

## Biographical Information

### LAITY NOMINEES

#### 2012 General and Jurisdictional Conferences

##### Prerna Balasundaram

Church: Trinity United Methodist Church Lickdale

Employment/Appointment: Student- Senior in high school

Ministry (District, Conference, General Church): Officer on the Nominations Committee for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference United Methodist Women

Ecumenical Ministries: None

Community Services: Interfaith Hospitality Network, REACH Mission Work camps, AID for Friends, Youth for Christ

Awards/Publications: 3 yr National Honor Society Member

Other Information: Been playing keyboard and singing in church praise band for two years; been playing piano for twelve years

Statement: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" even though I am young, I don't believe there is a minimum age for doing what God has called me to do. I am so grateful and thankful to Him for giving me this opportunity.

##### Jane L. Bonner

Church: Bethlehem United Methodist Church of Thornton, Delco

Employment/Appointment: Legal Assistant/Administrative Secretary of Law Offices of William Adair Bonner (husband)

Ministry: District Conference 2009 & 2010

District Ministry: Participation in District Conference

Local Church: Chair of Women's Ministries (2002-present) & Adult Sunday School Teacher, Coordination Team for Lay Witness 2011, Past: Chair of Administrative Counsel, Nominations Secretary, Chair of Counsel on Ministries, Chair of Social Action, Organizer of Prison Ministry to Delaware County Prison, Adult Leader Youth Ministries, participant in many other local church ministries. Co-chair BUMC Sesquicentennial Celebration

Conference: Equalizing Lay Delegate, 2009, 2010 and 2011, Chair: Eastern Pennsylvania Evangelical Connection, Board Member of United Methodist Historical Society of Eastern Pennsylvania.

General Church: Advisory Board of UMAction

Ecumenical Ministries: God and Media Parade Organizational Committee, Sister Cities Program: Media/Tesovo, FUMCOM Committee to Relocate Refugees

Community Services: Member of Thornbury Historical Society (tour guide)

Publications: American Art in American Life (1782-1982), the Stained Glass Windows of Bethlehem United Methodist Church.

Other Information: Mother of 3 adult children, 2 adult stepchildren, 4 grandchildren.

Statement: I desire to participate at the General Conference and promote the same mission as the organization I presently chair: Eastern Pennsylvania Evangelical Connection: to articulate, teach, and advocate evangelical and orthodox Christianity among the laity and clergy of the United Methodist Church in the Wesleyan philosophy.

### Candace E. Carter

Church: United Methodist Church of the Good Shepherd

Employment/Appointment: Retired

Ministry (District, Conference, General Church): Christ Servant Minister; Black Methodist for Church; Program & Arrangements Committee for Northeastern Jurisdiction

Ecumenical Ministries: Wings of Victory Older Adult Ministry; Founder – Corresponding Secretary – Program Coordinator

Community Services: Hospitality and Visitation Ministry for the Elderly

Awards/Publications: Monthly Newsletter for Older Adults

Statement: It is a special privilege and an honor to attend General and Jurisdictional Conferences where I feel that I can serve as a faithful representative. It is my desire to encounter all issues with an open mind, to be well informed, listen and hear the opinion of others, avoid self-interest and remain faithful to the task. My wide range of past experience as a leader in the local church, district, annual conference, serving since 2000 as a General Conference and Jurisdictional delegate, and serving twice as a delegate for the World Methodist Conference has prepared me to serve with eyes wide open and with a heart eager to lean into a future with hope.

"Be careful for nothing; but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."  
Philippians 4:6, 7

### Tamara C. Clark

Church: Mid-Town Parish

Employment/Appointment: Eastern PA Conference Accounting Office

Ministry (District, Conference, General Church): United Methodist Women of the Eastern PA Conference

Ecumenical Ministries:

Community Services International Ambassador's Mission – Family Focused Outreach

Other Information: Local Church Servant for Mid-Town Parish participating in the Music Ministry, Intercessory Prayer Team, and Mid-Town's Sanctuary Development Campaign

## Beverly Connor

Church: Reading: New Journey/ Neuva Jornada

Employment/Appointment: Board of Ordained Ministry - 7 years

Ministry (District, Conference, General Church): District: Central District Lay Leader, DCOM; Conference: Board of Lay Ministry - over 10 years; Treasurer - Board of Ordained Ministry; ETEL Board of Directors; 2004 Jurisdictional Conference Alternate Delegate

Community Services: Coordinator of the New Journey Clothing Ministry - provides free clothing to the community around the church and the clients of our Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry; Board of the Friends of the Daniel Boone Homestead - Treasurer

Awards/Publications: Volunteer of the Year - Friends of the Daniel Boone Homestead - twice

Other Information: I have served the Eastern PA Conference as a conflict consultant for over 15 years. During this period I have worked with many churches in all areas of the conference that were having difficulties. It has been a great learning experience in how churches function and what leads them to have problems. That along with visiting churches in my district as the lay leader for charge conferences has allowed me to see many individual churches of all sizes and locations. This has led me to a better understanding of the churches in our Conference and what their concerns and needs are.

Statement: As a lifelong member I care deeply about the United Methodist Church. I want to see our church continue to be a force for the transformation of the world. Being a church in which diversity is valued and celebrated is important to me. That as a church we are tolerant of differing opinions and listen to each other with love while being faithful to our scriptural foundations is why I remain a United Methodist.

## Ruth A. Daugherty

Church: Grandview United Methodist Church

Employment/Appointment: Volunteer

Ministry: (District Conference General Church): Sec. UM Publishing House Board; Sec. National Advisory Com. Church and Community Workers; Secretary of Northeastern Jurisdiction; EPA Conference Board of Ordained Ministry; ---c Southwest District Building and Location Committee

Ecumenical Ministries: Served on the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns; was member of United Methodist/Roman Catholic Dialogue; Honorary Trustee of United Board for Christian Higher Ed. in Asia.

Community Services: Chair of LUMINA Board in Lancaster for 10 years; Member of Appalachia Service Project Team for five years; worked with Habitat for Humanity in Lancaster.

Publications: Articles in *Response*, *Interpreter*, *Circuit Rider*, "United Methodist Women in Mission", Study Guide for John Wesley study; *The Missionary Spirit*; *The History of Mission of the Methodist Protestant Church, 1830-1939*.

Awards: Doctor of Humanities degrees from Albright College and Shenandoah University; Alumni awards from Lebanon Valley College and Shenandoah University; Woodrow B. Seals Laity Award from Perkins School of Theology.

Other Information: Chair of the United Methodist Ministry Study for two quadrennia; Chair of the Acts of Repentance for Racism of GCCUIC; past President of Women's Division and national president of United Methodist Women.

Statement: As consideration is given to resolutions and reports re the structure of the global United Methodist Church, budget for 2013-2016; social issues, ministry, etc., I will follow the Holy Conferencing Principles: Every person is a child of God; Listen before speaking; Strive to understand from another's point of view; Pray before decisions; Strive to accurately reflect the views of others; Speak about issues and not defame persons.

### Barbara E. Drake

Church: Union UMC, Havertown

Employment: RN part-time at Methodist Hospital, Philadelphia, teaching diabetic classes for the South Philadelphia community.

Ministry (District, Conference, General Church): District: Central District Equalizing Delegate to Annual Conference; Conference: Church and Society Work Team Chairperson; Connectional Table member; Wellness Ministry Team Secretary; UMW School of Christian Mission Committee Treasurer; MFSA Member; UMW Past Vice President and Secretary.

Ecumenical Ministries: EPC representative to Pennsylvanians Concerned About Alcohol Problems.

Community Services: Delaware County Interfaith Hospitality Network Board of Directors Secretary; volunteer IHN host for homeless families with children.

Awards/Publications: Methodist Hospital Faye Fulton Award for Employee of the Year.

Other Information: Local church Lay Leader, Parish Nurse, Mission Coordinator, Adult Sunday School Teacher, and Choir member.

Statement: If elected to serve as a delegate to General or Jurisdictional Conference, I will study and prayerfully consider the issues before voting. I am committed to working to enable the United Methodist Church to fulfill its mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by developing leaders who connect mercy and justice, and by revitalizing congregations to be actively opening their hearts, minds, and doors to welcome everyone and involve them in advocating for improved health and elimination of poverty in their communities and around the world.

### Judith K. Ehninger

Church: Asbury United Methodist Church, Allentown PA, Northeast District

Employment/Appointment: Registered Nurse (44 years), Allied Health Educator, Assistant Professor, Allied Health Education and Coordinator; Medical Assistant Program, Lehigh Carbon Community College

Ministry: Local church – Lay Member Annual Conference, Staff Parish; Relations Committee, Leadership Development Committee, UMW Circle Leader, Disciple Bible Study and Christian Believer Trained Leader; District – Christ Servant Minister: Certified in Caring, Leading, and Speaking. 1996-2005 District Lay Leader, Northeast District, Northeast District Christ Servant Minister Director; Annual Conference – Conference nominations Committee, Board of Ordained Ministry, Academy for Laity presenter Christ Servant Ministry Basic Program; Jurisdictional – Member Northeastern Jurisdiction Episcopacy Committee; Delegate to 2000, 2004, 2008 Jurisdictional Conferences.

Ecumenical Ministries: Member Lehigh County Conference of Churches, Daybreak Angel Volunteer.

Community Service: Former Docent Allentown Art Museum, Advisor: Lehigh Chapter Medical Assistants, Member National League for Nursing.

Awards, Recognitions, Publications: Denman Evangelism Award, 1991. Authored Professional Allied Health Publications and Curriculum.

Other Information: Married to Charles for 43 years, one son, William, resident of New York City. Joined the Methodist Church in 1964 as a student nurse. Alumni of the American Church in London, Member Whitfield Society. Passion – small groups, Wesleyan and Classical Church History, and all aspects of prayer ministry.

Statement: What the church believes, preaches, and teaches publicly defines who we are to all. Moreover, what we do as a church defines who we believe Jesus Christ to be. We must strive to live the Gospel in our communities as a witness to the continuity and consistency of our faith. Decisions facing the 2008 General Conference must provide the context for church renewal and expansion, sharing the Good News the world over. We must seek God's vision for our future structure and His guidance as we seek to make disciples in this 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### Elizabeth Santos Fisher (Lisi)

Church: First United Methodist Church, Schuylkill Haven, Pa.

Employment: Part-time Marriage and Family Therapy Services at First UMC Schuylkill Haven  
*Next Chapter* counseling services.

Ministry: I am a member of the Health and Welfare committee in my local church. I am a leader of a small group.

Ecumenical Ministries: I am part of an Ecumenical Wesley Group for pastors' wives.

Community Services: I am a member of the Boy Scout Troop 625 in Schuylkill Haven. From 1991-present my years in pastoral ministry with my husband have enabled me to counsel, support, educate and be an advocate for different ethnic families in the communities we have served.

Awards: Awarded *The Marriage and Family Therapy Award* in May 2007 by Evangelical School of Theology

Other Information: Fluent in Spanish. Member of The American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy since 2004. I am trained in *Prepare-Enrich* by Life Innovations, Inc. and in the *Myers Brigg Type indicator* through the Center for Application of Psychological Type. I have been a member of the Eastern Pennsylvania UM Conference since 1991. I

was born in Puerto Rico and raised in New York City. I am married to Christopher L. Fisher and have four children: Luke, Mercy, Raquel and Evangelina.

Statement: I have been a member of the UMC since 1981. I have served in parishes embedded in poor as well as affluent communities. My multicultural experiences in the inner city, suburbia and now rural areas have equipped me with an eclectic understanding of different walks of life. I love the United Methodist Church because of its commitment to the gospel, service to its community and outreach across the world. I believe in scriptural Christianity, traditional family values, and social advocacy. As a Latina I am sensitive to issues of ethnic diversity and social justice in all communities. If elected to go to the General Conference I will support the Discipline as it presently stands including its call to both love and holiness.

### Thomas D. Gibson

Church: Asbury United Methodist Church, Allentown, PA

Employment/Appointment: Business Administrator

Ministry (District, Conference, General Church): Local Church: In my position on the staff of Asbury, I provide support to the Committee on Finance, Board of Trustees, Church Council, and the Permanent Endowment Committee. In addition, I supervise the support staff and have general responsibility for the office and all facilities. District: Past service on District Committee on Nominations; Chairperson, DCOM; District Stewardship Secretary; District Connectional Ministries Fund Committee. Presently I am the Northeast District Lay Leader, and serve on Northeast District Committee on Superintendence and the Northeast District Committee on Ordained Ministry, Northeast District Transformation Team. Annual Conference: Past President, Conference Council on Finance and Administration; Convener of the Budget Task Force; Member, Bishop's Financial Summit Work Team; Member, Retiree Health Insurance Task Force; Member, Camping Task Force; Past service on Congregational Transformation Team; Camping Work Team; Committee on Nominations; Chairperson, Committee on Stewardship; Member of steering committees for two capital campaigns; Leadership Team; Episcopal Residence Committee; Council on Ministries; Workshop Leader. Presently serving on Board of Lay Ministry, Conference Board of Trustees' Bishop's Blue ribbon Task Force on Camping. Jurisdictional: Jurisdictional Conference Delegate 1988, 1992, 1996 2000, 2004 and 2008. Member Jurisdictional Committee on Rules. General Church Service: General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns - Executive Committee and Finance Committee 1984-1988; General Conference Delegate 1988, 1996, 2000, 2004 and 2008; First Alternate 1992.

Ecumenical Ministries: Vice-Chairperson and Treasurer, Parkland Area Ministerium, an organization of twenty-five churches.

Community Services: President, Board of Directors, Allentown Rescue Mission, a shelter for homeless men, including drug and alcohol rehabilitation. Past Service on Cornwall Manor Board of Trustees - Property Committee, and Endowment Fund Committee.

Awards/Publications: Layman of the Year.

Statement: I will continue to support the Wesleyan Discipline of our church. The 2012 General Conference will face more challenges and opportunities than any Conference since the merger of the Methodist and the EUB denominations. We have been losing members for over 40 years. We cannot continue on in the same path. The Council of

Bishops has taken leadership to address this issue, and I am encouraged that they recognize we must focus our attention and resources on *Making Disciples*. This will require a lot of change in the General Conference and Annual Conference. Every delegate must be prepared to understand, to be flexible, and to be open to the Holy Spirit leading in this change.

### Jordan Harris

Church: Faith United Methodist

Employment/Appointment: Willow Valley (tray line leader); Youth Leader at Faith UMC; Trustee at Faith UMC

Ministry (District, Conference, General Church): Equalizing lay delegate for the Southwest District ; Preaching in local churches; Speaker at Gretna Glen Confirmation retreat

Ecumenical Ministries: Watchmen Prayer Ministry- a cross denominational group of teenagers that gathers at least once a week to up lift each other, our campus, our nation, our generation and our world in prayer. Dorm Bible study- We devote our time trying to discover where each of us may improve in answering God's individual callings in our own lives.

Community Services: Volunteer counselor at Camp Innabah; Volunteer kitchen helper at St. Columbia's Home for Men

Other Information: Biblical Studies student at Eastern University

Statement: I commit every day of my life to understanding more of who God is, and God's present work in my life as well as the life of the United Methodist Church. With God at work through the members of the United Methodist Church I believe we can preach the gospel of the simple and complex news that Jesus Christ loves you and God wants you to know and experience that great love, to my generation as well as those others who have yet to know the truth. Through the power of the Holy Spirit given to us by the love of Christ we can and will make a difference in this world and live up to our calling to be salt and light to a dark and desperate world. Thank you.

### George J. Hollich, Jr.

Church: Trinity United Methodist, Lebanon (Northwest District)

Employment/Appointment: Retired in 2003 from Milton Hershey Schools where I worked as the Director of Standards Implementation for 2 years, 10 years as the Director of Curriculum and 28 years as a Teacher of Speech, Humanities, Theater, and English.

Ministry: Local Church- Lay Leader (1990 - present), Sunday School Teacher (1972 - present), Administrative Board, Finance Committee, Education Team, Senior Choir, Choir Camp, Fellowship Planning Team. District- Presenter at various workshops and training sessions (1988 - present) . Annual Conference- Director of Christ Servant Ministries Program - formerly called the Lay Speaking Program (1988--present), Board of Lay Ministry (1988-present), Equalizing Lay Delegate (1989-present), Member Bishop's Strategic Planning Leadership Team (1992-94). Jurisdictional- Conference Lay Delegate (1992, 2000, 2004, 2008); Alternate Lay Delegate (1996) General Church- General Conference Lay Delegate (2008)

Community Services: Board of Directors, Lebanon County Community Concert Association (2003 - present) President, 2010-11; Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (1993-2003); Network Director - Restructuring Education (1995-2003); Alumni Ambassador -- Lebanon Valley College (1968-1998)

Awards/Publications: Initial Inductee to the Milton Hershey School Hall of Fame, People-to-People Ambassador to South Africa, International Who's Who in Professional Management, D.Clark Carmean Award in Admissions (LVC), Layman of the Year (Albright District), Outstanding Educator Award (MHS) --

Family: Spouse: Carol Frey Hollich, Self-employed - Music instruction; Children: G. Joseph, Assistant Professor, Purdue University; Kimberly Mae, Comptroller, Handrail Design, Inc.; Loretta Jean, Endocrinology Testing Lab, Burbank

Other Information: National Presenter: Standards-Assessment-Accountability (2003 ASCD National Conference in San Francisco); Extending the School Year - A Summer of Opportunities (2002 National Association for Year Round Education in San Diego); Research to Reality: Extending the School Year (2001 Beyond School Hours Conference in Las Vegas) .~

Statement: Although you will not find a list of the *Seven Deadly Sins* in the Bible... their presence throughout history cannot be denied. What should be of concern today is that more than ever before, they are tolerated and in many instances celebrated. Across the globe there is a vivid contrast between perceptions of who we think we are and the caricatures articulated by others. Have we become too lazy using our gifts and abilities to fight for souls for Jesus Christ? Have we become too selfish and/or too greedy to really care about what is happening in the world around us everyday? For the Church to be a true expression of the Body of Christ, we must strive to be an inclusive servant community seeking reconciliation for the differences created by assumptions, perceptions, and unthinking actions of the past and the present. Many issues facing the 2012 General Conference will be rooted in this search for global renewal and understanding.

#### David L. Koch, SPHR

Church: Grove United Methodist Church, West Chester, PA

Employment/Appointment: Retired Human Resources Director

Ministry (District, Conference, General Church): Local Church - Sunday School Teacher; Youth Mission Trip Chaperone; Administrative Council Chair; Building Committee Chair; Adult Choir Member; Disciple I & II graduate; and Drama program participant. District - Board of Church Location & Building Chair. Annual Conference- Lay Equalizing Member; Board of Pension & Health Benefits President; and Bishop's Blue Ribbon Panel Member. Jurisdictional: None. General Church Service: Finance Leadership Forum Attendee; GBOPHB Conference Forum Attendee:

Ecumenical Ministries: Pittsburgh Project Team Leader; Group Work Camp Team Leader; Healing the Wounds of Racism Graduate; and Prepare/Serve Meals at the Salvation Army in West Chester, PA

Community Services: Treasurer of the Pennsylvania State Council of SHRM, Inc.; Treasurer of the Chester County Choral Society; Past President of the Chester County Human

Resources Association; Past President of Toastmasters International Chapter; United Way "Day of Caring" participant; and Junior Achievement Project Business Instructor

Awards/Publications: Lifetime certification as a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) from the Human Resource Certification Institute

Other Information: Retired from the U.S. Naval Reserve with the rank of Commander; and Member of the Pennsylvania Bar

Statement: I have been an active member of the United Methodist Church since 1979 after having been raised in the Southern Baptist tradition. My family settled in Exton, PA in 1989 after several job related moves and joined Grove United Methodist Church in West Chester, PA, where we still serve.

I am retired after working over thirty years in the field of human resource management in both the public and private sectors. I am also retired from the US Naval Reserve with the rank of Commander. I hold a BS in mathematics from the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, an MBA from the University of Louisville in Louisville, KY and a JD from Widener University School of Law in Wilmington, DE. Donna and I have been married for 34 years and have two adult children.

The 2012 General Conference must deal with unprecedented financial problems relating to funding pensions and health benefits. My background in human resource management and my tenure on the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Board of Pension & Health Benefits make me uniquely qualified to address these issues. I believe that these financial issues and all other issues that come before the 2012 General Conference can best be resolved through prayerful- discernment and thoughtful application of the principles contained in the Wesleyan Quadrilateral (scripture, tradition, personal experience & reason). I pledge to read and understand the provisions of each specific resolution upon which I vote, taking into account the impact it will have on the local church, Conferences, Clergy and lay members. I also pledge to approach General Conference with an open mind, an open heart and a sense of practicality that can open the doors of the United Methodist Church to all persons. Everything done at General Conference should help the church move forward and fulfill its mission of spreading the good news and making disciples for Jesus Christ while facing the challenges of the next quadrennium and beyond.

### George J Schofield III

Church: Phoenixville: First; Former Member of Philadelphia: Arch Street and Havertown: Ebenezer (now Hope)

Employment/Appointment: Office Manager, Simpson Meadows, Downingtown, PA. Part of Simpson Senior Services, historically related to the United Methodist Church

Ministry (District, Conference, General Church): Former Member South District Building & Location Committee; Former Chair EPC Loan Fund Board; Former Member EPC Commission on Religion & Race; Former Board Member Metro Ministries Inc.; Former EPC Chapter Co-Chair of MFSA

Ecumenical Ministries: Havertown Cooperative Ministry

Community Services: Founding Member Upper Darby Youth Soccer Association; Volunteer with Habitat for Humanity and Good Works

Other Information: Participant in first training class of Healing the Wounds of Racism; Participant in Peninsula/Delaware Conference training Toward Community Wholeness; Elected Jurisdictional Conference Alternate and became seated Delegate in 2000; Elected Jurisdictional Conference Delegate in 2004

Statement: The United Methodist Church needs to live its slogan of Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors to become a truly inclusive church for clergy and laity.

### Lenora Thompson

Church: Wharton-Wesley United Methodist Church, 54<sup>th</sup> Catharine Streets, Philadelphia, PA, Southeast District

Employment/Appointment: President, The Thompson Group, Management & Training; Since 1991.

Ministry: Local Church Activities: a) Chairperson, Committee on Staff Pastor Parish Relations, b) Coordinator, Visitation Ministry, c) Past Coordinator, Young Adult and Youth Ministries, c) Past Chairperson of several committees.; District: n/a; Annual Conference: a) Member, Loan Fund Board, b) Conference Scholarship Committee, c) Immediate Past Conference Lay Leader (1998-2006), d) Past Member, Board of Ordained Ministry and e) Past member of numerous conference boards and agencies. Jurisdictional: a) Past Member of Northeastern Multi-Ethnic Center for Ministry, b) Past Member, Northeastern Jurisdiction Vision Table and c) Jurisdictional Conference Delegate, 1992, 1996, 2000, 2004 and 2008. General Church: a) Past Board Member Africa University (2007-2010). b) Past Member, General Board of Higher Education (2000-2008), c) Past Member, Board of Directors, General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA 1992-2000) and d) General Conference Delegate, 1996, 2000, 2004 (Chairperson of the Delegation) and 2008.

Ecumenical Ministries: Past delegate to the World Methodist Council, 1991 and past member of the 2006 Seoul, Korea Council.

Community Services: Member, Drew University Advisory Committee to the School of Theology, Past Co-Chairperson, PECO Energy Company Customer Council and Past Member and Secretary, Health and Human Development Committee of the West Philadelphia Empowerment Zone.

Awards/Publications: Contributing Author, "Making the Connection: Economic Development, Workforce Development and Urban Poverty" and co-author, "Organizing Community Groups". PECO Energy Senior Management Recognition; Service Leadership Award, Philadelphia Clef Club of Performing Arts; Service Award, Wharton-Wesley UMC.

Other Information: a) Vice Coordinator, Black Methodist for Church Renewal, b) Member, Delaware County Chamber of Commerce. Graduate, The University of Pennsylvania (1970), Ed. M and Graduate, Morgan State University (1969), BS Education.

Statement on Matters Coming before the 2012 General Conference. Issues coming before the 2012 General Conference will cover a wide range of areas including the Call to Action Report. Delegates to General Conference should be committed to discerning God's will. Delegates must be aware, sensitive and knowledgeable to the broad range of issues that will be facing the church in the coming years. The following are merely a few of the many issues before the 2012 General Conference. The items listed are in no order of priority: a) making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world,

b) continued and increased funding for Africa University, c) strengthening the connectional system, d) eliminating poverty, e) strengthening clergy and lay leadership, f) developing new and transforming existing congregations, g) expanding racial and ethnic ministries and h) globalization of the church.

Brenda Tildon

Church: St. Daniel's U M Church Chester

Employment/Appointment: Self Employed – Leadership Training and Spiritual Development

Ministry (District, Conference, General Church): Conference Coordinator - Certified Lay Ministers Program; Conference – Dean of the Laity Academy; Board of Ordained Ministry – District Training Chair; NEJ Finance Committee; Conference Strategic Review Team

Ecumenical Ministries: Outreach Ministry Chair – Local Church; Music Director – Catholic Church

Community Services: Ministry Support – Sunday Breakfast Mission, Wilmington, DE; Ministry Support – City Team Mission in Chester PA

Awards/Publications: Leadership Award Cluster of Churches

Other Information: Former Chair of the Conference Board of Trustees; Former Chair of the Conference Leadership Resource Team; Former Chair, Southeast District Board of Ordained Ministry

Statement: This is both exciting and challenging times in the life of the church. General and Jurisdictional Conferences is an opportunity to see the process at work and to be a part of the decisions that will impact the whole church. Our focus on the poor, leadership, health, and building new places and putting new life into the old, has sparked new life into the United Methodist Church. I am blessed to be considered.

Dr. Jeffrey A. Weber

Church: Stroudsburg United Methodist Church

Employment/Appointment:

1983-1993 – Officer, U.S. Army

1994-1995 – Senior Analyst, Legislative Budget and Finance Committee

1995-2005 – Deputy Director, Pennsylvania Senate Policy Development and Research Office

Adjunct, Assistant Professor of Public Administration, Penn State Harrisburg.

2005-present

Associate Professor of Public Administration, East Stroudsburg University

Chair, Political Science Department, East Stroudsburg University

Ministry (District, Conference, General Church):

1991-1993 Stovall United Methodist church, Radcliff, KY

Youth Group Director

Taught Adult Sunday School

Lay Leader (1992-93)

Delegate, Louisville Annual Conference (1991 & 1992)  
Certified Lay Speaker  
Filled in for pastors in the district  
1993-1994 & 1998-2005 St. Paul's UMC, Elizabethtown, PA  
Chair, Evangelism Committee (93-94)  
Taught specialized classes & Adult Sunday School (attendance of 110)  
Lay Leader – Praise and Worship Service  
Director, church's 40 Days of Purpose Campaign  
2005 – Present Stroudsburg UMC, Stroudsburg, PA  
Teach Adult Sunday School  
Co-Director, Connection Praise and Worship Service  
Assist in coordinating the weekly Soup Kitchen  
Member of church's leadership team  
Regularly give the message at Praise and Worship service (at least once a month)  
Member, Council on Finance and Administration (EPA Conference)  
Northeastern District Equalizing Delegate to the Northeastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference  
Completed requirements for Certified Lay Minister

#### Community Services:

1995-2005 – Member, Elizabethtown Planning Commission  
2005-2010 - Chair, Pennsylvania State Advisory Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
2006-Present - Volunteer with Family Promise  
Publications: Multiple publications concerning military administration, public budgeting and finance, decision making, strategic management, performance measurement, organizational assessment, and uncertainty/complexity/chaos theory.  
Other Information: Married 26 years to Audrey

#### Statement:

In 1986, Bishop Richard Wilke published a book whose title posed the question, "And Are We Yet Alive." Bishop Wilke raised the specter that the UMC's basic data on membership, church growth, church starts, and finances show that the UMC was "sick unto death," and he offered multiple solutions including restructuring, changing ministerial training, and recapturing our evangelical focus – in other words truly being alive in Christ. Twenty-five years later, the UMC is still confronted by declining membership rolls, church closures, and straining finances. The only difference between the situation in 1986 and 2011, is that crisis has intensify to the point where it can no longer be played at around the edges. The Council of Bishops, down through multiple jurisdictional, conference, and district level groups are asking the same questions on what change needs to occur within the denomination in order to exemplify the saving love of Jesus Christ, by successfully being Christ's hands and feet in a world that needs the grace of Christ. The General Conference of 2012, will be a seminal conference for the United Methodist Church, due to the magnitude of the structural and procedural changes being considered to the *Book of Discipline*, which will have a significant impact on ministry at all levels. The Lord has blessed me with a combination of professional and academic experience, which pertain to many of the issues being considered at this General Conference. Consequently, after prayer and discussion with my wife, my pastor, and others, I believe that God is calling me to be a delegate to the 2012 General

Conference. As a delegate, I will thoroughly research, study, and be open to the Lord's guidance through prayer and scripture, on all issues at the General Conference.

Mary White

Church: Wayne UMC

Employment/Appointment: United Methodist Neighborhood Service, Exec. Director

Ministry: (District, Conference, General Church) District: District Superintendent, Chair United Methodist Women, President, United Methodist Women, Vice President, District Lay Leader. Conference: Conference Lay Leader, Conference Finance & Administration, Nominations Committee, Episcopal Committee, Human Resource Committee, Board of Lay Ministry, Chair, Extended Cabinet, Board of Ordained Ministry, Conference Sessions, Status and Role of Women

General Church: Commission of Status and Role of Women, Chair Finance Committee, General Council of Finance and Administration, Secretary of Council, Personnel Policies and Practices (CPPP), Episcopal Committee, Inter-Jurisdictional Committee, Co-chaired General and Jurisdictional Delegation of EPA, Delegate to General(2004, 2008) Jurisdictional Conference( 2000,04,08). Jurisdictional: Northeast Jurisdictional Finance Committee, Chair, Member of the Vision Table of NEJ, Member of Holy Conferencing Committee NEJ, Vice President of Core Planning Group of UMW NEJ.

Ecumenical Ministry: Church Women United, Federation of Women

Community Services: Wesley Enhancement Board of Directors, United Way, NAACP Simpson House and Urban League

Awards/Publications: Who's Who of Professional Business Women, Women Heritage Society, National Association of University Women

Other Information: Dean of Laity Academy, Dean of School of Christian Mission, National Black Methodist for Church Renewal, Vice Chair

Statement: At General Conference 2012 we will be facing many challenges. The Call to Action Steering Team has charged the church with a plan of reordering the life of the church for greater effectiveness and vitality. We will be facing learning tracks for the Board of Ordained Ministry, Laity, Clergy and learning tracks for Bishops and their cabinet. We are experiencing declining membership, difficulty in attracting younger pastors. Encourage and improve decision making, implementation of effectiveness and accountability. I will go with an open mind, well prepared from all reading materials to help enhance better understanding of the issues and concerns we will be faced with. I will be guided by the Holy Spirit.