District Superintendent, Chicago Northwestern District, 2012 - Present

Connectional and Ecumenical Church Experiences:**Current:**

Founder and President of the Middle Eastern United Methodist Caucus
Board Member of the National Federation of Asian American United Methodists
Member of the Committee of AALM (Asian American Language Ministries)
Member of the Denomination's Immigration Task Force
Member of the Inter-Ethnic Strategy Development Group
Candidacy Mentor for five Ministry Candidates
Church Planter (on a voluntary basis) – Chicagoland Arabic Language Ministries

Previous:

Northern Illinois Conference -Refugee Coordinator, 1998-2008
Northern Illinois Conference – Board of Global Ministries
Chicago Southern District, Program Council
Chicago Southern District, District Strategy Team
Chicago Southern District, Church Buildings and Locations Committee
Board member-RefugeeOne/Interfaith Refugee & Immigration Ministries, 1998 - 2008
Sudan Council of Churches – Student Representative, 1977-1984
Middle East Council of Churches – Student Representative, 1977-1988
World Council of Churches – Youth/Young Adult Representative, 1988-1989

Community Service Activity:**Current:**

City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations – Equity Council
Member appointed by the Mayor of Chicago since 2012
City of Chicago, Superintendent of Police Advisory Council, Member 2007 - Present
Member, Sudanese Community Association of Illinois, 2015 – Present

Previous:

Chairperson, Police District Advisory Council, 2008 – 2012
Member, Chicago Police Superintendent Advisory Council, 2004 - 2016
Founding member and key leader of Environmental Justice Alliance of Chicago Greater Southeast Side, 2010-2012
Founding member and Chairperson of Southeast Chicago Anti-gang Initiative, 2001-2012
Founding member and key leader of Alliance of the Southeast, 2010 - 2012
Founding member and key leader of South Chicago Retrofit Project, 2010 - 2012

Publications, Awards, Honors:

2003 – State of Illinois Certificate of Appreciation for “promoting inter-generational and intercultural bridges to strengthen the social fabric of the communities of the Southeast Side of Chicago. Your commitment in promoting Hispanic Heritage and being a voice of the people has made you a worthy recipient of this award.”

2003 – Distinguished Service Award – “For your efforts in fostering unity among the community” - 004th Police Department

2004 – NIC – MFSA Annual Award

2005 – The People’s Pastor – Award presented by the Southeast Environmental Task Force

2005 – City of Chicago Distinguished Community Builder

2006 – City of Chicago – Restoring the Walls: Models of Faith in Action Award

Special Interests and/or Hobbies:

Church Planting - Community Organizing – Developing Ministry Centers – Environmental Justice - Bird watching – walking – International travel

Faith and Leadership Issues

Describe Your Understanding of the Nature and Mission of the Church:

The Church is the body of Christ redeemed by his blood and called to be a nurturing, witnessing, and serving community in Covenant with, and acting on behalf of, the Triune God. The Church is called to receive, embody, represent, and generously share God’s grace with others, with no exceptions, representing and extending the values of God who “so loved the world that God gave God’s one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

The Church’s is a Global vision! She is the Hope of this broken world and exists as a living testimony to the redeeming, restoring, healing, transforming, and overcoming power of the Love of God revealed in Jesus Christ. The Church exists to make and nurture disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of world through local engagement and global witness as disciples are nourished and equipped for mission and service locally and to the world.

I love the Church and commit to serve to strengthen, authenticate, and expand its witness!

Share Your Vision for The United Methodist Church:

It is my strong belief that the United Methodist Church is most uniquely positioned to make a powerful impact in our world today because of our theological heritage rooted in a deep and profound understanding of God's grace, the integration of personal piety and social holiness, and the importance of putting faith and love into action.

The United Methodist Church is also uniquely positioned to make a difference in our world today because of its Global vision and Connectional polity, both of which allow, and should enhance, local engagement and global witness to flow out of each other and strengthen each other!

I am truly a strong believer that when it comes to the United Methodist Church, our best days are ahead of us!

Describe Your Concept and Style of Leadership:

As a leader, I am deeply grounded in the teachings and values of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. I believe a leader must learn to see others from God's eyes and as such love, value, cherish them. I am a relational, collaborative, and humble servant leader who is a Team builder. One of my main mottos is: Build Community and Promote Hope! I am also a focused and innovative/adaptive leader who encourages out-of-the-box thinking, good stewardship of resources, and will not shy away from responsible risk taking if and when necessary.

Describe Your Gifts and Graces:

In my previous appointment, many referred to me as "The People's Pastor". I have received an award that makes reference to me as "The People's Pastor". This highlights one of my gifts for which I have always been thankful for, and which I have always nurtured. That gift is simply the gift of having a big heart for people. This motivates me to relate effectively, care for, and advocate on behalf of others

In South Chicago, a predominantly Hispanic Community, I was often called the "Mexican Pastor" even though everyone knew I am not Mexican. I have received an award for the State of Illinois for my efforts on behalf of the Hispanic Communities of the Southeast Side of Chicago. This highlights another gift I am thankful for. That gift is the gift of Cultural competency and effectiveness in multi-cultural/cross-cultural ministry settings.

I am also a community minded and engaged servant leader who has built alliances and organized community at many different levels to identify and promote its common good.

Additionally, I am bridge builder who has very effectively created/promoted inter-generational and inter-cultural bridges to strengthen ministry and the larger community.

My life experience, living between several worlds, and my experience serving as the District Superintendent of one of the most diverse districts in the United Methodist Church has nurtured in me the gift I have always had, that of being an inclusive leader who brings different worlds

together, builds community and stretches himself and others to widen the circle of ministry and witness.

Finally, I am a creative, innovative, and adaptive leader. For me, every challenge is an opportunity to invite growth, to improve, and move further through creative, innovative, adaptive, and collaborative work.

Describe How You Have Experienced the Call to the Episcopacy and How God Has Prepared You for the Episcopacy:

In consulting with mentors, spiritual friends, and colleagues, and through a personal journey of prayer and fasting, I have come to believe that I am led to offer myself for the Episcopacy to help strengthen our Church's capacity to engage locally and witness globally!

In terms of local engagement, I am committed to work with others to develop compelling visions and strategies to strengthen and expand the presence and witness of the United Methodist Church in local communities through missional engagement and the building of strategic alliances. I have done this very successfully as a Pastor and as a Church Planter for many years.

Additionally, in every ministry context I have served, I was always called to bring different worlds together, build community in the midst of diversity, and help stretch the context of ministry in authentic and transformative ways. Having had the honor of serving one of the most diverse districts in United Methodism, I have learned valuable lessons in this regard.

I also believe that at this urgent juncture in history, I am uniquely called to the Episcopacy to be a genuine and authentic voice for regions and peoples groups not authentically or fully represented at our Global United Methodist Table at this time. If elected Bishop, I will establish stronger missional connections with the Church throughout the Middle East, North Africa, the Horn of Africa, and the Islamic world. I will also help the United Methodist Church relate authentically and effectively with the ever growing Global Middle Eastern Diaspora as millions of Syrians, Iraqis, Egyptians, Sudanese, Middle Easterners, and North Africans seek refuge in Europe and the USA as refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants. In each of our Annual Conferences in the North Central Jurisdiction, there are tens of thousands of refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants from the region of the Middle East and North Africa, a region I can authentically represent based on who I am, where I come from, and based on my ongoing efforts to develop ministry among these groups in Chicagoland, Europe, and across the Globe.

Last year, I began planting ministry initiatives among Iraqi, Syrian, Middle Eastern, North African, Eritrean, and Sudanese refugees and immigrants. Just a few days ago, I returned from a ten days visit to nine German cities where I led a team which visited refugee camps, met with German Church Leaders and Refugee/Immigrant Church leaders from Syria, Iraq, Iran, Egypt and Sudan. We held community gatherings and revival meetings attended by more than 800 refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants. I also led leadership training sessions at the request of the local refugee/immigrant church leaders. I was able to connect our German United Methodists with the leaders of the Immigrant/Refugee communities. Upon my return to Chicago, I led a previously scheduled Prayer Conference that brought together a good number of immigrants and refugees from all over the Midwest region. During both occasions, I felt strongly

called to offer myself as an Episcopal Nominee believing that I have something to offer to strengthen our local United Methodist presence as well as our global witness.

I offer myself with no reservations and with full confidence in the providence and guidance of God.

Voting at Jurisdictional Conference Getting Ready

- Every delegate will have a keypad for their use in voting at the table within the bar of the Conference.
- Gather the voting numbers for the candidate(s) you will be voting for prior to the beginning of the balloting. This will make the process of inputting much easier.
- The presiding Bishop will announce the start of the vote
- Power on the keypad by pressing the Power Button in the lower right-hand corner of the keypad.
- When prompted, enter the candidate's three-digit voter code and press Send. You will have 25 seconds to do this.
- To change your vote, simply enter the new number and press Send during the 25 second period. Your last vote sent will be your vote.
- If you have a problem, visit the Option Technologies representative at the rear of the room.



After the Session

Leave the keypads at the table for use in future balloting.

Clergy Voting Numbers
Listed Alphabetical Order by Last Name
(For Episcopal Election)

Russell	Abel	101		Dan	Dick	138
Andrew	Adams	102		Michael	Dominick	139
Tony	Alstott	103		Mark	Festermacher	140
Armando	Arellano	104		Lilian	Gallo Seagren	141
Jennifer	Arneson	105		Gary	George	142
Stephen	Austin	106		Wade	Giffin	143
Steven	Bailey	107		Curnell	Graham	144
David	Bard	108		Michael	Grant	145
Joy	Barrett	109		Jeff	Greenway	146
Frank	Beard	110		Janice	Griffith	147
Beverlee	Bell	111		Anna	Guillozet	148
Kennetha	Bigham-Tsai	112		Laurie	Haller	149
April	Blaine	113		Chester	Harris	150
Charles	Boayue, Jr.	114		Christopher	Heckaman	151
John	Boley	115		Benton	Heisler	152
Rose Mary	Booker-Jones	116		Dawn	Helton	153
Kelly	Brown	117		Gary	Henderson	154
Brian	Brown	118		Carol	Hill	155
Kathleen	Brown	119		Matthew	Hook	156
Susan	Brown	120		Jill	Howard	157
Danny	Bryant	121		Woojae	Im	158
Amy Jo	Bur	122		Sara	Isbell	159
Andy	Call	123		Heecheon	Jeon	160
Melanie	Carey	124		Cathy	Johns	161
Zaagsma	Carol	125		George	Kafer	162
Thomas	Carver	126		Meshach	Kanyion	163
Daniel	Cho	127		Scott	Kisker	164
Deborah	Coble Wise	128		David	Lagos Fonseca	165
Beth Ann	Cook	129		Robert	Land	166
Karen	Cook	130		John	Louk	167
Nicole	Cox	131		Alka	Lyall	168
Kermit	Culver	132		Jorge	Mayorga	169
Darren	Cushman-Wood	133		Steve	McElroy	170
Douglas	Damron	134		Delaine	McGhee	171
Katie	Dawson	135		Sean	McRoberts	172
Jeremy	Deaner	136		David	Meredith	173
Jerome (Jerry)	DeVine	137		Brian	Milford	174

Dennis	Miller	175		Brian	Williams	216
Dennis	Mohler	176		Chris	Winkler	217
Mike	Morgan	177		Judith	Zabel	218
Dave	Neckers	178		Steven	Zekoff	219
Nate	Nims	179		Zaki	Zaki	220
Mitch	Norwood	180				
Karen	Oehl	181				
Brian	Oliver	182				
Jeffrey	Ozanne	183				
Samuel	Padgett	184				
Sherry	Parker-Lewis	185				
Robert	Phillips	186				
Chris	Pierson	187				
Greg	Pimlott	188				
Lanette	Plambeck	189				
Dennis	Price	190				
Kimberly	Reisman	191				
Luis F	Reyes	192				
Cindy	Reynolds	193				
Chris	Ritter	194				
Randy	Robinson	195				
Benita	Rollins	196				
Roger	Ross	197				
Samuel	Royappa	198				
Lisa	Schubert Nowling	199				
Daniel	Schwerin	200				
Thomas	Shinkle	201				
Michael	Slaughter	202				
Tracy	Smith Malone	203				
Thomas	Snyder	204				
Roger	Spahr	205				
Amanda	Stein	206				
Cara	Stultz Costello	207				
Tara	Sutton	208				
Rebecca	Trefz	209				
Barrie	Tritle	210				
John	Wagner	211				
Scott	Walsh	212				
Megan	Walther	213				
David	Watson	214				
Sylvester	Weatherall	215				

2016 North Central Jurisdictional Conference

Ballot Tally Sheet

[illegible]

Candidates:

[illegible]

Ballot Tally Sheet

[illegible]

Candidates:

[illegible]

Ballot Tally Sheet

[illegible]

Candidates:

[illegible]