

# NEW Spirit!

Eastern Pennsylvania Conference  
of The United Methodist Church

Volume 11 Number 2  
2011 Annual Conference Edition  
April 2011

*Making Disciples of Jesus Christ*

## 2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



### District Conferences

**Sunday, May 1, 2011**

#### Central District

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
Valley Forge: St. Matthew's, 600 Walker  
Road, Wayne, PA 19087

#### East District

3:30-5:30 p.m.  
UMC of Huntingdon Valley, 3470  
Huntingdon Pike, Huntingdon Valley  
PA 19006.

#### Northeast District

4:00-6:00 p.m.  
Bethany Church, 1208 Brookside Road,  
Wescosville, PA 18106

#### Northwest District

3:00 -5:00 p.m.  
Lickdale: Trinity United Methodist  
Church, 98 Fisher Avenue, Jonestown,  
PA 17038

#### Southeast District

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
Grove United Methodist Church, 490  
Boot Road, West Chester, PA 19382

#### Southwest District

3:00- 5:30 p.m.  
Long Memorial UMC, 2660 Lititz Pk (Rt  
501), Neffsville, PA 17601

**T**his year at Annual Conference clergy and lay members will elect five clergy and five lay persons to serve as delegates to 2012 General and Jurisdictional Conference. Balloting will take place throughout the conference. (See page 12 for "Who can vote.") General Conference is the quadrennial meeting of the worldwide denomination, and will be held April 24 to May 4, 2012, in Tampa, FL.

An additional five lay and five clergy persons will be elected to serve at Jurisdictional Conference. The Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference will be held July 18-20, 2012, in Charleston, WV. A main task of jurisdictional conference is the election and assignment of bishops.

In total, twenty-two clergy and nineteen lay persons are official nominees for General and Jurisdictional Conference. (See page 2 for clergy nominees and page 8 for laity nominees.)

Annual Conference members will also vote on a variety of resolutions throughout the meeting, during times of Holy Conferencing. (See page XXX.)

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference is made up of more than 1,000 clergy and lay members, representing 463 churches. The annual meeting of the conference will be held May 19-21, 2011 at the Philadelphia Expo Center, Oaks, PA, with the theme, "Journeying with the Poor." The meeting begins with Clergy and Laity Sessions in the morning of Thursday, May 19.

In addition to election of General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates, annual conference members will have an opportunity to minister to the poor by preparing meals, and will be inspired by three teaching sessions with the Rev. Rudy Rasmus, emergent church leader, and pastor of St. John's United Methodist Church in Houston, TX.

Highlights also include Opening Worship on the afternoon of Thursday, May 19, with preaching by Jennifer Berry-McNulty, a young adult from First United Methodist Church of Germantown; a Service of Ordination on Friday evening with preaching by Bishop Julius C. Trimble, Resident Bishop of The Iowa Area; and the Memorial Service on Saturday morning with preaching by Bishop Peggy Johnson.

Members of annual conference are encouraged to bring offerings to support ministry with the poor, for the Hope for the Children Initiative and Imagine No Malaria, both to be received during Opening Worship. An additional offering will be received at Ordination for scholarships for undergraduate and seminary students.

Annual Conference Video Streaming: [www.epaumc.org/events/annualconference](http://www.epaumc.org/events/annualconference)

# 2012 General and Jurisdictional Nominees

## Clergy

### Michele Bartlow

Church: Senior Pastor, Philadelphia: First United Methodist Church of Germantown  
 Employment/Appointment: Pastor, St. Paul UMC, Terre Hill, Lancaster County; Pastor, Reading: Central Park UMC; Director of Connectional Ministries, Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, 1996-2000; District Superintendent, East District, 2000-2005  
 Ministry (District, Conference, General Church): Delegate, four General Conferences since 1996 and five Jurisdictional Conferences since 1992; Conference Board of Ordained Ministry 1992-1996; currently serving on East District Committee on Ministry; Chair of Northeast Jurisdiction Committee on the Episcopacy since 2008 and member of the committee since 2000. Since 2004, serving as a director of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Inter-Religious Concerns; served also on the General Church Task Force to Study the Episcopacy.

Ecumenical Ministries: Northwest (Philadelphia) Interfaith Hospitality Network; Northwest (Philadelphia) Neighborhood Interfaith Movement  
 Awards/Publications: Neighborhood Interfaith Movement (Philadelphia) religious Leadership Award, 2006.

Other Information: specialized training in urban ministry, church revitalization, and multi-cultural church development. Certificate in contextual family therapy after completion of a two-year clinical training program in contextual family therapy; Married for 39 years to Thomas Bartlow; parents of three adult daughters.

Statement: At every General Conference, we hear about growth in the "global church." Though it's true that challenges facing the United Methodist Church have never been greater, we have the faith, the heart, and the will to become one people - one in Christ. The Call to Action of the Council of Bishops particularly points the way toward new and radical thinking about how we might come together to re-shape the future of the United Methodist Church. Particularly around issues of guaranteed appointment, inclusion of people of color, women, and young people, and accountability for ministry, through prayer and discernment I expect General Conference to consider carefully what God is calling the United Methodist Church to be "for such a time as this." I hope to have that opportunity.

### Tracy L. Bass, Esq.

Church: Janes Memorial UMC  
 Employment/Appointment: Old Brick UMC; Haws Avenue UMC; effective July 1, 2011, Downingtown UMC. Licensed Attorney and Trial Lawyer [State of Pennsylvania] Member of the Pennsylvania State Bar Association; Member of the Bar of the US District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Continuing Legal Education/Training 2009; 2011 Legal Forum sponsored by GCEA for UMC Chan-

cellors (Church Tax Law, Sexual Abuse Litigation, Mergers of Conferences, Trust Clause, Fair Process, Camping, Judicial Council, et al); over the course of career participated as member: Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association; Philadelphia Bar Association.  
 Ministry (District, Conference, General Church): District Committee of Church Location and Building; Conference Board of Trustees; Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits; I CARE Team; Trained Interim Pastor; Trained member of EPA Conflict Intervention Team.

Ecumenical Ministries: President Greater Norristown Area Ministerium; Guest Chaplain Pennsylvania State House of Representatives (December 8, 2009); facilitated and helped lead ecumenical prayer walk through the streets of Norristown, PA (over 300 participants).

Community Services: United Methodist Advisory Board Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia; former Board Member Norristown Hospital-ity Center (Day Shelter for the Homeless); former Board Chair Partners for Families (Partners For Families (PFF) is a non-profit Christian organization in Norristown, Pa, dedicated to community transformation through the development and strengthening of families by providing a network of community and faith-based supportive resources). Negotiated donated space with municipality for community garden; participated on Municipality of Norristown ad hoc committee to house residents temporarily displaced; Represented UM congregation to secure CDC funding.

Awards/Publications: JQ Jackson Scholarship Award Recipient for Academic Achievement; Honors Graduate Lutheran Theological Seminary; Denman Award Recipient for Evangelism (2009).

Other Information: Elected 2007 Interested Observer/Speaker Alcoholics Anonymous Eastern Pennsylvania Service Assembly Conference; featured cover story Times Herald (May 15, 2010) article: "Hope for the future: Haws Ave. UMC" speaking on the church's work to help the homeless; featured guest "Hank Cisco TV Show" to speak on plight of homeless in Norristown (June 2010).

Statement: I often think of the tragedy that would have resulted if Abraham had only heard God and failed to continue to hear from God. Yes, God instructed him to sacrifice his son, and later God said to Abraham, "Do not harm the lad." In my life and in my ministry when I often find myself not having all of the answers I am encouraged in knowing that God still speaks. My daily endeavor is to be open to continue to hear from God. May God guide us in our efforts to minister with the poor, focus on global health, grow congregations, and engage in leadership development. As we move towards this next General Conference year and respond to the Call to Action, let us remember what God has said; yet remain open to hear what God is saying.

### Doris K. Dalton

Church: Plumblin UMC  
 Employment/Appointment: Primary Appointment to Central District, District Resource Assistant. Secondary Appointment to Plumblin UMC, Central District

Ministry (District, Conference, General Church): Rev. Dalton has served and ministered as Deacon at Cookman United Methodist Church for 10 years. On the Central District, she has been a member of the Board of the North Philadelphia Cluster of Churches. She is the Chair of the Deacon-Elder Work Team of the EPA UMC, a member of the Steering Committee for the Order of Deacons in the EPA UMC, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Asbury Ministries of Drexel University/Wesley Foundation. She has served as Secretary for the Conference Loan Fund Board and has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Conference Loan Fund Board from 2007 to 2011. She has been a member of the CORE Team for Healing the Wounds of Racism.

Ecumenical Ministries: She is a member of the Dismantling Racism Team of the Metropolitan Christian Council of Philadelphia.

Community Services: In addition to her ministry at Cookman, she worked in the area of Truancy Intervention/Prevention in Philadelphia through a PATCH program, where she met hundreds of truant children and their families every week and helped them to resolve the issues that were contributing to truancy. She has been a member of the Economic Development Committee for Business Alliance of Local Living Economies, a national network of sustainable businesses and organizations. She has led and organized trips for members of Cookman UMC to lobby Senators and Representatives in Washington, D.C. to advocate for a balanced and moral budget, and for students from the Alternative Learning Community for Youth to lobby Pennsylvania State Representatives concerning handgun control legislation. She has founded programs to help teenage girls through their pregnancies and offered post-natal care and advocacy. She has co-taught a course on "The Economy of God" through the Alternative Seminary.

Awards/Publications: None at this time.

Other Information: Doris received her M.Div. from Eastern Theological Seminary (now Palmer Seminary), and her M.B.A. in Global Economic Development from Eastern University. She also has certifications in Urban Community Development and the Family Group Decision-Making Process. She is married to Rev. Timothy Dalton, who pastors Lower Merion Baptist Church and is also a hospice chaplain. They have two wonderful children, Evangeline who is four years old and Isaac who is one year old.

Statement: I am a Deacon, and as a Deacon my calling is to extend God's table of abundant love to those who are on the fringes of our churches, our communities, and our society. I carry this calling in

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(USPS 19-604)

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**Making Disciples  
 of Jesus Christ for the  
 Transformation of the World**

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my heart as I minister to others through my work in areas of economic justice and empowerment, anti-racism, and advocacy on behalf of the poor, the voiceless, and the marginalized. As a delegate representing this Annual Conference, I will speak to issues regarding the need of the Church to transform itself to become more relevant to the needs and hurts of this current age, and to mirror biblical hospitality in its calling for ministers and servants of Christ Jesus, receiving new believers into the body of Christ, and welcoming the stranger within our gates.

## Alfred T. (Fred) Day

Church: Historic St. George's  
 Employment/Appointment: Pastor, Historic St. George's  
 Ministry (District, Conference, General Church): Former District Superintendent (Asbury, now NW District) - 1995-2001; Former Dean of Cabinet 2000-2001; Former Board of Ordained Ministry; Current Conference Commission on Archives and History; Current NEJ Commission on Archives and History; Current General Commission on Archives and History  
 Ecumenical Ministries: Philadelphia Interfaith Community  
 Community Services: Regular Volunteer, Grace Café, Arch St. UMC  
 Awards/Publications: Articles published in Worship Arts, Sermons published in The Biblical Preaching Journal, TEXTweek.com, Articles published in Annals of Eastern Pennsylvania; Certificate of Recognition presented by The Pan Methodist Commission for "contribution that led to bridging the gap of two centuries of division between St. George's UMC and Mother Bethel AME Church, Philadelphia, October, 2009. Certificate of Recognition, Philadelphia City Council Outstanding Citizenship for participation in the formation of the Frankford Group Ministry, Summer, 1984.  
 Other Information: Adjunct Faculty, United Meth Studies, Princeton Theological Seminary: Doctrine, Polity, Worship  
 Statement: Meeting United Methodists from around the nation and the world as pastor of St. George's, a national historic landmark church, makes me keenly aware of our denominational DNA. We are people grounded in a theology of love and inclusion, with faith that seeking heartfelt experience and pragmatic outlet, passionate about putting God's love to work in world. These core values will be my basis and guide in the decision making body that sets the course for next for the UMC's continuing journey into faithfulness and on to perfection.

## Joseph F. DiPaolo

Church: Wayne United Methodist Church  
 Employment/Appointment: 2003-present, Senior Pastor, Wayne UMC; 1992-2003 Pastor, New Hope/Solebury UMC; 1988-1992, Pastor, Wissinoming UMC (Phila); 1985-1988, Student Pastor, St. Luke UMC (Bryn Mawr)  
 Ministry (District, Conference, General Church): Delegate to NE Jurisdictional Conference, 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008; Delegate, World Methodist Conference (Seoul, Korea), 2006; Delegate to General Conference, 1996; Member, Commission on Archives & History (CAH); President, EPA Conference Historical Society 1999-present; Member and Secretary, Mid-Town Parish UMC Vision Table, 2008-present; Past service in EPA: Chair, ASRT; Member, CTT; Chair, Shaw/East District DCOM  
 Ecumenical Ministries: Adjunct Professor, Palmer Theological Seminary, 2006-present; Adjunct Professor, Evangelical Theological Seminary, 2009-present; Trustee, Evangelical Theological

Seminary, 2005-present; Senior Chaplain and Trustee, Ocean City (NJ) Tabernacle, 2001-2005; President Delaware Valley Council of Churches, 2002-2003 (Sec., 1996-2002)  
 Community Services: Wayne Area Ministerium; Chester County Concert Band (trumpet player)  
 Awards/Publications: Editor, Annals of Eastern Pennsylvania (annual journal of CAH & Historical Society), 2004-present; Author: "To Your Tents O Israel:" the Life of Rev. Andrew Manship, Evangelist and Entrepreneur (Arcadia, 2009); Author: "That Dear Man of God: Edward Evans and the Origins of American Methodism," in Methodist History (October 2008); Author/Editor, My Business Was to Fight the Devil. (Tapestry Press, 1998); Author: "A Hot Bed of Secession." New Hope and the Civil War (Adams Apple Press, 2001); That They all May Be One: A History of the Delaware Valley Council of Churches, 1953-2003 (2003).  
 Other Information: Married to Susan; three children: Christy (22), Laura (20) and Tim (18).  
 Statement: In recent years, the UMC has been moving in the right direction by clarifying our central mission as making disciples to transform a broken world. For renewal and reversal of our decline, we must support measures that encourage the rediscovery of our Wesleyan and evangelical heritage, equips and empowers the local church as the central focus of our ministry to the world, and reinvents our appointment system to attract and support the best and brightest of the coming generation of clergy, and deploy them in ways that maximize their effectiveness. To retain the blessing and gifts of sisters and brothers beyond the USA in an increasingly global UMC, we must revisit restructuring proposals to allow greater contextual flexibility for overseas annual conferences, while preserving their full inclusion and voice in the leadership of our church.

## Christopher L Fisher

Church: First United Methodist Church, Schuylkill Haven, PA  
 Employment/Appointment: Senior Pastor, First UMC, Schuylkill Haven, PA; Associate Professor and Director of United Methodist Studies, Evangelical Theological Seminary, Myerstown, PA; Adjunct Professor of Theology, Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY  
 Ministry (District, Conference, General Church): NW District Committee on Ordained Ministry Education co-coordinator, EPA Evangelical Connection; Transitional Chair, Escuela Teologica Evangelica Latina (2008-2011)  
 Ecumenical Ministries: Schuylkill Haven and Vicinity Council of Churches  
 Community Services: Chaplain, Boy Scout Troop 625, Hawk Mountain Council  
 Awards/Publications: Human Significance in Theology and the Natural Sciences (Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2010).  
 Other Information: Spouse: Elizabeth (Santos) Fisher; Children: Luke, Mercy, Raquel, & Evangelina. Member, American Academy of Religion & Society of Biblical Literature.  
 Statement: I have been a member of the United Methodist Church since childhood, and was ordained an elder in 1995. My appointments have included St. Philip's & Mt. Pisgah, Philadelphia; West Lawn UMC as associate; University of Edinburgh, UK, for doctoral studies; and First UMC, Schuylkill Haven. I am Wesleyan and orthodox in theological conviction, and have a particular interest in the dialog between science and faith. I hold that the Scripture is the written Word of God, and am committed to uphold our UM Discipline as a faithful expression of Christian corporate life in Christ's Church. I am committed to Wesley's evangelical gospel, including its concern for the poor and broken of society and the care of God's creation.

## Andrew L. Foster, III

Church: Janes Memorial United Methodist Church  
 Employment/Appointment: Philadelphia: Clearview (2000-2001); Philadelphia: Janes Memorial (2001-2003); Chester: Grace Community (2003-2009); Philadelphia: Janes Memorial (2009-Present).  
 Ministry (District, Conference, General Church): Served on Commission on Equitable Compensation; Served on I-Care Team; Served on Board of Ordained Ministry (Provisional Chair); Certified Lay Minister Instructor; Tools for Ministry Instructor; Rethink EPA Task Force; Mentor and Coach.  
 Ecumenical Ministries: Neighborhood Interfaith Movement (NIM); Northwest Community Coalition for Youth (NCCY); Black Clergy of Philadelphia; President, Black Methodist for Church Renewal, Philadelphia Caucus (BMCR), Black United Methodist Pastors (BUMP); Adjunct Professor, Palmer Theological Seminary.  
 Community Services: Served as Board Member of Rocky Run YMCA; Served as Board Member of The Unity Center, Inc.; Served as Board Member of the Episcopal House, Inc.; Founding Owner/Member of Chester's Grocery Co-op; Founding Member of Grace Community's Resource & Empowerment Center, Inc. (A Community Development Corporation).  
 Awards/Publications: Author of two books: "So, You've Answered the Call, Now What?" & "So, You Say You Want to Get Married, Now What?" - Published articles in the Philadelphia Inquirer and The Daily Times: "The Downside of Expanded Gambling: For Bettor or Worse", and "Educational Genocide."  
 Other Information: Rev. Dr. Foster is a Servant-Leader, Bridge Builder, Community Activist, Visionary, Team Builder, Motivator, Counselor, Pastor/Teacher, and Administrator.  
 Statement: If elected, I am confident, with God's help that I will represent our conference as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional conference with distinction and professionalism.

## William Gary George

Church: Home church is Tindley Temple UMC  
 Employment/Appointment: District Superintendent, Central District of EPA UMC  
 Ministry (District, Conference, General Church): Dr. George has pastored at Camphor, Trinity Baynton, Reading: Trinity UMC, Arch Street, Mt. Carmel, and Grace. He has been serving as District Superintendent for the Central District since 2007. In addition, he has served the Healing of the Wounds of Racism as a member of the CORE Team, the I-Care Team since its inception, the Sexual Harassment Commission of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, and heads the Conflict-Resolution Team of the EPA UMC. He has served on many boards within the United Methodist Church, such as the Board of Ordained Ministry, the Board of Conference Trustees, the Board of Pension, the Licensing Board for Local Pastors, Board of Equitable Salaries, and the Board of Directors for Metro Ministries, Inc.  
 Ecumenical Ministries: He is a member of the Interfaith Group for the Philadelphia Human Relations Commission and the Black Clergy group of Philadelphia and the Vicinity.  
 Community Services: Dr. George has served as consultant and therapist for the DELSTAR program and St. Gabriel's Hall, where he worked with troubled boys and young men. He has been a group therapy leader for recovering alcohol and drug addicted persons. He has worked as a chaplain and counselor for the Prison System in conjunction with the United Methodist Church. He has served as director of the Greater Ogontz Group Ministry. He has been the Adjunct Professor for Wesley Theological Seminary, Satellite of Local Pastor's School.

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Awards/Publications: Dr. George was named the Preacher of the Year in 2004 by Black United Methodist Preachers and the Black Methodists for Church Renewal. He was also a contributing author for One Brother to Another.

Other Information: Dr. George is happily married to Portia George, and has one son Joel. He and his wife enjoy spending time with their constant joy, their grandson DaVion.

Statement: Focus Area Two is Revitalizing Existing Congregations -- It is extremely important for pastors and laypersons cross-culturally to provide new ministries and opportunities for existing congregations. The world is changing and is facing many challenges; therefore people are changing as they face many challenges. And even though the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ is always the same, yesterday, today and tomorrow, the Gospel we teach and preach must be able to reach a new global generation that faces many challenges. We are now entering into a decade where people are focused not just for themselves, but desperately trying to change and save the world. As the world meets challenges, such as tsunamis, earthquakes, hurricanes, political upheaval, world hunger, economic disasters on Wall Street, and loss of homes, the Gospel we preach and teach must be able to take on a social context that meets the needs and challenges of the world. Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world because he can meet the needs of people spiritually, socially, and economically through the Church of Jesus Christ. Therefore, as Disciples of Christ, let us take on a bold challenge of preaching Jesus to a multi-cultural world that is facing many diverse opportunities.

As a delegate to the General Conference, it is my desire and aim to continue to empower pastors and leaders to also preach and teach a global Gospel to a new generation.

## Gregory Holston

Church: St. Matthew UMC, Trevoise PA

Employment/Appointment: St. Matthew UMC, Trevoise, PA

Ministry (District, Conference, General Church): Member, Conference Committee on Finance and Administration (CCFA) (2009-Present); Member, Bishop's Blue Ribbon Panel (2009-2010); Chairperson, East District Superintendency Committee, (2007-2010); President, Black United Methodist Preachers, (2006-Present); Member, Phi Beta Club, (2010 to Present); Member, Urban Ministry Task Force, (2010 to Present); Member, Black Methodist for Church Renewal, (2004 to Present)

Ecumenical Ministries: Member, Feasterville Interfaith Mainstream, (2004-Present); Officer, Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity, (2007-Present), Conference on the Holy Spirit (2009-2010)

Community Services: Lin Park Civic Association, Rotary International, (2006-2008), Bucks County NAACP, Bucks County YWCA Selection Panel

Awards/Publications: Alumni Preacher, Preaching with Power, Lutheran Seminary of Philadelphia (2008); Great Commission Commendation, Eastern Pennsylvania Conference (2007-2008)

Education: Georgetown University Law Center, Juris Doctorate; Lutheran Seminary of Philadelphia, Masters of Divinity; Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, Masters of Education; Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Bachelors of Arts

Statement: The solutions for our denomination's problems lie not in business slogans, demographic studies, business strategies, downsizing, or the newest corporate model. No, those are the world's solutions for its economic follies. Jesus specifically denies those models when he simply says, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all peoples to myself." John 12:32

We lift up Jesus with our commitment to pas-

sionate worship, bible based discipleship, intimate fellowship, socially conscious ministry, enthusiastic evangelism, and a dedicated prayer life. It is in this encounter with the Holy Spirit that God will draw people and reveal to us everything we need to do to bring revitalization to our denomination and hope to our churches.

## Robin M. Hynicka

### Biographical Information

Reverend Hynicka is the Senior Pastor of the Arch Street United Methodist Church (ASUMC) which is located in Philadelphia on the block of Broad Street just north of City Hall and just south of the Pennsylvania Convention Center. The congregation, established in 1862, is very diverse and has a long history of addressing local, national and international issues. In partnership with other congregations like Historic Saint George's, Hopewell and Swarthmore and organizations like Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower and Rebuild (P.O.W.E.R.), Project Home, Asian Americans United and the Nationalities Service Center, ASUMC calls persons to new life in Jesus Christ, develops the next generation of Christian leaders, seeks to eliminate homelessness, addresses local and international poverty, promotes community economic development and provides hospitality for recent refugees.

Raised in Lancaster County, Mountville, PA, Robin is a graduate of the following schools - Hempfield High School, Albright College, BA Religion and Duke University Divinity School, M. Div. In May of 2008, Robin was granted an honorary doctorate by Albright College and has since been elected to Albright's Board of Trustees. He serves on the National Committee for Communities of Shalom, a grassroots, faith-based initiative promoting congregational and community development and administered by Drew Theological School. In addition, Robin is a founding member of the No Casino in the Heart of Our City Coalition, a member of the P.O.W.E.R. Sponsoring Committee, a member of Magee Rehabilitation Hospital's Ethics Committee and serves on the Advisory Board of the Community Design Collaborative. As a candidacy mentor approved by the Board of Ordained Ministry, Robin has assisted several candidates for ordained ministry discern and focus their call to ministry. Currently, three young adults from ASUMC are pursuing ordination in the United Methodist Church.

Before being appointed to ASUMC in November 2004, Robin served in the following appointments: Student Assistant to the Advocate-St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, Germantown; Associate Pastor to the United Methodist Mid Town Parish, North Philadelphia; Pastor to the Cookman United Methodist Church, North Philadelphia; Founding Executive Director of the North Central Ministry, North Philadelphia; Executive Director of the Frankford Group Ministry, Frankford and Pastor of the Central and Rehoboth United Methodist Churches, Frankford. During his time in Frankford, Robin served as the President of the Frankford Group Ministry Community Development Corporation, President of the Frankford Human Relations Coalition and President of FrankfordStyle - a community school for the arts. While in Frankford, Robin administered, annually, over 2 million dollars in grants, donations and gifts. In addition, he oversaw the development of 24 new homes and 33 rehabilitated homes for first time home buyers and the construction of 50 apartments for low-income senior citizens. While Robin has been at ASUMC, over 80 new members have been received, a 1.2 million dollar capital campaign has been completed and a third worship service has been added that welcomes over 50 folks most of whom are experiencing homelessness.

For 33 years, informed by the principles of total

inclusivity and indigenous leadership, Robin has been engaged in making disciples, developing congregations and building communities of practical love, peace and justice. Together with his wife Weslia and inspired by two granddaughters, Lyla and Keenan, Robin looks forward to advancing the cause of Christ and demonstrating the steadfast love of God.

## Christopher Jacob Kurien

Appointment: District Superintendent

Ministry (District, Conference, General Church):

District: Initiated programs for the benefit of Children, Youth and Older Adults on the District and organized the Council on Ministry and the four clusters that now meet regularly. Conference: Dean of the Cabinet, Member of Board of Ordained Ministry, Conference Trustees, Conference Sessions, Nominations Committee, Latino Commission, Connectional Table and Structure Review Team, General Church: Board member, General Commission on Religion and Race and Member Planning and Evaluation Team.

Ecumenical Ministries: Advisory Board Member, Lutheran Theological Seminary.

Community Services: Participation in mission projects

Other Information: Council Member, World Methodist Council, Board Member, Methodist Hospital Foundation, Affiliate Member, American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy

Statement: Much more than in the past, the decisions before General Conference are made in a global context, as we seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ as a world-wide connection. Being born in India, I embrace and cherish the blessings of the diverse, global nature of our church and understand the challenges that go along with it. In that way, I bring an awareness of the wider implications of our decisions that would benefit the work of our delegation as a whole. As there are many pressing issues before the General Conference in 2012, I promise to take my responsibility very seriously to honor our Wesleyan heritage and make decisions that are good for our denomination.

## James F. McIntire

Church: Havertown: Hope

Employment/Appointment: Current Pastoral Appointment: Hope United Methodist Church, Havertown, PA (Senior Pastor, 2008-present); Previous Pastoral Appointments: Prospect United Methodist Church, Prospect Park, PA (Senior Pastor, 2006-2008); West Grove United Methodist Church, West Grove, PA (Interim Pastor, 2005-2006); Open Vision, Philadelphia, PA (New Church Start, 2005); The United Methodist Church of Bala Cynwyd, Bala Cynwyd, PA (Senior Pastor, 2002-2005); C.C. Hancock United Methodist Church, Springfield, PA (Part-time Pastor, 1999-2001); First United Methodist Church of Germantown, Philadelphia, PA (Associate Pastor, 1993-99); United Methodist Church of Narberth, Narberth, PA (Senior Pastor, 1989-1993); Abington United Methodist Church, Abington, PA (Part-time Pastor, 1988-1989)

Other: Licensed Attorney (Pennsylvania) 1984-present; Chaplain, Inglis House, Part-time, 1998-2002; Chaplain, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Part-time, 2001-2010; Director, Center for Spirituality & Disability, 1996-present

Ministry (District, Conference, General Church): Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, the United Methodist Church; Committee on Religion & Race (CORR) (2009-present); Commission on Status & Role of Women (COSROW) (2009-present); Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM) (2009-present); Disability Concerns Committee

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(2008) – Chairperson; Healing the Wounds of Racism workshop (2005); EPAC Scholarship Committee (2005-2007); East District Committee on Ordained Ministry (1992-1998); Supervising Pastor (Mentor) (1996-present); Commission on Health and Welfare Ministries (1988-1993); Commission on Equitable Compensation (1988-1993); Clergy Housing Guidelines Committee; Heritage Towers, Doylestown, PA Board of Directors (1992-1994); Finance and Insurance Committee The United Methodist Church; UM Task Force on Disability Ministries (2010-present); Legislation Committee; UM Task Force on Developmental Disabilities (1996-2001); Legislation Committee.

Ecumenical Ministries: Heeding God's Call gun violence prevention movement (2008-present); New Committee on Race and Ethnicity (NewCORE) (2009-present); Walking the Walk, Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia (2008-present); Dismantling Racism Task Force, Metropolitan Christian Council of Phila (2002-present); That All May Worship Network of Greater Philadelphia - Consultant (1996 - 2002); National Council of Churches of Christ - Member, Committee on Disabilities (2001-03).

Community Services: Kardon Institute for Arts Therapy - Board of Directors (2002 -2009); Montgomery County Office of Mental Retardation - Consultant (2001 - 2003; ARCoalition, Southeastern Pennsylvania - Resource Team Member (1999 - 2001); Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Planning Council - Faith Communities Committee (1997); Children's Seashore House - Member Pastoral Care Committee (1996)

Awards/Publications: Awards: Mayor's Commission on People with Disabilities, Philadelphia (October 2000); Recipient Access Achievement Award presented annually to recognize and acknowledge businesses/agencies/individuals that have made an outstanding effort and commitment to increase access for people with disabilities; Mental Retardation Services of Philadelphia (October 1999); Recipient Brighter Futures Award presented annually to individuals, agencies, and organizations which have made a significant contribution toward community inclusion and improving the quality of life of Philadelphians with developmental disabilities; National Organization on disability (NOD) (May 2001); Honoree consultant to First United Methodist Church of Germantown honored at national press conference as 2000th congregation committed to the Accessible Congregations Campaign; Articles: Respecting the Urge to Join (Winter 2002) Impact Magazine, Institute on Community Integration, University of Minnesota Changing Attitudes, Changing Space: Welcoming People with Disabilities (September/October 2000) Congregations, The Alban Institute Journal Policy: 1996 Discipline, The United Methodist Church The Social Community and Rights of Persons with Disabilities ¶ 66(G); The Annual Conference Committee on Disability Concerns, ¶ 649 Disability Awareness Sunday, ¶ 269.4 Video: Mental Illness . . . Paint a Different Picture, (November 1998) EcuFilm; United Methodist Communications Disability Teaching: Missed Interpretations: Disability Theology; When Justice Rolls Down Jacob's Ramp; Who Has Access to God?: Disability, Spirituality and Worship; More Than A Ramp: Disabilities, Civil Rights and the Church; Walk This Way: Biblical Perspectives on Disability; A Theology of Disability: Liberation and Choice

Other Information: Education: Princeton Theological Seminary Masters of Divinity, 1989; Widener University School of Law Juris Doctor, 1984; Rider University Bachelor of Arts, cum laude, political science, 1981; Children: Timothy (26); Lindsay (22); Lacey (20)

Statement: I am interested in serving as a General Conference Delegate for a number of reasons:

- Gun Violence Prevention -- In 2009, I was a founding member of Heeding God's Call which formed in Philadelphia as a multi-faith movement to end gun violence. Twelve religious

leaders, including myself, were arrested in a direct action taken against Colosimo's Gun Center in Philadelphia. Following our acquittal by the courts, our movement continues to grow and has contributed to the eventual closing of Colosimo's, one of the worst gun retailers on the Brady Center's list of bad actors as the federal government indicted the shop for the exact practices we have been protesting. Heeding God's Call continues to grow and develop momentum - chapters now exist in Philadelphia, in Northwest Philadelphia, in Harrisburg, in the Lehigh Valley, in Baltimore, in Washington, DC, and in Columbus, OH. Our goal is to have Heeding be a national grassroots, faith-based movement and we are working closely with the General Board of Church & Society to inform United Methodism across the denomination. I am now Chairperson of Heeding's Coordinating and Steering Committees and have drafted a petition for General Conference for which we are seeking GBCS endorsement and support. In November 2009, the Council of Bishops cited the work of Heeding God's Call in a Foundation Document in support of it's Pastoral Letter, God's Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action. As a delegate, I will advocate for gun violence prevention legislation.

- Disability Ministries - For more than 20 years I have been advocating and working for the full inclusion of people with disabilities in worshipping congregations. On behalf of the UM Task Force on Disability Ministries I drafted resolutions which were adopted by the 1996 General Conference and became a part of the UMC's current Discipline positions regarding persons with disabilities. As a current member of this denomination-wide task force of GBGM I have helped draft four petitions which are being submitted to the 2012 General Conference strengthening the place of people with disabilities as fully active members of our local churches and the Body of Christ. I will continue to advocate for people with disabilities as a General Conference delegate.

- Ministry Study - While I agree that the Church needs to address the issue of clergy effectiveness and the future of vocational ministry, I am not convinced that the recommendations of the current Ministry Study will achieve the goals that we identify as critical. I am particularly concerned that the recommendation related to "guaranteed appointment" will have a negative impact on the prophetic voice of pastors in our pulpits and will cause some clergy to be hesitant in addressing critical social issues. I also suspect that it will have a negative impact on people of color in professional ministry, on women in professional ministry, and on the urban church which needs our support rather than a retreat from missional work within our cities. I fear that by adopting this recommendation we will severely restrict the flow of younger persons into ministry and we will move the Church even further away from a qualified, effective and full-time professional clergy.

- Global Ministries - As an international denomination the UMC is in a unique position in that it reaches a diverse and wide-ranging population. In 1996, I visited Haiti as part of a Parish Twining Program developing a relationship between an Eastern Pennsylvania congregation and a rural Peasant Association in Fondwa, Haiti. In April 2010 I visited South Africa where I began developing a relationship with Central Methodist Church in Johannesburg which is housing refugees from Zimbabwe and I spoke at an ecumenical gathering in Durban focused on the Church's need to be welcoming and inclusive. In March 2011, I returned to Haiti as part of a 10-member Volunteers in Mission (VIM) team representing 4 Eastern

Pennsylvania churches to assist in post-earthquake relief efforts. It is key to a successful ministry in the world to reach beyond our own denominational and national boundaries without insisting on being the dominant presence in mission work

- Inclusion and Justice - During the past 23 years of ministry I have found myself focused on various ministries of inclusion and will continue to advocate for vision and direction for the denomination which will make us more welcoming and inclusive. I have particularly focused in inclusion and justice within the church and society for people with disabilities, for those of differing sexual and gender orientations, and against racism and its institutional entrenchment. As a delegate I will continue to work toward inclusion and justice.

## Alan J. Smith

Church: Tabor United Methodist Church

Employment/Appointment: Tabor United Methodist Church (Previous appointments: Faith Alive in Bowmanstown; Haws Avenue in Norristown; Analomink/Cherry Lane/Woodale Churches in East Stroudsburg Area.)

Ministry (District, Conference, General Church): Currently Chair the Board of Ordained Ministry of the E PA Conference

Ecumenical Ministries: In addition to an ecumenical faith journey, has served as Community Spiritual Director in the Eastern PA Conference Emmaus Walk Mountaintop Community and on numerous weekends as a spiritual director over the last 20 years.

Community Services: Involved with and past board member of the Interfaith Hospitality Network providing housing for homeless people in churches across the Indian Valley Area; Has served with various ministries and on the board for the developmentally disabled providing housing, employment, and faith opportunities.

Other Information and Statement: I have served a variety of styles and sizes of churches having served settings with a staff as both Senior and Associate Pastor, as well as a local pastor and student, in single church as well as multi-church appointments, in a church within a community of 30k as well as small rural churches. At a time when the church will be discussing issues relative to the status of pastors as well as many issues calling the church to mission, I believe that my love and appreciation for the local church in variety of size and culture as well as service on the Board of Ordained Ministry will provide an informed perspective on the issues and complexity at the heart of the decisions relative to pastoral ministry, service ministry, and the call upon the church at large. I would trust that my desire to be faithful to God, a desire to reflect the love and grace of God through Jesus Christ, and a commitment to seek the discernment of the Holy Spirit would make me well qualified to serve on a team representing our conference at the General Conference Level. The UM Church's trust in Scripture, the resource of tradition, the input of reason, and the life experience of faith and ministry will provide a healthy framework for both discussion and decision guiding the church into the future, in both the United States and across the world among all peoples.

## Lillian C. Smith

Church: Charge Conference, Zoar United Methodist Church, Philadelphia, PA

Employment/Appointment: 1994-1997 Associate Pastor, Asbury United Methodist Church, Washington, DC/Chaplain-Director, Wesley Foundation - United

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Methodist Campus Ministry at Howard University, Washington, DC; 1997-2004 Director, Ministries with Women and Persons of Color, Campus Ministry Section, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, The United Methodist Church, Nashville, TN; 2004-2006 Associate General Secretary, Young Peoples' Division, General Board of Discipleship, The United Methodist Church, Nashville, TN; September 2006 - July 2011 Director, Connectional Ministries/Executive Director, Congregational Transformation, Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, The United Methodist Church.

Ministry (District, Conference, General Church):

1996-2004 Shared Mission Focus on Young People, an Initiative of the United Methodist Church; Co-Chair 1996-2000; 1997-2004 Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century Steering Committee, GBHEM Staff Resource Person; 2006-June 30, 2011 Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Committee Participation has included: Board of Ordained Ministry, Conference Committee on Finance Administration, Camping Board, Congregational Transformation Team, Nominations, and the Connectional Table. 2006-2011 Northeastern Jurisdiction Directors of Connectional Ministries, Member. Chair 2010-2011; 2006-2011 Association of Directors of Connectional Ministries; 2008-Current Multi-Ethnic Center for Ministry of the Northeastern Jurisdiction, Committee Member and Program Committee Chair; 2008-2009 Co-Chair, Elevate: Taking Young Adult Ministry to the Next Level: Resourcing Congregational and Campus Ministry with Young Adults, sponsored by the NEJ Jurisdiction Vision Table; 2010-2011 Northeastern Jurisdiction Clergywomen's Consultation Design Team, Co-Chair.

Ecumenical Ministries: Community Services: MLK Observance Planning Team, King of Prussia 2011-Cub Scout Pack 551 Committee Member (2010-Current); Bethlehem Centers of Nashville, Board Member (1995 -1997)

Awards/Publications: Articles/writings include but not limited to: 365 Meditations for Mothers by Mothers, 365 Meditations for Women by Women, The Circuit Rider, NewSpirit, Letters from the Heart/Cartas del Corazon.

Statement: The United Methodist Church finds itself in a time of significant crisis and serious opportunity. The 2012 General Conference delegates will wrestle with issues, including "The Call to Action," that could greatly change the life and ministry of our global denomination.

As a delegate, I would bring the following attributes: An abiding love for Jesus Christ and God's multi-cultural/multi-lingual/ multi-generational people of the global community through The United Methodist Church

A demonstrated commitment to resourcing congregations and congregational leaders so that they fulfill their mission of "Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World."

Experience in various contexts of ministry. If elected, I will well represent this conference by completing the required reading and related research. Additionally, I will attend all of the required preparatory meetings.

## Herbert J. Snyder

Church: Jenkintown United Methodist

Employment/Appointment: Presently employed as (1) Board of Ordained Ministry Registrar and (2) Director of Senior Spirit at Frankford Group Ministry. Was an Ordained Pastor for 40 years, serving various churches in the conference.

Ministry (District, Conference, General Church): Active in Conference Camping for over 50 years at all levels...Chaired the Board of Ordained Ministry. Served on Religion and Race, Camping Board, Council on Ministries, Urban Ministries....president of the Conference Retired Preachers Association

Ecumenical Ministries: Philadelphia Council of Churches, Delaware County AIDS Network, Ministerium President

Community Services: Grace Cafe Homeless Feeding Program at Arch Street UMC, Frankford Group Ministry. I am also on the Executive Board of the Royal Arcanum, an international order that promotes educational and charitable work.

Other Information: I have a broad experience in the UMC on the Board of Ordained Ministry, in the educational and retreat/camping ministry of the church, and in Worship and Preaching (area in which I hold my Doctorate). As a retiree, I feel that the fastest growing segment of our population, our older adults, should have a place at the table.

Statement: Having served as a Delegate to Jurisdictional Conference and a Reserve Delegate to General Conference, I am familiar with the workings of the church. With a vast experience on the Board of Ordained Ministry, I would always vote for a clearer theological understanding of what it means to be ordained and how clergy can be more effective in serving Christ in the United Methodist Church. I have a "passion" for helping the oppressed, the weak, and the marginalized in our society.

## Dorothy Watson Tatem

Dr. Dorothy Watson Tatem presently holds the position of district superintendent of the East District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church. In this position she works in ministry with the 75 (3 are new church starts) churches located in Northeast and Northwest Philadelphia and in Bucks and Montgomery Counties.

Prior to her appointment as district superintendent, Dr. Tatem served as director of the Office of Urban and Global Ministries of the EPA. Through this ministry Dr. Tatem served approximately 115 local congregations located in the 18 urban areas of the Conference. She consulted with churches to accomplish long-range planning, organizational training, coaching, providing seed grants for ministry, facilitating the general church program, Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century, giving Community of Shalom training and support, and doing congregational assessment and readiness for transformation. Dr. Tatem also facilitated the establishment of the Johnson-UGO Foundation Library that offered assistance to local churches, non-profits and individuals in grant seeking and proposal writing basics.

Previously, Dr. Tatem served as the Director of the Office of Resourcing which assisted churches in transitions, long-range planning, partnering in ministry with the community and conflict management. She has also served as the senior pastor of Camphor Memorial United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, which experienced significant new membership growth. During her tenure at Camphor, she led the congregation in reviving a defunct community development corporation and the acquisition of its 501(c)(3) status. Dr. Tatem served as president of the corporation and led this entity in acquiring site control of an abandoned school building that was adjacent to the church; the edifice was renovated into a senior citizens residence and support service facility (a 4.5 million dollar project in collaboration with city, state and federal officials). While she was the pastor of St. Matthews United Methodist Church in Trevoze, PA., the congregation purchased two lots adjacent to the church for future expansion, and membership increased to the point that it was a standing jest that the church could be cited for being overcrowded.

Prior to responding to the call to the ordained ministry, Dr. Tatem was an English/Reading teacher in the Philadelphia School System; she also held the position as Reading Specialist-Early Childhood Development in a program that evolved from a partnership between the former Philadelphia National Bank and the Philadelphia School System.

Dr. Tatem's education includes a Doctor of Ministry, Eastern Baptist (now Palmer) Theological Semi-

nary; Master of Divinity, Union Theological Seminary (N.Y.); Master of Education, Beaver College (now Arcadia University); and Bachelor of Science, Temple University. She has also been trained and certified to administer and interpret the Myers/Briggs Personality Profile.

Dr. Dorothy Watson Tatem serves the Bishop and the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference on the Methodist Hospital Foundation Board, the Metro Ministries Board, and the CORE Team. In the Northeast Jurisdiction, Dr. Tatem has served on the Boundaries Committee, the Multi-Ethnic Center, and the Youth Recruitment for Ordained Ministry. At the level of the general church, she has served on the General Commission of Religion and Race—chair, Personnel Team and vice chair, Minority Group Self Determination Fund. She presently serves on the General Board of Discipleship, Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century, and the Committee on Faith and Order. Her General and Jurisdictional Conference service includes being a delegate and an alternate.

## Dawn E. Taylor-Storm

Church: St. Matthew's United Methodist Church of Valley Forge

Employment/Appointment: White Haven UMC (2001-2008); St. Matthew's UMC of Valley Forge (2008-Present)

Ministry (District, Conference, General Church): Chairperson: Eastern PA Camping Board; Co-Chair: Women in Professional Ministry of the Eastern PA Conference; Member: Board of Ordained Ministry; Conference Relations Committee; General Conference Delegate 1998

Ecumenical Ministries: Upper Main Line Ministerium Community Services: Partnership Cookman UMC and Mid-Town UMC; Haws Avenue Feeding Program; Chester County Prison Ministry; Gleaning Ministry

Other Information: Mother of two children - Luke (6) and Rebecca (4)

Statement: This General Conference is highly significant in shaping the future direction of the United Methodist Church. As a young adult clergyperson, I recognize that the future that is being shaped is one that I will inherit. As we move into General Conference, I feel there are three significant issues of concern:

- **Guaranteed Appointment:** I have deep reservations regarding the Study of Ministry's recommendation to end guaranteed appointment. I believe there is an alternative to this study which would enable the Board of Ordained Ministry in each conference to address clergy ineffectiveness, without removing the overarching covenant that is part and parcel of our itinerancy. If elected, I would diligently work with the delegation to craft this alternative plan.
- **Viability of the United Methodist Church:** The call to action study report from our Bishops recognizes the decline in membership across our church and presents us with the steps needed to move forward. This is not a time for fear, but rather a time to engage in dialogue about the evangelistic opportunity of our current culture.
- **Ethical Engagement with the World:** Our call as a church is to give voice to the myriad of ethical issues that we are facing as a society. In the coming decades, the voice of the church cannot be silent. Concerns regarding water rights and air safety will need to be analyzed by the church. The church needs to have a voice in health care legislation regarding bio-ethical issues such as stem cell research and the storage of embryos. The church's voice must be audible as we continue to battle the AIDS epidemic and new strains of viruses. As we seek to care for the least, the last and the

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lost, we have an opportunity to partner across theological and denominational barriers to stand with God's people on the margins.

## James B. Todd

Church (Position): District Superintendent, Southwest District

Employment/Appointment: 2006-Present: District Superintendent, Southwest District; 2003-2006: Pastor, Solebury UMC; 1992-2003: Pastor, Lafayette Hill: Messiah UMC; 1986-1992: Pastor, Penns Park UMC; 1982-1986: Associate Pastor, Media: First UMC; 1984: Ordained Elder; 1981: Ordained Deacon  
 Ministry (District, Conference, General Church): Member, District Youth Committee, South District; Member, District Board of Church Building and Location, Phila. NW District; Member, Committee on Superintendency, Hosier District; Member, Conference Council on Youth Ministries; Secretary, Conference Committee on Town and Country Ministries; Secretary, Conference Committee on Religion and Race; Member, Conference Nominations Committee; Member, Conference Board of Ordained Ministry; Chairperson, Committee on Conference Relations; Member, Probationers Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry; Member, Conference Council on Finance and Administration (current); Member, Conference Camping Board (current); Member, Camping Strategic Planning group (current); Member, United Methodist Advocacy in Pennsylvania (current); Bishop's Task Force on a Conference Five-Year Financial Plan (current)

Ecumenical Ministries: Member, Media Ministerium; Member, North and Southampton Ministerium, Bucks County; Convener, Plymouth-Whitemarsh Ministerium; Secretary, Delaware Valley Council of Churches; LUMINA Board of Directors (current); Boehm's Chapel Society Board (current)

Other Information: Completed the four-week certification program for the National Institute in Church Finance and Administration, Candler School of Theology, 1989-90; Completed all three phases of Intentional Interim Ministry training offered by the Intentional Growth Center, Lake Junaluska, NC; certified as a Transitional Interim Ministry Specialist, March 2011.

Statement: I believe in the future of the United Methodist Church! I see many signs of hope in our denomination, especially in those areas where we are focusing on disciple making. As we seek to call persons to new life in Jesus Christ, we must also change to meet the changing needs of the world. As a denomination, we have not done a good job at reaching young adults, and statistics continually show that our average age in the church is much higher than the average age of those who live around us. From leadership structures to worship to mission, we must not only say that we want young adult involvement, we must show it in our actions as we accommodate and embrace new ways of doing things. In a time of static or declining resources, it is important that we prioritize our resources and put them toward areas where we have seen new life and growth. General Conference must both celebrate our diversity as well as find ways to lift up the essential unity that historically has been a tremendous strength of our denomination, and I am committed to doing both.

## Sharon L. Vandegrift

Church: Charge Conference : Media: First UMC  
 Employment/Appointment: Life and Leadership Coach (Endorsed Extension Ministry) Bridge-the-Gap Life Coaching Services, LLC, Media, PA  
 Ministry (District, Conference, General Church): Asbury Ministry at Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA - Vice President and Member of the Board of

Directors; General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Nashville, TN - Workshop Leader: North-east Jurisdictional Clergywomen's Consultation, Coach: Nurturing Innovative Clergy Leadership Program, Guest Speaker: Lead Women Pastor's and Future Leadership Consultation, Coach: Hispanic /Latinas Women Pastor's Convocation, Panelist: United Methodist Continuing Education Annual Conference; Methodist Endorsement Agency - Interviewer, Coach: Transition Workshop

Past Involvements in Eastern PA Conference: Chair of Continuing Education Committee, EPA Conference Board of Ordained Ministry; EPA Conference Human Resources Committee; Chair, SE District Committee on Building and Church Location

Appointments Served: Evansburg / Campus Minister: Swarthmore College / Campus Minister & Wesley Foundation Director: Asbury Ministry at Drexel University / Philadelphia: Roxborough, First / Elam / Springfield: Covenant

Ecumenical Ministries: The Christian Association at the University of Pennsylvania: Pastoral Supervisor  
 Community Services: One to One Women Coaching Women (an organization that provides free coaching for women in challenging economic situations)- Delaware County Hospitality Coalition

Awards/Publications: Response Magazine; 'Prayer for Life Balance', published January 2011; Response Magazine: 'Clearing the Path', published April 2011

Other Information: Credentialed as a 'Professional Certified Coach' by the International Coach Federation

Statement: My passion for a dynamic and vital United Methodist Church that impacts the world; my expertise in leadership development; and my experience as a campus minister, local church pastor and life and leadership coach for clergy make me exceptionally well qualified to serve as a 2012 General Conference Delegate.

It is essential for our family of faith to engage the variety of issues before us with seriousness and integrity as we strive toward unified positions that reflect the Gospel call. Delegates will need to be well informed to faithfully address the great nuance and complexity inherent in our dialogue. Open hearts and minds that allow for the movement of the Spirit in the midst of the conversation will be foundational in our ability to move forward as a global church. I am eager to commit the time, energy and prayerful spirit that will be necessary for all 2012 General Conference delegates.

In an effort to spur church revitalization and form leaders for the future, groups formed by General Conference 2008 have recently released two studies: "Leaders for Ministry Study Proposal" and "Call to Action." Both are comprehensive documents filled with thoughtful, creative and prayerful suggestions for moving the church forward. However, I do believe a number of the recommendations; particularly those related to clergy effectiveness and guaranteed appointment have social justice ramifications that will need to be considered. Additionally, I laud the moral and theological integrity displayed by the group of retired United Methodist Bishops who presented the 'Statement of Counsel to the Church - 2011' encouraging the full inclusion of gay, lesbian and transgender persons in the ministry of the church. It is essential for us to engage in frank and candid discussion around this issue.

## Robert J. Wilt, Jr.

Church: Northwest District Superintendent  
 Employment/Appointment: Pomeroy UMC, 1975-1981; Reading: The Memorial Church of the Holy Cross (Associate), 1981-1985; West Willow UMC, 1985-1991; Bethlehem: Fritz Memorial, 1991-2003; Valley Forge: St. Matthew's, 2003-2008; Northwest District Superintendent, 2008-; Newly appointed to Lima UMC, effective July 1, 2011

Ministry (District, Conference, General Church): Committee on Mission Education and Cultivation; Committee on Volunteers in Mission - 1st chairperson, when a Conference Committee; Conference Board of Global Ministries - chairperson; Harkness-Allentown District Committee on District Superintendency - chairperson; Conference Board of Ordained Ministry - since 2002; Chair of Continuing Education; Chair of Committee on Conference Relations

Volunteer in Mission Projects: Bo Pasto, Puerto Rico; Window Rock, Arizona; Kathmandu, Nepal; McCurdy School, New Mexico; Akron, Ohio Will be leading a VIM team to Nepal in 2012; Camping Program; Program Director at Greta Glen; Was part of original team that designed the Confirmation Camp; Director of The Call to Ministry Retreat for Middle and High School youth

Ecumenical Ministries: Community Ministeriums  
 Community Services: In Bethlehem: New Bethany Ministries, Southside Ministries, Southeast Neighborhood Center and an effort to establish a family center in South Bethlehem; In Valley Forge: ONAT - One Night At A Time, which is a church based Montgomery County program to provide shelter for the homeless

Awards/Publications: Graduated with honors from the former Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary (now Palmer), and received the Middler Academic Scholarship, awarded by the President upon recommendation of the faculty.

Other Information: A graduate of: Phoenixville Area High School, 1971; Lebanon Valley College, 1975; Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1978

Statement: I am forever grateful to the faithful disciples of Jesus Christ within the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church. The faithful of this Conference nurtured me into faith in Christ, prepared me to hear God's call, affirmed and supported me in that call, and then gave me opportunity to live out that call. Thus far, I've enjoyed 36 years of ministry within a variety of missional settings; and in each I've tried to be as faithful as the disciples preceding me.

Serving on the Board of Ordained Ministry for 9 years, as well as serving most recently as a District Superintendent, has increased my understanding of our United Methodist Book of Discipline, especially paragraphs related to the ordained and licensed clergy. Representing the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference in General Church discussions and decisions on issues such as: clarifying the order of ministry, "the guaranteed appointment", the language of the Social Principles regarding human sexuality, the rights and privileges extended to the licensed local pastor, would be an awesome privilege. And like the previous 36 years, I will strive to serve Christ and represent the Conference faithfully and prayerfully. I am proud of our unique witness, and would be honored to take it to General Conference.

## Susan L. Worrell

Ordained UM Deacon in Full Connection; Endorsed Mental Health & Substance Abuse Chaplain by the United Methodist Endorsing Agency; Licensed Professional Counselor/Certified Addiction Counselor by the State of Pennsylvania; Primary Appointment: Hope Christian Counseling & Retreat Ministries, Founder and Director; Secondary Appointment: United Methodist Church of the Open Door, Kennett Square, PA

Ministry (District, Conference, General Church): UM Deacon Liaison with Drew Theological School and GBHEM; Chair of the Order of Deacon, EPAUMC; Board of Ordained Ministry; Marriage Separation and Divorce Committee; Deacon-Pastor Work Team; H.U.B. of Hope HIV/AIDS Ministry Advisory Board; Inclusive Social Ministry for Solidarity (I.S.M.S.)  
 Ecumenical Ministries: Pennsylvanians Concerned

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About Alcohol Problems – EPAUMC Representative; Christ Centered Recovery Ministry, Kennett Square, PA

Community Services: Helping Hands Community Advocacy Network, Kennett Square, PA

Other Information: Susan is married to Jere Worrell, retired from a banking career, and lives in Kennett Square. She is a mother of two married adult children and six grandchildren. Susan enjoys gardening, reading, and spending quality time with her family.

Statement: I have been tremendously blessed by the loving and sometimes challenging involvements with members of my community and congregation – in counseling relationships; in teaching and preaching; in leading corporate worship; in helping the laity discover, develop and utilize their gifts for ministry; in antiracism, peace and justice work within our diverse congregation and community; in community ministry with the disenfranchised and poor; in championing environmental stewardship as a spiritual discipline; and in being grounded in authentic community and fellowship with this Body of Christ. I have a passion for the ministry of the deacon in the UMC. God has gifted me with a vision of the fullness and richness of the shared ministry of the elder/pastor, deacon, and laity working together to fulfill the call to the transformative work the Lord has placed on the collective life as the Body of Christ in their local community. Primary to this vision is the mindset of team ministry and vital, supportive, and accountable Christian community. This vision brings the church back to a Christian community where relationships are authentic and open, barriers are removed, leadership is shared, and gifts

and graces for ministry are recognized, encouraged, and released. I will bring my experience, passion and vision for a vital, inclusive, justice minded, and Spirit led church to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference if I am elected.

## Bronwyn E. Yocum

Church: Northeast District

Employment/Appointment: 2008 – current: Superintendent, Northeast District; 2000 – 2008: Sr. Pastor, First UMC of Phoenixville; 1997-2000: Associate Pastor, Hopewell UMC; 1991-1997: Lay Staff Member, Berwyn UMC; Former HR and Communications Director, CBS, Inc.

Ministry (District, Conference, General Church): Currently serving as superintendent of the Northeast District, and represent the cabinet on the Equitable Compensation Commission, Human Resources Committee, and the Board of Laity. Prior to serving as DS, served on the Board of Ordained Ministry and as a member of the Pastoral Care and the Marital Separation and Divorce Committees and as Chair of the Order of Elders. Also served on the board of the Conference Loan Fund, on the Strategic Review Team, and as co-chair of the Leadership Resource Team and member of CTT at its inception. Served on several district committees.

Ecumenical Ministries: I have been actively involved in ecumenical clergy groups and interfaith efforts throughout my pastorates. Currently working with representatives of six denominations to develop and strengthen Latino ministries in the Lehigh Valley, and participate in activities of the Lehigh County Council of Churches. Speaker and retreat

leader for women's ministry groups from a variety of denominations. Taught Christian clowning and storytelling at ecumenical conferences.

Community Services: As local church pastor, served as member Phoenixville Hospital Institutional Review Board, President of Episcopal Place – a \$7 million HUD subsidized senior housing in Upland, VP of board of two additional HUD facilities in Phoenixville, former volunteer and board member of Freedom Valley Girl Scout Council, Daemion House Community Center and board of United Way of Southeastern Pa.

Other Information: Former adjunct faculty, Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary (now Palmer)

Statement: This General Conference will consider legislation critical to the future direction of our denomination. As a DS I have tried to balance accountability with encouragement, the call for more youthful ministry with the honoring of our elders, the demand for effectiveness with the prophetic function of the open itineracy and God's love for all with the call to holy living. I believe these critical tensions are essential to the health of our denomination. We cannot legislate vitality for our churches, but we can provide systems that seek to maintain these polarities in healthy tension across the denomination. To do that we must acknowledge and faithfully wrestle with the issues confronting our churches in a spirit that seeks God's will for the church and witnesses to the love of God in Christ even in disagreement. As a second career pastor and former HR director, I believe I bring a unique perspective combining viewpoints from both sides of the altar rail to these deliberations. I would be honored to serve as a delegate from the EPA to General Conference.

## Laity

### 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 Council, Nominations Secretary, Chair of Council 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 Renewal; 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-

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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; 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 21st 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.

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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 Superintendenc 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.

### NAME WITHDRAWN:

## Margaret Harris

Church: Arch Street United Methodist Church, Philadelphia

Employment/Appointment: Retired nurse and counselor. Currently teach English as a Second Language (ESL) Classes at the Nationalities Service Center 4 days/week as volunteer teacher. Have taught ESL at NSC for over 20 years.

Ministry (District, Conference, General Church): Participated in GBGM Mission/Study Trips to Israel/Palestine in 2007 and 2008. Teacher, Israel/Palestine Course, EPASchool of Christian Mission, 2008. Convener, EPA Chapter of Methodist Federation for Social Action. Member of Immigration Rapid Response Team, EPA Conference; President, Arch St. United Methodist Women

Ecumenical Ministries: Ecumenical Working Group for Middle East Peace; New Sanctuary Movement; Bread for the World

Community Services: Current Board member, United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI); Former Chair and Board member, Nationalities Service Center (1995-2009); Democratic Committee person

Awards/Publications: Honored by the Nationalities Service Center for service and dedication, 2010.

Statement: I've struggled with what to say in a statement to the Annual Conference. I am not a theologian, nor am I able to quote Bible passages at the drop of a hat. So I have decided to tell you something about my life and how I came to be a United Methodist. I was not born into it. In fact, both of my parents were Mormons, born and raised in Utah, and came from very prominent Mormon families

I was not, however, born in Utah but in Chicago, in the same neighborhood where Barack Obama would later live just blocks from my family's home.

My parents were active in the local Mormon church in Chicago until I was eight. At age 8, my family abruptly left the Mormon church never to come back.

Why? My father decided he could not allow me to be baptized into a religion which taught a racist doctrine and discriminated in its practice. Mormon children are usually baptized at the age of eight, when they are deemed to be able to understand what baptism means. The year before I was to be baptized, my father underwent a crisis of faith, brought on by his questioning the Mormon doctrine on race. At that time, 1954, and until 1978, Mormon doctrine discriminated against African-Americans. In the Mormon church, there are no ordained clergy, but authority is vested in the position of "priesthood", which is conferred on all males at the age of 12. African-American males, however, were barred from the priesthood. Females are still barred from the priesthood, but that's another story. My father left the Mormon church because he believed the teaching of Mormon church on race was harmful and wrong. He did not do this casually or lightly. He read through the entire Bible, the Book of Mormon, and other books on Mormon doctrine. He did this in spite of strong family ties. Nevertheless, on his deathbed, he said leaving the Mormon Church was the thing he was most proud of in his life.

What I took away from this is the understanding that belief matters. What we say we believe mat-

ters. Sometimes you have to question authorities. It is not enough to just talk. You must also have the courage to act.

I visited many churches and places of worship from the time I was eight until being baptized as a United Methodist at the Harvard Epworth United Methodist Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts shortly before I turned 30.

I became a nurse and later a counselor. Then, when my children were young, I saw a sign in a window that changed my life.

It was a request for volunteers to teach English as a Second Language at the Nationalities Service Center. I decided to volunteer to tutor for a couple of hours a week. Instead the next day I was teaching a class of 30 adult students from all over the world. It was love at first sight. I fell in love with my students and became passionate about working for immigrant rights. I became a Board member of NSC and then Board Chair and am now a Board member of USCRI (United States Committee for Immigrants and Refugees), a national network of refugee and immigrant organizations around the country. I am still teaching ESL at NSC four mornings a week. This morning I was working with a priest from the Ukraine, a Haitian man who wants to become an electrical engineer, a Brazilian dentist who can't get a work permit here, a 17 year old woman from Nigeria who was just accepted at Temple, a refugee from Eritrea who hopes to become a nurse, and a woman from Venezuela who owns a Thai restaurant. I believe all of these people will contribute a great deal to this city and to our country.

Yesterday I was at Immigration Court with other members of the New Sanctuary Movement in support of a man who had been the victim of police violence.

I support the courageous students who are tirelessly working for passage of the Dream Act.

In the beginning of this statement I talked about how my father's rejection of racism led him to leave the Mormon Church. However, I would like to end by talking about some aspects of Mormonism that I admire and think United Methodists would do well to emulate.

Mormons take their faith seriously. They don't just go to church on Sunday. They put their money where their mouth is. They tithe 10% of their income before taxes. Many of them are willing to devote two years of their lives, at their own expense, as missionaries to spread their faith. My cousin Rick in his fifties gave up his pediatric practice for two years to work as a missionary in Korea. My cousin Bette took two years away from her job as a university professor to work with her husband in a mission in California.

I believe that as United Methodists we should take our faith as seriously as Mormons. We should be passionate about working for justice and sharing God's love with all people.

## 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-pres-

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ent), 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

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 Chap-

ter; 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 quadrenium 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, 54th and 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 Strate-

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gic 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), Northeast District Equalizing Delegate to the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference, Completed requirements for Certified Lay Minister

Statement: Dr. Jeffrey A. Weber, is the chair of the political science department at East Stroudsburg University and is a professor of public administration. He is a native of Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania and has been married to Audrey for 26 years. He graduated in 1983 from the Citadel, Military College of South Carolina and served ten years in the U.S. Army. While in the Army, he earned his Masters of Public Administration from Western Kentucky University. After leaving the Army in 1993, he and Audrey moved to Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, where he served on the legislative staff in the Pennsylvania Senate. In 1999, he graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a Ph.D. in public administration. In 2005, they returned to their hometown of Stroudsburg when he took a faculty position at East Stroudsburg University. Since 1985, he has served the United Methodist Church in multiple capacities: Sunday School teacher (jr. high, high school, adult, and special classes); Youth Director; Chair, Evangelism Committee; Chair, Education Committee; Church Lay Leader; Certified Lay Speaker; assisted coordinator of weekly soup kitchen and praise and worship service; member of the Council on Finance and Administration; and a delegate to Annual Conference (Louisville Conference (1991-92) and Eastern Pennsylvania Conference (2009 to present)).

**Mary White**

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

Ministry: (District, Conference, General Church)  
 District: 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 on Status and Role of Women, Chair Finance Committee, General Council on 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 re-ordering 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 cabinets. 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.

# Who can vote for General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegates?

**Clergy:**

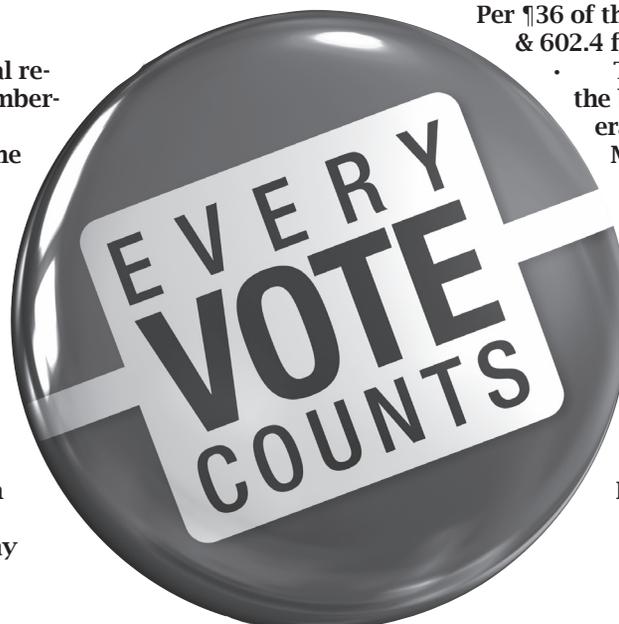
Per ¶35 of the 2008 Discipline and noted Judicial Council Decisions

- Full Connection – elders, deacons, associate members
- Provisional members who have completed all of their educational requirements. Persons who are to be received into provisional membership and commissioned at the 2011 session after they have been both received and commissioned as long as they have fulfilled the educational requirements
- Local Pastors who have completed course of study or an M.Div. and/or local pastors who have served a minimum of two consecutive years under appointment preceding the election, during which time no withdrawal of the appointed status occurred (Judicial Council Decision #1181)
- Full elders or deacons on leave of absence may vote (¶354.7)
- Full elders or deacons on sabbatical, family, paternity/maternity or disability leave may vote (Judicial Council Decision #473)
- Clergy on honorable location are no longer members of the annual conference and cannot vote ( ¶359.2)
- Retired full elders or deacons can vote (Judicial Council Decision #531)
- Full elders or deacons under suspension from pastoral duties may vote (Judicial Council Decision #534)

**Laity:**

Per ¶36 of the Constitution. See Also Para. 32, 25.2 & 602.4 for Lay Members.

- The following laity may vote during the balloting for the Lay Delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference Lay Member elected by their charge (one per appointed clergy), the conference lay leader, the conference president of United Methodist Men, the conference president of United Methodist Women, Lay delegates to the 2008 General and Jurisdictional Conferences, Diaconal Ministers, Lay Staff in the Conference Connectional Ministries Office, Lay Chairpersons of Conference Committees, District Lay Officers, and District At-Large Lay Members



# Resolutions

## Resolution 2011-1

### Resolution seeking designation of the Old Main Building of Simpson House as a Heritage Landmark

#### Presented by The Conference Commission on Archives and History

WHEREAS, The Eastern PA Conference of The United Methodist Church, meeting in its 219th session in 2005, approved a resolution designating The Olde Main Building of Simpson House as Historic Site No. 425; and

WHEREAS, Simpson House was established in 1865 and is the oldest Continuing Care Retirement Community historically related to The United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, The Olde Main Building was constructed in 1898-99 and remains in service on its original site; and

WHEREAS, Olde Main is recognized locally and regionally as notable architecture by the Philadelphia Museum of Art, in cooperation with the American Institute of Architects, Philadelphia Chapter; and

WHEREAS, Olde Main has been used exclusively for the ministry of provision and care for persons as they age and the ministry with those aging person has been a vital component of the fabric of United Methodism and our legacy of social justice ministries; and

WHEREAS, the campus of Simpson House is the location of the statue of Bishop Matthew Simpson which was considered for inclusion in the Lincoln Memorial; and

WHEREAS, The Rev. Dr. Kenneth E. Rowe, in a presentation to retired clergy and spouses at Simpson House on September 16, 2010 stated that; "Simpson House is the mother home of our kind;"

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church and The Conference Commission on Archives and History request that The General Commission on Archives and History recommend The Olde Main Building of Simpson House to The General Conference of 2012 for recognition as a Heritage Landmark.

Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: The Rev. David R. Adam or representative

## Resolution 2011-2

### Resolution Related to Alcohol and Privatization of the State Store System

#### Presented by Dianne M. Berlin, Member of Manheim Salem UMC

WHEREAS, legalizing a harmful substance or activity never removes the harm. It just changes the legal consequences, and

WHEREAS, the U. S. financial costs of alcohol are \$185 billion annually and the state and federal taxes are \$14.5 billion<sup>1</sup>, meaning that society is subsidizing the use of this drug and enabling the harm, and

WHEREAS, the annual financial cost of underage drinking in Pennsylvania is \$2.2 billion<sup>2</sup>, and

WHEREAS, alcohol is a mind-altering drug more harmful than heroin when considering its impact on not only the user but others as well<sup>3</sup>, and

WHEREAS, according to the Center for Disease Control, in 2007 there were 14,406 alcoholic liver disease deaths and 23,199 alcohol-induced deaths, excluding accidents and homicides<sup>4</sup>, and

WHEREAS, a few of the many other negative impacts of alcohol include the only cause of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders<sup>5</sup>, higher risk for breast and other cancers<sup>6</sup>, atrial fibrillation<sup>7</sup>, domestic violence, etc., and

WHEREAS, preventable harm to each of God's people should encourage every Christian to lead by example, and

WHEREAS, Roman 14:21 states: "It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall" and

WHEREAS, our Social Principles state: "We affirm our long-standing support of abstinence from alcohol as a faithful witness to God's liberating and redeeming love for persons." and

WHEREAS, the sale, manufacture and transportation of alcohol was re-legalized at the end of Prohibition, and Pennsylvania created the Liquor Control Board, and

WHEREAS, the PA Liquor Code was designed to protect public welfare, health, peace and morals of the people and the Liquor Control Board's role was control not revenues and

WHEREAS, the Liquor Control Board has drifted from that purpose to become a promoter of the use of this harmful and often deadly drug, and

WHEREAS, although Prohibition worked<sup>8</sup>, society is not ready to take that step, and

WHEREAS, there is talk of privatizing the (650) State Store system in Pennsylvania and increasing the number of similar stores as well as a continued increase

1 <http://www.cnbc.com/id/36267223>

2 <http://www.udetc.org/factsheets/Pennsylvania.pdf>

3 <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2010/nov/01/alcohol-more-harmful-than-heroin-crack>

4 <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/alcohol.htm>

5 <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/fasd/data.html>

6 <http://www.cancer.org/cancer/breastcancer/detailedguide/breast-cancer-risk-factors>

7 <http://www.aolhealth.com/condition-center/heart-disease/drinking-alcohol-increases-heart-problem-risk>

8 <http://www.nytimes.com/1989/10/16/opinion/actually-prohibition-was-a-success.html>

in the number of other alcoholic beverage licenses which are now over 21,000<sup>9</sup>, and

WHEREAS, accessibility increases use, and

WHEREAS, the Liquor Control Board's primary purpose is supposed to be looking out for the public welfare

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bishop, congregations and members of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, make contact with their state senators, representatives, and the Governor supporting the retention of the State Store system if the following changes are implemented:

- a return to the primary purpose of the State Store system to protect the public welfare
- actions to reduce the use of alcohol thereby reducing the harm and the huge associated costs of this drug beginning by reducing the number and size of existing State Stores and other alcoholic beverage licenses
- listing the negative side effects of the use of alcohol on any labels or in any advertising of alcoholic beverages in the Commonwealth just as other drugs must do

## Resolution 2011-3

### Resolution Relating to Aligning UMC Investments with Resolutions on Israel/Palestine

#### Presented by Eastern PA Chapter, Methodist Federation for Social Action

WHEREAS, Palestinian Christians have implored Christians everywhere to put actions behind their words to end Israel's occupation of Palestinian land, which is destroying their lives<sup>10</sup>; and

WHEREAS, although The United Methodist Church (UMC) has long opposed the occupation, UMC boards and agencies still hold stock in companies that sustain it<sup>11</sup>; and

WHEREAS, The UMC General Conference in 1996 declared that "continuing efforts by the State of Israel to build settlements in the occupied territories violate both international law and the spirit of the Declaration of Principles [the Oslo peace process]<sup>12</sup>;" and

WHEREAS, the 2004 General Conference approved a resolution opposing "confiscation of Palestinian land, ... the continued building of illegal Jewish settlements, and any vision of a 'Greater Israel' that includes the occupied territories and the whole of Jerusalem and its surroundings<sup>13</sup>;" and

WHEREAS, The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2008 discourages investment in companies "that directly or indirectly support the violation of human rights" (§716)<sup>14</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Palestinian human rights are violated by companies that sustain illegal settlements, segregated roads, checkpoints, the separation wall, home demolitions, and other realities of the occupation; and

WHEREAS, researchers with the General Boards of Global Ministries and of Church and Society, several Annual Conferences, and ecumenical partners have identified a limited number of U.S. and international companies in the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB) portfolio that sustain Israel's occupation<sup>15</sup>; and

WHEREAS, United Methodists have engaged Caterpillar, Motorola, and Hewlett Packard on this issue for years and have asked them to end their involvement with the occupation; and

WHEREAS, The Book of Discipline (§716) requires consideration of divestment when companies do not respond to corporate engagement with changed practices<sup>16</sup>; and

WHEREAS, at the October 2010 Socially Responsible Investing (SRI) Summit, the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits stated that SRI measures it has employed in the past, including screening and divestment, have not violated the board's fiduciary responsibility to beneficiaries; and

Continued on page 14

9 <http://www.lcbapps.lcb.state.pa.us/webapp/Agency/SearchCenter/PublicLicenseeSearchDefault.asp>

10 Kairos Palestine, "A moment of Truth: A Word of Faith, Hope, and Love From the Heart of Palestinian Suffering," [www.kairopalestine.ps/sites/default/Documents/English.pdf](http://www.kairopalestine.ps/sites/default/Documents/English.pdf); Web, 1 May 2010.

11 Holy Land Task Force. "Companies of Concern," [www.umhltf.org/Companies\\_of\\_Concern.html](http://www.umhltf.org/Companies_of_Concern.html), November 2010.

12 General Board of Global Ministries, "Two Resolutions of The United Methodist Church on the Middle East: The Building of Settlements in Occupied Territories." [www.gb-gm-umc.org/middle-east/Jerusalem.html](http://www.gb-gm-umc.org/middle-east/Jerusalem.html), as cited in The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church 2000, "214. Israel-Palestine Conflict - The Building of Settlements in the Occupied Territories."

13 The United Methodist Church, "Opposition to Israeli Settlements on Palestinian Land," [http://archives.umc.org/interior\\_print.asp?ptid=4&mid=6855](http://archives.umc.org/interior_print.asp?ptid=4&mid=6855), 2004, and as cited in The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church 2004, "312. Opposition to Israeli Settlements in Palestinian Land."

14 The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2008, "Socially Responsible Investments," §716.

15 Holy Land Task Force. "Companies of Concern," [www.umhltf.org/Companies\\_of\\_Concern.html](http://www.umhltf.org/Companies_of_Concern.html), November 2010.

16 The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2008, "Socially Responsible Investments," §716.

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**WHEREAS**, divestment is not aimed at Israel itself, but at the occupation of land beyond its internationally recognized borders; as a non-violent moral action, divestment seeks to strengthen the Church's support for the peoples of Israel and Palestine, whose future can only be secured through a just peace; and

**WHEREAS**, many faith groups and organizations around the world have already divested or publicly support divestment<sup>17</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, all UMC mission personnel who have served in the Holy Land since the 1990s support divestment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Church should lead with prophetic action by publicly and promptly aligning its investments with longstanding church policies opposing the Israeli occupation.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that, following the teachings of Jesus Christ and supported by people of every faith, the Eastern PA Conference promptly divest from Caterpillar, Motorola, and Hewlett Packard until these companies end their involvement in the Israeli occupation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the Eastern PA Conference petition the 2012 General Conference of The United Methodist Church to end the Church's financial involvement in Israel's occupation by divesting from companies that sustain the occupation: and that the General Conference

- instruct the United Methodist General Agencies, including the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, to promptly divest from Caterpillar, Motorola, and Hewlett Packard, which have been engaged repeatedly by United Methodist agencies and Annual Conferences on this issue, until these companies end their involvement in the Israeli occupation; and
- call for the United Methodist General Agencies to immediately engage with other companies in their portfolios that have been identified by researchers at the United Methodist agencies and Annual Conferences as being involved in the occupation<sup>18</sup>; if these companies do not change their involvement within two years, they should be removed from United Methodist portfolios; and
- require the GBOPHB to provide updates on its website regarding the process of corporate engagement with and/or divestment from companies that support the Israeli occupation; and
- direct the GBOPHB to provide a report to the 2016 General Conference regarding its progress toward complying with this resolution; and
- call on UMC boards and agencies, Annual Conferences, local churches and individuals to prayerfully consider corporate involvement in Israel's occupation when making investment decisions; and
- encourage United Methodists to partner with Jews, Christians, Muslims, and other people of conscience working for corporate accountability, human rights, and an end to the occupation.

**Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** The Rev. Robert Coombe

**Resolution 2011-4****Resolution Relating to Immigration Reform****Presented by Methodist Federation for Social Action, Eastern PA Chapter**

**WHEREAS** any discussion of immigration and government immigration policy must begin with the truth that every human being is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-28), and that immigrants made in the image of God have supreme value with the potential to contribute greatly to society, and that Jesus exemplifies respect toward others who are different in his treatment of the Samaritans (Luke 10:30-37; John 4:1-42); and that other New Testament passages state that Christians should show compassion and hospitality to immigrants (Rom. 12:13; Heb. 13:2);

**WHEREAS** the United States of America is a country founded by immigrants, and its history has been characterized by waves of immigrants from different parts of the world, and immigrants will continue to be an essential part of who we are as a country, our response to immigration must include an understanding of this immigrant history and an awareness of the positive impact of multiple cultures on national life over the last 250 years. The challenge today is to determine how to maintain the integrity of national borders, address the situation with millions of undocumented immigrants, devise a realistic program to respond to labor needs, and manifest the humanitarian spirit that has characterized this country since its founding;

**WHEREAS** due to the limited number of visas and the number of years (sometimes approaching 30 years) it takes for our government to process visa applications, millions have entered the United States without proper documentation or have overstayed temporary visas. Society has ignored the existence of an unauthorized work force due to the economic benefits of cheap immigrant labor. Without legal status and wary of reporting abuses, immigrants can be mistreated and underpaid by employers. Deportation of wage-earners has separated families and complicated the situation for many. Most undocumented immigrants desire to regularize their legal status, but avenues to assimilation and citizenship are blocked by local, state, and federal laws;

**WHEREAS** immigrant communities offer a new, vibrant field for evangelism, church planting, and ministry, our own United Methodist Church has launched efforts to bring the Gospel to these newcomers, to establish new churches, and to train leaders for immigrant believers; and these brothers and sisters in Christ are revitalizing churches across the country and are planting new churches and

**17 Interfaith Peace Initiative, "Global Actions to End the Israeli Occupation,"** [www.interfaithpeaceinitiative.com/globalactions.pdf](http://www.interfaithpeaceinitiative.com/globalactions.pdf), July 2010.

**18 Holy Land Task Force, "Companies of Concern,"** [www.umhltf.org/Companies\\_of\\_Concern.html](http://www.umhltf.org/Companies_of_Concern.html), November 2010.

evangelizing their people;

**THEREFORE**, motivated by the desire to offer a constructive word for the country's complicated immigration situation and guided by the Holy Scriptures, **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** we, the members of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church call for the comprehensive reform of the immigration system. We believe that national immigration policy should be considerate of immigrants who are already here and who may arrive in the future and that its measures should promote national security and the general welfare in appropriate ways.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** we urge:

- that immigrants be treated with respect and mercy by our own churches. Exemplary treatment of immigrants by Christians can serve as the moral basis to call for government attitudes and legislation to reflect the same virtues;
- that the government develop structures and mechanisms that safeguard and monitor the national borders with efficiency and respect for human dignity;
- that the government establish more functional legal mechanisms for the annual entry of a reasonable number of immigrant workers and families;
- that the government recognize the central importance of the family in society by reconsidering the number and categories of visas available for family reunification, by dedicating more resources to reducing the backlog of cases in process, and by reevaluating the impact of deportation on families;
- that the government establish a sound, equitable process toward earned legal status for currently undocumented immigrants, who desire to embrace the responsibilities and privileges that accompany citizenship;
- that the government legislate fair labor and civil laws for all residing within the United States that reflect the best of this country's heritage;
- that immigration enforcement be conducted in ways that recognize the importance of due process of law, the sanctity of the human person, and the incomparable value of family;
- that the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania avoid enacting laws that dehumanize our immigrant neighbors or deny them access to health care, educational opportunities, or public safety.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the Secretary of the Conference send a copy of this Resolution to the President of the United States of America (The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20500), to the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Governor's Office, 225 Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120).

**AND FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the members of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and members of local churches be encouraged to send a copy of this resolution to their federal and state legislators.

**Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Margaret Harris

**Resolution 2011-5****Resolution urging Gov. Corbett to tax Natural Gas Drilling****Presented by teh Center for the Celebration of Creation (A Program of Chestnut Hill United Church)**

**WHEREAS**, the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church state that "All creation is the Lord's, and we are responsible for the ways we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God's creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings. God has granted us stewardship of creation. We should meet these stewardship duties through acts of loving care and respect;" and

**WHEREAS**, drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale formation is already occurring over much of Northeastern Pennsylvania, causing environmental degradation to our forests and economic harm to many of our municipalities; and

**WHEREAS** Pennsylvania is the only major natural gas-producing state without a drilling tax, and the drillers themselves say they are willing to pay a tax; and

**WHEREAS** Pennsylvania stands to lose almost \$200 million in the next fiscal year by not passing a drilling tax; and

**WHEREAS**, passing a fair drilling tax is smart policy that will protect the long-term well-being of our communities and our natural resources;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church calls on Governor Corbett to enact a natural gas drilling tax on par with other states and to use the revenue from that tax to assist local communities in addressing the damage done by natural gas drilling;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Bishop will send a letter conveying this resolution to the Governor and to the leader of each chamber in the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

Enacting a drilling tax would position Pennsylvania to better protect our natural resources for future generations, help our local municipalities cope with economic losses due to drilling activity, and lessen the impacts of deep state budget cuts in the coming year. It's time the natural gas industry pays their fair share.

**Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Joy Bergery

**Governor of Pennsylvania:**

The Honorable Tom Corbett

Governor's Office

225 Main Capitol Building

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

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**Leader of the State Senate:**

The Honorable Joseph P. Scarnati, III  
Senate Box 203025  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3025

**Leader of the State House of Representatives:**

The Honorable Samuel H. Smith  
139 Main Capitol Building  
PO Box 202066  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2066

**Resolution 2011-6**

**Relating to the Discontinuance of Cressona United Methodist Church**

WHEREAS, the Cressona United Methodist Church contacted the Northwest District Office of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference to inform the Superintendent of the congregation's decision to close as of July 25, 2010,

WHEREAS, the Cressona United Methodist Church celebrated its 152 year old witness on July 25, 2010; and at the conclusion of the service granted the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Board of Trustees full responsibility for the care and disposal of its assets

WHEREAS the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Board of Trustees has assumed this responsibility since July 25, 2010,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Cressona United Methodist Church discontinue, effective July 25, 2010.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the assets resulting from the sale of the property and other remaining assets held by the Cressona United Methodist Church be distributed by the Trustees of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference as they deem appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that historical records and communion ware be forwarded to the archives of St. George's United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, PA.

**Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** The Rev. Robert Wilt, Jr., District Superintendent, Northwest District

**RESOLUTION # 2011-7**

**Relating to the Discontinuance of Cookman United Methodist Church**

WHEREAS the Cookman United Methodist Church located in Philadelphia County was founded in 1853 and has a long and proud history of ministering to the lost, the least and the last in the North Philadelphia community and beyond; and

WHEREAS the charge conference of the Cookman United Methodist Church voted on February 13, 2011 to discontinue the church; and

WHEREAS the District Superintendent has recommended discontinuance of Cookman United Methodist Church and transfer of membership to Arch Street, Tioga, and Devereux United Methodist Churches; and

WHEREAS the Superintendent has recommended that the property be (sold or transferred) and [if sold] the sale proceeds be paid to the Conference Trustees and any remaining balance of the proceeds be given to the Urban Office of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, in accordance to the Book of Discipline, ¶ 2548.7,

WHEREAS the consent to discontinue has been granted by the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents, and the district board of church location and building and all proper Disciplinary requirements have been complied with;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cookman United Methodist Church be discontinued effective June 30, 2011.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Trustees of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference distribute the assets resulting from the sale of the property and other remaining assets held by Cookman United Methodist Church, as they deem appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Urban Office of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference use the remaining assets to support new/existing ministries in urban settings, in accordance to the Book of Discipline, ¶ 2548.7,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that historical records and communion ware be forwarded to the archives of St. George's United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, PA.

**Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Rev. Dr. Wm. Gary George, District Superintendent, Central District

**Resolution 2011-8**

**Relating to the Discontinuance of Salem United Methodist Church, Tamaqua**

WHEREAS, the Salem United Methodist Church held a church conference on March 22, 2011, with the District Superintendent presiding, and voted to discontinue the church as of April 30, 2011 and to transfer to the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Board of Trustees full responsibility for the care and disposition of the properties; and

WHEREAS the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents and the District Board of Church Location and Building have given their consent to the discontinuation and all Disciplinary requirements have been met; and

WHEREAS, the Salem United Methodist Church celebrated its final worship service on Palm Sunday, April 17, 2011, completing 150 years of ministry in Tamaqua for the glory of God; and

WHEREAS the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Board of Trustees has as-

sumed responsibility for the church's properties since April 30, 2011;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Salem United Methodist Church of Tamaqua discontinue, effective April 30, 2011.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the remaining assets and proceeds resulting from the sale of the property held by the Salem United Methodist Church be distributed by the Trustees of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference as they deem appropriate, with provision that memorial gifts of altar ware and communion ware be given to First United Methodist Church of Tamaqua.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that historical records and membership records be forwarded to the archives of St. George's United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, PA.

**Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** The Rev. Bronwyn E. Yocum, District Superintendent, Northeast District

**Resolution 2011-9**

**Relating to the Discontinuance of Bustleton United Methodist Church in Philadelphia/East District**

**Presented by the East District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference**

WHEREAS, the membership and financial resources of Bustleton United Methodist Church became too limited and were insufficient to maintain operations; and

WHEREAS, the membership of Bustleton United Methodist Church voted on Sunday, October 17, 2010 to close the church, effective October 31, 2010, and

WHEREAS, members of Bustleton United Methodist Church consulted with the District Superintendent, the District Board of Church Location and Building of the East District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church and received consent to discontinue; and

WHEREAS, the Resident Bishop and Appointment Cabinet on the 20th of October, 2010 consented to discontinue Bustleton United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, Bustleton United Methodist Church conducted its closing Service of Celebration on Sunday, October 31, 2010;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Bustleton United Methodist Church discontinue, effective, retroactively on , Sunday, October 31, 2010;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the property and remaining assets held by Bustleton United Methodist Church be turned over to the Board of Trustees of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church for disposition,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the historical records of Bustleton United Methodist Church be deposited for permanent safekeeping with the Commission on Archives and History of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church.

**Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Dr. Dorothy Watson Tatem, District Superintendent, East District

**Resolution 2011-10**

**Relating to the Merger of First United Methodist Church of Easton and Calvary United Methodist Church, Easton**

WHEREAS, the membership and financial resources of First United Methodist Church of Easton are insufficient to maintain and support a thriving ministry and mission that glorifies God in their current location, and

WHEREAS, the members of First United Methodist Church and Calvary United Methodist Church have explored merger and are developing a plan to ensure the continuation of United Methodist ministry in the downtown area previously served by First United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, the church conference of each congregation has met and, after conversation, study and consultation with the district superintendent, has voted to proceed with merger; and

WHEREAS the presiding bishop, a majority of the district superintendents and the District Board of Church Location and Building have given their consent to the merger and all Disciplinary requirements have been met, and

WHEREAS, First United Methodist Church celebrated its final worship service on January 10, 2011, culminating 184 years of faithful ministry in the Easton area; and

WHEREAS all legal requirements of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for merger have been met;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that First United Methodist Church of Easton and Calvary United Methodist Church merge effective August 5, 2011, with the new church to be known as Calvary United Methodist Church.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the assets and property of First United Methodist Church be sold with proceeds to be used by Calvary United Methodist Church, or be transferred to the new congregation as part of the merger.

**Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** The Rev. Bronwyn E. Yocum, District Superintendent, Northeast District

**Resolution 2011-11**

**Resolution concerning Property and Liability Insurance.**

**Presented by Peter DiNofia**

WHEREAS, adequate property and liability insurance is essential to the protection of local Church property, its Pastor, ministry, members and lay employees; and

WHEREAS the Conference has administered a mandatory Conference Property and Liability Program since 1982; and

WHEREAS Churches have failed to pay a significant amount of the cost of that program; and

**Continued from page 15**

**WHEREAS** in 2010 the amount of \$340,678 was not paid by 90 Churches; and

**WHEREAS** the Conference no longer has reserves to make up the significant recurring delinquencies in the Program; and

**WHEREAS** the failure of a local Church to pay for adequate property and general liability insurance may be an indicator of its inability to sustain full time ministry.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Cabinet shall conduct a review of the ability of a Church to sustain a full time Pastor should that Church be delinquent in its financial obligations under the Conference Property and Liability Program as of January 1, 2012; and
2. In the event such review indicates the Church's inability to sustain a full-time Pastor, the Cabinet shall consult with that Church on changes designed to remedy the delinquency, and to strengthen and continue its ministry, if possible.

**Resolution 2011-12****Resolution Concerning Health Care**

**WHEREAS** The Board of Pension and Health Benefits Administers the Eastern PA Conference health plan for active participants; and

**WHEREAS** the conference approved a high deductible tax advantaged group health plan with Aetna for plan year 2011; and

**WHEREAS** The Board of Pension and Health Benefits intends to continue the high deductible tax advantaged group health plan for 2012; and

**WHEREAS** substantially similar coverage at more affordable rates may be available from other insurers by Fall of 2011; and

**WHEREAS** the renewal premium rates for the 2nd year of the new plan will not be available until the Fall of 2011; and

**WHEREAS** an adjourned session of Annual Conference is not scheduled for 2011; and

**WHEREAS** The Board of Pension and Health Benefits desires the flexibility to change insurers and/or plan design for plan year 2012 based on the information received in the Fall of 2011;

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:**

1. The Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall have the option to change insurance carriers for the High Deductible health plan to benefit churches and participants for 2012 and/or
2. Should the renewal premium increase by more than 15%, The Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall have the flexibility to modify the plan to reduce said premium renewal increase.

**Resolution 2011-13****Resolution concerning Mandatory Health Plan**

**WHEREAS** The 2010 Annual Conference requested that The Board of Pension and Health Benefits study and recommend whether the current voluntary active plan should become a mandatory plan for all eligible clergy; and

**WHEREAS** The Board of Pension and Health Benefits has collected data and reviewed this issue with its consultants; and

**WHEREAS** based on the data collected a Mandatory plan would not result in a significant reduction of the average age of our current participants; and

**WHEREAS** a mandatory plan would eliminate options available to eligible participants and churches; and

**WHEREAS** a mandatory plan would result in a significant increase in premium; and

**WHEREAS** our consultants have advised that with a population of our size a mandatory plan would not necessarily result in a better claims experience; and

**WHEREAS** a mandatory plan may result in a higher percentage of premium delinquencies;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that The Board of Pension and Health Benefits continue to review the mandatory plan issue with its consultants and report to the conference if necessary; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the conference continue with its current voluntary high deductible tax advantaged plan.

**Resolution 2011-14****Resolution concerning Retiree Health Plan**

**WHEREAS** The Board of Pension and Health Benefits is the Administrator of the Eastern PA Conference Group Retiree Health Plan; And

**WHEREAS** after a review of available plans The Board of Pension and Health Benefits recommended a change for 2011 from Independence Blue Cross to a substantially similar plan offered by Aetna; And

**WHEREAS** Aetna offered a significantly better Rx plan and no deductible for the same premium; And

**WHEREAS** Aetna was prohibited from offering its plan in 2011 and the Conference then continued the Independence Blue Cross coverage; And

**WHEREAS** information on rates in general and the availability of Aetna in 2012 will not be available until Fall of 2011; And

**WHEREAS** an adjourned session of Annual Conference has not been scheduled in 2011; And

**WHEREAS** an Aetna plan may allow all our active and retired participants to be covered under one insurer which may result in lower premiums for all plans; And

**WHEREAS** should the Aetna Plan be available for plan year 2012 at competitive rates and similar coverage, it is the intention of The Board of Pension and Health Benefits to move its retired participants from Independence Blue Cross to Aetna; And

**WHEREAS** The Board of Pension and Health Benefits desires to have flexibility to choose the best plan available for a reasonable premium;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that The Board of Pension and Health Benefits shall have the option to contract with an insurer other than Independence Blue Cross for its retired health plan:

1. Should Independence Blue Cross decline to offer coverage or the Aetna plan become an available, better choice and/or;
2. For a lower premium should another insurer offer premiums at a 10% or more savings over the Independence Blue Cross premium quote with similar coverage.

**RESOLUTION #2011-15****Pertaining to the Adoption Agreement to the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) for the Year 2012****Presented by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Adoption Agreement shall be applicable to the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference and, unless another date is specified below, shall be effective as of January 1, 2012: The Clergy Retirement Security Program shall be the base retirement plan for the clergy persons under Episcopal appointment including deacons and members of other denominations serving at the conference, church, charge, conference responsible unit, conference controlled entity including clergy on incapacity leave receiving Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) disability benefits of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference in accordance to the plan adoption agreement beginning on January 1, 2012. Clergy persons on incapacity leave and not receiving Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) disability benefits are not eligible to participate in CRSP.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that on January 1, 2012 the ministerial pension rate for past service prior to January 1, 1982 shall be \$502.00 and the personal contributor's annuity derived from pre-1982 contributions shall apply toward the payment of the participants formula benefit;

**AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that the surviving spouse benefit shall be 70% of the participant's formula benefit;

**AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Pension and Health Benefits is authorized to make annual deposits at the end of each calendar year as required by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits for the purpose of funding for past service prior to January 1, 1982.

Person responsible for presenting resolution:

**Resolution 2011-16****Resolution concerning Conference Group Health Insurance Program****Presented by Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits**

**WHEREAS** the Conference Group Health Insurance Program has continually had significant delinquencies in Church premium payments; and

**WHEREAS** the Program has been a voluntary one for many years; and

**WHEREAS** in 2010 the amount of \$318,490.00 remained unpaid by Churches in the Conference; and

**WHEREAS** the Conference Group Health Insurance Reserve has been largely depleted due to non-payment of local Church premiums; and

**WHEREAS** if the trend continues the Group Health Insurance program will become unworkable in two years;

**NOW THEREFORE** be it resolved that:

1. Effective January 1, 2012 if at the end of a calendar year a church is three months or more in arrears of their clergy health insurance premiums, it thereby demonstrates its inability to support full time ministry, and therefore puts its full time status at risk and the current appointment under Cabinet review.
2. Effective immediately should a Church remain delinquent in the payment of its insurance premium for its lay participants for a period of thirty (30) days after written notice of delinquency, the layperson's medical insurance shall be terminated.

**Resolution 2011-17****Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired or Disabled Clergypersons****Presented by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits**

**WHEREAS**, the religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the "Church"), of which this Conference is part, has in the past functioned and continues to function through ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of the Church ("Clergypersons");

**WHEREAS**, the practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active Clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation;

**WHEREAS**, pensions or other amounts paid to retired and disabled Clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to retired and disabled Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service;

**WHEREAS**, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as the appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for retired and disabled Clergypersons who are or were members of this Conference.

Continued from page 16

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that an amount equal to 100% of the pension or disability payments received from plans authorized under The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church ("the Discipline"), which includes all such payments from the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits ("GBOPHB"), during the year 2012 by each retired or disabled Clergy person who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designed as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergy person; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the pension and disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance applies will be any pension or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the Discipline, including such payments from the GBOPHB and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a GBOPHB plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the Discipline, that result from any service a Clergy person rendered to this Conference or that a retired or disabled Clergy person of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the Clergy person to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund for such retired or disabled Clergy person's pension or disability as part of his or her gross compensation.

**NOTE:** The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergy person's gross income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2) and regulations there under to the least of: (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergy person's employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolutions) for such year; (2) the amount actually expended by the Clergy person to rent or provide a home in such year; or (3) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year.

**Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:**

**Resolution 2011-18**

**Resolution Relating to Conference Advance Specials for the Year July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012**

**Submitted by Rev. Coryn Peña, Conference Secretary of Global Ministries**

**WHEREAS** a Conference Advance Special is a program of ministry that can seek funds from a local church that keeps its financial commitments to Conference and General Church in full in the prior year's budget and has a desire to extend its support of the mission of the Church through designated giving; and

**WHEREAS** a list of Conference Advance Specials would resource local churches, either in need of support for their programs and ministries, or local churches eager to extend their support of the mission of the Church; and

**WHEREAS** practicality indicates a change in the time period covered by a list of Conference Advance Specials to as soon as possible after they are approved;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the following programs and ministries of the Annual Conference, having completed the appropriate applications, be designated as a list of Conference Advance Specials for the year July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012.

**Asbury Ministry at Drexel University** **\$25,000**  
 Asbury Ministry is the only full-time campus ministry currently supported by the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. As the ecumenical Christian ministry at Drexel, Asbury visibly demonstrates God's love by providing a spiritual presence, pastoral guidance and prophetic voice that positively impact the University community.

**Challenge Camps Scholarships and Program** **\$4,000**  
 A camping experience for the developmentally challenged in which all regular camp activities are enjoyed at an appropriate pace. We provide various experiences suitable for a wide range of abilities. Advance special money allows us to offer need scholarships and additional program support.

**Eastern Pa Mission Partnerships with the Central Congo** **\$30,000**  
 (e-mail: pastordavidtryan@yahoo.com)  
 The EPA Congo Partnership fund provides support for approved projects in the Central Congo Episcopal Area. 2011 Projects include feeding children and elderly through the Mpsa Clinic and Nutrition Center, providing doctors and nursing support in Mpsa, Wembo Nyama, Tunda and Minga. an Agriculture Project, Communication support for the conferences of the area, the establishment of a Conference center, and Christian Education in the Wembo Nayama area.

**Hazleton: Greater Hazleton Metro Ministries** **\$10,000**  
 (email: cvlawfer@ptd.net)  
 In our first year of ministry, we have offered English instruction to over 100 registered students. Our three regularly scheduled classes serve 15-25 students each, with students ranging in age from early elementary school to senior citizens. A computer lab is in process, to offer language lab capacity and computer literacy courses to a variety of persons. We are working on providing individualized tutoring for students needing more help with English - and will be offering citizenship classes as our students become more proficient in English. Our dream is to offer an afterschool homework program to help the children of our adult students succeed in school.

**Hope Christian Counseling & Retreat Ministries** **\$5,000**  
 (email: Susan.Worrell@HopeCCRM.org)  
 Hope Christian Counseling & Retreat Ministries offers professional counsel-

ing, retreat and workshop facilitation, and training for individuals and groups by qualified, certified or licensed professionals and/or ordained clergy. We offer a high-quality alternative to in-house resources for local churches with expertise in areas including but not limited to addictive/compulsive behaviors; mental health concerns; grief, loss and life transitions; relationship issues; visitation ministry; and small group ministry. Access to emotional and spiritual care is available to all regardless of a person's ability to pay a full fee.

**Lancaster: Lumina** **\$10,000**  
 (email: lumina3@verizon.net)

We coordinate the outreach efforts of over 75 United Methodist Churches on the Southwest District. Our 3 main areas of focus are: 1) Children's Ministries 2) Clothing (Professional clothing and school uniforms) and 3) Nutrition Education. We serve individuals and families living in poverty.

**Lancaster: Shalom Partnership** **\$6,250**  
 (email: gjmachia@aol.com)

The Shalom Partnership of Lancaster's Summer Enrichment program is a unique partnership between the organization (SPL), local United Methodist churches and the School District of Lancaster. This year we will conduct three enrichment programs in Lancaster City customized to meet the specific needs of students in Martin Luther King, Jr., Ross and Fulton Elementary Schools. The schools will partner with the UMC churches located adjacent to the schools: St. Paul's UMC, Otterbein UMC and Covenant UMC, all located in Lancaster City.

**Midtown Parish Vision Table** **\$200,000**  
 (email: pastor@cumclansdale.org)

The Mid-town Vision Table is a team of persons representing 10 congregations of the Central District, which has come alongside the congregation of Midtown Parish to work with them in erecting new facilities for mission, evangelism and social service in the heart of North Philadelphia, after their old building was razed several years ago. We are providing expertise, funding and support by using the vast resources of the UM connection. This request, a continuation of our initial request in 2009, is intended for architecture fees, temporary worship space and more.

**Philadelphia: Methodist Family Services of Philadelphia (MFSP); Methodist Services for Children and Families (MSCF)** **\$10,000**  
 (email: jshumate@methodistservices.org)

In an effort to further address the needs of our clients, MSCF and MFSP are looking for funding to enhance several current educational programs. Funding will be channeled to support the following -

- Computer, drama, and swimming activities in the summer camp program
- Program supplies for 5 after school programs and day care center
- Hands on activities in the Children's Garden - portion of Heritage Farm

**Philadelphia: United Methodist Neighborhood Services** **\$25,000**  
 (email: Mwhite9891@aol.com)

We provide service to the low income families in the North Philadelphia area such as summer enrichment summer camp, food and clothing, assist with rent and heating bills.

**Spiritual Renewal Ministries, Inc.** **\$15,000**  
 (email: SpiritualRM@aol.com)

These important financial donation gifts will be used for scholarships to companion churches, groups and individuals who desire to deepen their relationship with God in Jesus Christ, through spiritual direction, retreats, and seminars, undergirding their mission and ministries with prayer, and spiritual formation to become more aware of God's presence throughout their daily living.

**Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution:** Rev. Coryn Peña

**Resolution #2011-19**

**Resolution Relating to Salary/Benefits Recommendations for 2012 Presented by the Commission on Equitable Compensation**

**WHEREAS**, it is the purpose of the Commission on Equitable Compensation to support full-time clergy serving as pastors in the charges of the annual conference by recommending conference standards for pastoral support; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission on Equitable Compensation is charged with annually recommending to the conference for its action, a schedule of minimum base compensation for all full-time pastors and those clergy members of the annual conference appointed to less than full-time to a local church; and

**WHEREAS**, the economic turbulence we find our nation in has caused great difficulty for many of the churches in the Conference to meet their financial obligations,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the minimum starting salary for 2012 shall remain as it has been in 2011. The schedule for persons beginning under appointment in the local church for the year 2012 as follows:

- a) Elders and Deacons in Full Connection . . . . . \$37,300
- b) Transitional Deacons, and Commissioned toward Deacons and Elders under full-time post-seminary appointments . . . \$35,475
- c) Associate Members . . . . . \$34,667
- d) Full-Time Local Pastors . . . . . \$32,820

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that to arrive at the minimum cash salary for each pastor, the required service year increments will be added to the appropriate base listed above in the amount of 1% of the pastor's base salary for each year of ser-

**Continued from page 17**

vice, defined as full-time service under appointment [part-time accrues, i.e., two years in half-time appointment equals one year of service]; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that each church or charge, in recommending increases, consider increases above the minimum cash salary, and that Pastor/Staff-Parish Relations Committees particularly take note of such areas as education, experience, skills, commitment, amount paid by clergy to Social Security as self-employed persons, family needs, and payment of health insurance; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that any amount provided as a housing allowance as described in the "Annual Conference Policies" in the 2009 Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference Journal, volume 2, page 186-187, is not to be considered part of the minimum cash salary as set forth in this resolution; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that if a church or charge cannot meet the standard of support for a full-time pastor, the Cabinet will be notified and appropriate action taken by the Cabinet concerning the altered status of the church or charge.

## RESOLUTIONS/PETITIONS FOR GENERAL CONFERENCE 2012 ANNUAL CONFERENCE ENDORSEMENT

**Resolution 2011-20****Resolution to 2011 Annual Conference Session**

**to be endorsed and forwarded to the General Conference**

**Resolution petitioning a change in the Book of Discipline**

**BOOK OF DISCIPLINE par. 4**

**Title:** Amendment to *THE CONSTITUTION: Inclusiveness of the Church*

Total number of pages: 2

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

**Amend par. 4 as follows:**

**Article IV. *Inclusiveness of the Church*** -- The United Methodist Church is a part of the church universal, which is one Body in Christ. The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth, and that we are in ministry to all. All persons ~~without regard to race, color, national origin, status, or economic condition~~ shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection. In The United Methodist Church no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the Church because of race, color, national origin, status or economic condition.

**Rationale:**

This proposed change in The Constitution was voted affirmatively on May 21, 2008 at the session of The General Conference of The United Methodist Church held in Fort Worth, Texas by a recorded vote of 558 Yes, 276 No. However, it was not adopted by 2/3s of each of 2/3s of the Annual Conferences as required by The Discipline, Par. 59. Therefore, Article IV, "The Inclusiveness of the Church," is still glaringly non-inclusive in that it does not specify sexual orientation as one of the factors that will not bar persons who have taken vows declaring the Christian faith from becoming professing members in any local church of the connection. Our United Methodist affirmation that all persons are of sacred worth is hypocritical unless it is followed by a clear statement that "all" really means "all."

**Presented by:** Rev. William T. Cherry, co-chair, Sacred Worth Team, First United Methodist Church, Lancaster, PA

**Resolution 2011-21****Resolution to 2011 Annual Conference Session**

**to be endorsed and forwarded to the General Conference**

**Resolution petitioning a change in the Book of Discipline**

**BOOK OF DISCIPLINE, Part IV - SOCIAL PRINCIPLES**

**Title:** Amendment to II. THE NURTURING COMMUNITY

Total number of pages: 2

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

**In par. 161(F) Human Sexuality, amend the fourth paragraph as follows:**

We affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God. All persons need the ministry of the Church in their struggles for human fulfillment, as well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship that enables reconciling relationships with God, with others, and with self. ~~The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.~~ The United Methodist Church recognizes that its members hold differing beliefs with regard to the practice of homosexuality. Some United Methodists believe the practice of homosexuality to be incompatible with Christian teaching. Others believe the practice of homosexuality is compatible with Christian teaching if practiced in committed monogamous relationships and in conformity with the Church's other teachings concerning human sexuality. We affirm that God's

grace is available to all. We will seek to live together in Christian community, welcoming, forgiving, and loving one another, as Christ has loved and accepted us. We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons.

**Rationale:**

The harsh, judgmental language of the sentence to be eliminated is, first of all, in conflict with the present consensus of the medical/psychiatric community, namely, that homosexuality is not a mental or physical illness but rather a normal condition for a small segment of the human race. This view is now widely held in contemporary society, and is also an emerging opinion in the ecumenical church community. However, in many branches of the church, including within The United Methodist Church, people of faith are divided over the question of how homosexual practice is to be understood in the light of biblical teaching. Hence, this statement to be inserted describes our United Methodist differences while we await the guidance of the Spirit. To simply retain the condemnatory language seems to be manifestly unchristian.

**Presented by:** Rev. William T. Cherry, co-chair, Sacred Worth Team, First United Methodist Church, Lancaster, PA

**Resolution 2011-22****Resolution to 2011 Annual Conference Session**

**to be endorsed and forwarded to the General Conference**

**Discipline Paragraph or Resolution Number: 161F**

**Suggested Title:** Remove condemnatory language on homosexuality

Total Number of Pages: 2

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

**Amend ¶161F as follows:**

F) Human Sexuality—We affirm that sexuality is God's good gift to all persons. We call everyone to responsible stewardship of this sacred gift.

Although all persons are sexual beings whether or not they are married, sexual relations are affirmed only with the covenant of monogamous, heterosexual marriage.

We deplore all forms of the commercialization, abuse, and exploitation of sex. We call for strict global enforcement of laws prohibiting the sexual exploitation of children and for adequate protection, guidance, and counseling for abused children. All persons, regardless of age, gender, marital status, or sexual orientation, are entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured and to be protected against violence. The Church should support the family in providing age-appropriate education regarding sexuality to children, youth, and adults.

We affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God. All persons need the ministry of the Church in their struggles for human fulfillment, as well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship that enables reconciling relationships with God, with others, and with self. ~~The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.~~ We affirm that God's grace is available to all. We will seek to live together in Christian community, welcoming, forgiving, and loving one another, as Christ has loved and accepted us. We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn.

**Signature of Petitioner:** Rev. John R. Pritchard, Jr.

**Identification of the Petitioner:** Rev. John R. Pritchard, Jr., Member Eastern PA Conference, pastor Calvary UMC, Phila.

**Resolution 2011-23****Resolution to 2011 Annual Conference Session**

**to be endorsed and forwarded to the General Conference**

**Discipline Paragraph or Resolution Number: ¶162J**

**Suggested Title:** Update Civil Equal Rights

Total Number of Pages: 2

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: Yes

**Amend ¶162J as follows:**

Equal Rights regardless of Sexual Orientation—Certain basic human rights and civil liberties are due all persons. We are committed to supporting those rights and liberties for all persons, regardless of sexual orientation. We see a clear issue of justice in protecting the rightful claims where people have shared material resources, pensions, guardian relationships, mutual powers of attorney, civil marriage, civil unions, and other such lawful claims attendant to contractual relationships including that involve shared contributions, responsibilities, and liabilities, and equal protection before the law. Moreover, we support efforts to stop violence and other forms of coercion against all persons, regardless of sexual orientation.

**Rationale:**

Civil legal language now includes blocks of contractual rights and responsibilities under the categories of civil marriage and civil unions. These blocks, regionally defined by law, simplify access to basic equality in the civil arena and may include over 1,000 rights and responsibilities.

**Date:** 3/5/11

**Signature of Petitioner:** Rev. John R. Pritchard, Jr.

**Identification of the Petitioner:** Rev. John R. Pritchard, Jr., Member Eastern PA Conference, pastor Calvary UMC, Phila.

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**Resolution 2011-24**  
**Resolution to 2011 Annual Conference Session**  
**to be endorsed and forwarded to the General Conference**

**Discipline Paragraph or Resolution Number:** ¶304.3  
**Suggested Title:** End discrimination against homosexual clergy.  
 Total Number of Pages: 1  
 General Church Budget Implications: None  
 Global Implications: Yes  
**Amend ¶304.3 as follows:**

~~3. While persons set apart by the Church for ordained ministry are subject to all the frailties of the human condition and the pressures of society, they are required to maintain the highest standards of holy living in the world. The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church.~~

**Rationale:**

Homosexual clergy, both single and partnered, have both maintained the highest standards of holy living and served our church in all levels of ordained ministry since our denomination's formation. This paragraph's double standard promotes secrecy and erects a barrier to keeping qualified clergy, both homosexual and heterosexual, serving our church.

**Signature of Petitioner:** Rev. John R. Pritchard, Jr.  
**Identification of the Petitioner:** Rev. John R. Pritchard, Jr., Member Eastern PA Conference, pastor: Calvary UMC, Phila.

**Resolution 2011-25**  
**Resolution to 2011 Annual Conference Session**  
**to be endorsed and forwarded to the General Conference**

**Discipline Paragraph or Resolution Number:** ¶341.6  
**Suggested Title:** Offer the blessings of Christian marriage to homosexual couples  
 Total Number of Pages: 1  
 General Church Budget Implications: None  
 Global Implications: Yes  
**Amend ¶341.6 as follows:**

~~6. Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches.~~

**Rationale:**

Homosexual families bring blessings to our churches. United Methodist clergy have conducted union services for these families since our denomination's formation. This double standard impedes pastoral care and fulfillment of the clergy covenant. This discrimination undercuts evangelism to all God's children and our efforts to recruit and maintain qualified clergy.

**Signature of Petitioner:** Rev. John R. Pritchard, Jr.  
**Identification of the Petitioner:** Rev. John R. Pritchard, Jr., Member Eastern PA Conference, pastor: Calvary UMC Phila.

**Resolution 2011-26**  
**Resolution to 2011 Annual Conference Session**  
**to be endorsed and forwarded to the General Conference**

**Discipline Paragraph or Resolution Number:** ¶613.20  
**Suggested Title:** End discrimination and confusion in funding.  
 Total Number of Pages: 1  
 General Church Budget Implications: None  
 Global Implications: Yes  
**Amend ¶613.20 as follows:**

~~20. To ensure that no annual conference board, agency, committee, commission, or council shall give United Methodist funds to any gay caucus or group, or otherwise use such funds to promote the acceptance of homosexuality or violate the expressed commitment of the UMC "not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends" (¶161.F). The council shall have the right to stop such expenditures. This restriction shall not limit the Church's ministry in response to the HIV epidemic, nor shall it preclude funding for dialogues or educational events where the Church's official position is fairly and equally represented.~~

**Rationale:**

Holy conferencing and education are valued processes of United Methodists. This paragraph creates confusion and impairs holy conferencing regarding our relationship with our homosexual brothers and sisters. This deletion frees duly elected, employed, or appointed annual conference boards, agencies, commissions, and councils to resource the church as is their charge.

**Signature of Petitioner:** Rev. John R. Pritchard, Jr.  
**Identification of the Petitioner:** Rev. John R. Pritchard, Jr., Member Eastern PA Conference, pastor: Calvary UMC Phila.

**Resolution 2011-27**  
**Resolution to 2011 Annual Conference Session**  
**to be endorsed and forwarded to the General Conference**

**Discipline Paragraph or Resolution Number** ¶806.9  
**Suggested Title:** End discrimination and confusion in funding.  
 Number of Pages: 1  
 General Church Budget Implications: None  
 Global Implications: Yes

**Delete ¶806.9 :**

~~9. It shall be responsible for ensuring that no board, agency, committee, commission, or council shall give United Methodist funds to any gay caucus or group, or otherwise use such funds to promote the acceptance of homosexuality or violate the expressed commitment of The United Methodist Church" not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends" (¶161.F). The council shall have the right to stop such expenditures. It shall not limit the Church's ministry in response to the HIV epidemic.~~

**Rationale:**

Holy conferencing and education are valued processes of United Methodists. This paragraph creates confusion and impairs holy conferencing regarding our relationship with our homosexual brothers and sisters. This deletion frees duly elected, employed, or appointed annual conference boards, agencies, commissions, and councils to resource the church as is their charge.

**Signature of Petitioner:** Rev. John R. Pritchard, Jr.  
**Identification of the Petitioner:** Rev. John R. Pritchard, Jr., Member Eastern PA Conference, pastor: Calvary UMC Phila.

**Resolution 2011-28**  
**Resolution to 2011 Annual Conference Session**  
**to be endorsed and forwarded to the General Conference**

**Discipline Paragraph or Resolution Number:** ¶2702.1  
**Suggested Title:** End discrimination in clergy charges.  
 Total Number of Pages: 1  
 General Church Budget Implications: None  
 Global Implications: Yes  
**Amend ¶2702.1 as follows:**

A bishop, clergy member of an annual conference (¶369), local pastor, clergy on honorable or administrative location, or diaconal minister may be tried when charged (subject to the statute of limitations in ¶2702.4)\* with one or more of the following offenses: (a) immorality including but not limited to, not being celibate in singleness or not faithful in a heterosexual marriage;\*(b) practices declared by The United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teachings, including but not limited to: being a self-avowed practicing homosexual; or conducting ceremonies which celebrate homosexual unions; or performing same-sex wedding ceremonies;

**Rationale:**

The United Methodist Church repeatedly expresses concern about the recruitment of superior clergy candidates, especially young persons. Probably there is nothing which so impedes the recruitment of young candidates as this section of the *Discipline* and others similarly discriminatory. Bigotry, hypocrisy, and judgmentalism repel rather than attract.

**Signature of Petitioner:** Rev. John R. Pritchard, Jr.  
**Identification of the Petitioner:** Rev. John R. Pritchard, Jr., Member Eastern PA Conference, pastor: Calvary UMC Phila.

**Resolution 2011-29**  
**Resolution to 2011 Annual Conference Session**  
**to be endorsed and forwarded to the General Conference**

**Discipline Paragraph or Resolution Number:** Footnote 3 of ¶311.2(d)  
**Suggested Title:** Remove discriminatory language about homosexuality.  
 Total Number of Pages: 2  
 General Church Budget Implications: None  
 Global Implications: Yes  
**Amend Footnote 3 of ¶311.2 (d) as follows (Found in the twelfth paragraph of the footnote, on p. 215 of the 2008 BOD):**

The General Conference has made it clear in the "Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task" (Part II of the *Discipline*) that Scripture, tradition, experience, and reason are our guidelines. "United Methodists share with other Christians the conviction that Scripture is the primary source and criterion for Christian doctrine."

In the Social Principles, the General Conference has said that "we do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching." Furthermore, the Principles state that "we affirm the sanctity of the marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity between a man and a woman. We believe that God's blessing rests upon such marriage, whether or not there are children of the union. We reject social norms that assume different standards for women than for men in marriage." Also, "we affirm the integrity of single persons, and we reject all social practices that discriminate or social attitudes that are prejudicial against persons because they are single."

**Rationale:**

This section seeks to "elevate the standards" of "moral and social responsibility of ordained ministers," by directing examination by district and conference committees. Stringent moral qualifications for ordained ministry are essential, but they have no relevance to the sexual orientation of the candidate. Such unchristian discrimination should be eliminated.

**Signature of Petitioner:** Rev. John R. Pritchard, Jr.  
**Identification of the Petitioner:** Rev. John R. Pritchard, Jr., Member Eastern PA Conference, pastor: Calvary UMC Phila.

**Resolution 2011-30**  
**Resolution to 2011 Annual Conference Session**

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to be endorsed and forwarded to the General Conference

**Discipline Paragraph or Resolution Number:** Footnote 3 of ¶311.2(d)**Suggested Title:** Moral standards of homosexual clergy**Total Number of Pages:** 1**General Church Budget Implications:** None**Global Implications:** Yes**Amend ¶311.2(d) as follows (Found in the fourth paragraph of the footnote on page 212 of the 2008 BOD) :**

The General Conference, in response to expressions throughout the Church regarding homosexuality and ordination, reaffirms the present language of the

**Discipline** regarding the character and commitment of persons seeking ordination and affirms its high standards.**Rationale:**

Clergy are required to uphold the highest standards of holy living in the church and in the world. Homosexual clergy are fully capable of fulfilling these standards. The same expectations of Christian conduct apply regardless of sexual orientation. The idea that homosexual persons are inherently immoral is absolutely false.

**Signature of Petitioner:** John R. Pritchard, Jr.**Identification of the Petitioner:** Rev. John R. Pritchard, Jr., Member Eastern PA Conference, pastor: Calvary UMC Phila.

## Annual Conference Speaker: Pastor Rudy Rasmus



**R**udy Rasmus is an emergent messenger, an urban prophet, and global humanitarian with a passion for outreach to our world's poorest citizens. Pastor Rudy co-pastors the St. John's United Methodist Church located in Downtown Houston with his wife Juanita.

Beginning with 9 existing members in 1992, St. John's has grown to over 9,000 members (3,000 of the total either are or were formerly homeless) in sixteen years into one of the most culturally diverse congregations in the country where every week people of every social and economic background share the same pew. He attributes the success of the church to a compassionate congregation who has embraced the vision of tearing down the walls of classism, sexism, and racism and building bridges of unconditional love, universal recovery, and unprecedented hope.

Pastor Rudy founded the Bread of Life, Inc. (a not for profit corporation) with Juanita in December of 1992 and began serving dinners to the homeless in the sanctuary at St. John's. Years later the Bread of Life has changed the landscape of Downtown Houston providing an array of services to homeless men and women seven nights a week in the Bread of Life Community Health Facility on the St. John's campus. The project provides over 10,000 hot meals each month to the homeless men and women and distributes over 9 tons of fresh food each week to hungry families and provides shelter to over 100 homeless individuals every night from 7 p.m. - 7 a.m. in an innovative housing first initiative called "After Dark" where services are provided during the

critical nighttime hours. The HIV "Get Tested" Project provides HIV/AIDS testing on Sundays after church services and throughout the week to thousands each year. As a result of many years of service to the community, Pastor Rudy received the coveted 2009 Jefferson Award at a ceremony in Washington DC which is considered the Nobel Prize of community service.

Thanks to generous donations from long time members Beyonce Knowles, Kelly Rowland, and the Knowles Family, the campus now includes the \$1.2 million Knowles-Rowland Center for Youth and the \$5 million Knowles-Temenos Place Apartments. The project is a 43 unit Single Room Occupancy (SRO) development designed to provide transitional living accommodations for women and men who are taking significant steps in improving their lives after personal and natural disasters. Pastor Rudy also coordinates domestic and global anti-hunger initiatives in conjunction with Beyonce's concert tours throughout the year.

Pastor Rudy is a monthly contributor to Oprah Winfrey's "O Magazine" in an ethics column entitled "Now What Do I Do" and is the author of a new book entitled "Touch: Pressing against the wounds of a broken world" (Thomas Nelson Publishers) which profiles his interesting life story and his unique brand of faith sharing and radical hospitality.

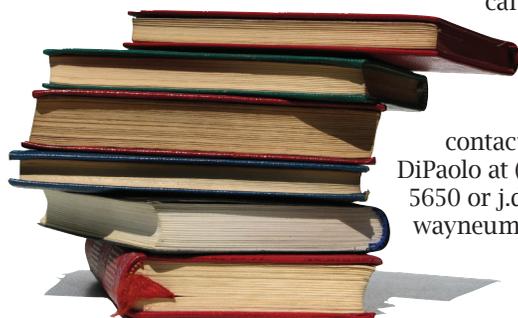
Rudy and Juanita have been married for 25 years and are the proud parents of two daughters, Morgan and Ryan.

## Used Book Sale at Annual Conference

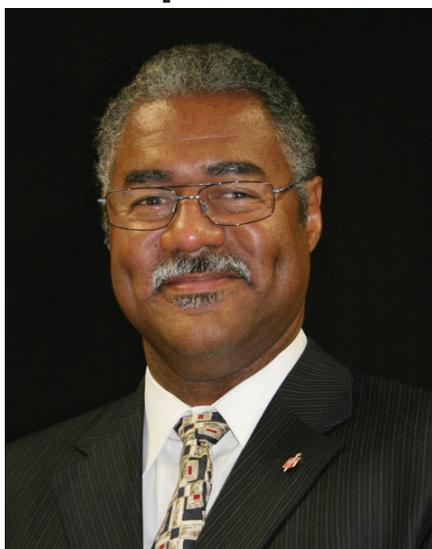
**T**he annual used book sale returns to our conference session again this year. Please bring to the conference site any books you wish to donate, and don't forget your checkbook to purchase other people's lost treasures! We will have our general sales tables at ridiculously low prices, as well as our bid table with antique and rare treasures. We also expect some unique volumes and sets, which will be available for buyers willing to make an offer. Look for our 2011 edition of the Annals of Eastern Pennsylvania, which has some great articles in it, including one on 19th century black evangelist Amanda Berry Smith, and another by Dr. Ken Rowe on the origins of our health and welfare institutions (the Methodist Hospital, Home for Children, etc.). All proceeds go toward the work of the Society to preserve and disseminate our conference's rich historical legacy.

If you have questions,

contact Joe DiPaolo at (610) 688-5650 or [j.dipaolo@wayneumc.org](mailto:j.dipaolo@wayneumc.org).



## Bishop Julius C. Trimble



**B**ishop Julius C. Trimble, Resident Bishop of The Iowa Area, has been invited to preach for the Service of Ordination on the evening of Friday, May 20. Bishop Trimble has served as the spiritual leader of 192,000 United Methodists in

Iowa since his election to the episcopacy in 2008. A lifelong Methodist, he was active in Methodist Youth Fellowship, Young Life Urban Ministries, and United Methodist Camping, and answered the call to preach at age 16. He became a certified lay speaker as a teen and was elected local church lay leader at age 24. With more than 25 years in ordained ministry, Bishop Trimble served churches in Cleveland and Chicago, was Superintendent of the Cleveland District from 1996-2003, and also served as Legislative Chairperson of Section One, Church and Society at the 2008 General Conference.

## Bishop Peggy A. Johnson



**B**ishop Peggy Johnson will preach for the Memorial Service on the morning of Saturday, May 21. Bishop Johnson leads nearly 900 churches in The Philadelphia Area of The United Methodist Church, including both the Eastern

Pennsylvania and Peninsula-Delaware Conferences. Her leadership in the denomination includes raising awareness of the need to include persons with disabilities, "not just to welcome them, but to be co-ministers in the priesthood of all believers!" Bishop Johnson believes that the most important role as a bishop is to pastorally empower and encourage the church to make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The role also includes the presiding duties of ordering the life of the annual conference and the denomination and also to be a prophetic voice for justice in the church and the world.