

# Awards

## 2022 One Matters Discipleship Award

The One Matters Discipleship Award is given by The United Methodist Church's Discipleship Ministries agency to churches recommended by Annual Conferences that have grown by at least one or more new profession-of-faith members in one year.

### One Matters Discipleship Award: Clearview United Methodist Church

Clearview United Methodist Church, located on Buist Avenue in Philadelphia and led by the Rev. Suzette Douglas-Brown, gained 11 new members in the past year, despite many challenges. Most of those new members learned about the church from its online worship services and events. The Youth and Young Adult Ministry continues to grow, even during the pandemic. The musicians are all under age 19; and the technology ministry is led by two young teens.

During the pandemic, a new Friday night Bible study for ages 18-30 was started on Zoom. Clearview's young people invited their friends; and now young participants join them from Texas, Georgia, California, Connecticut and other states. The church pays its apportionments and monthly expenses in full. Before the pandemic, members gathered monthly at the church for all-night prayer from midnight to 5 AM. Now, due to the pandemic, they gather for a weekly prayer and fasting ministry via conference call. Clearview remains bathed in prayer and active in vital, life-changing ministry.



# 2022 Herbert E. Palmer Urban Ministry Awards

## North District—East Stroudsburg UMC

East Stroudsburg UMC, led by the Rev. Samuel Kofi Ashley, sponsors a regular food pantry and a community meal at the church on Monday nights. Members serve about 175 people weekly, which continued onsite during the COVID pandemic. The diverse diners include church members, area residents, homeless neighbors, and the college athletes and honor students who come to help serve. The mayor also comes occasionally. Guests enjoy hot meals and take home groceries for the week.

East Stroudsburg UMC also hosts much-appreciated, summer outdoor block parties on Thursday evenings, serving free sandwiches, chips and water to members and guests from all walks of life, while they enjoy live Christian praise music. A prayer tent also allows members to serve the spiritual needs of guests.



## West District—Lancaster: Ross Street UMC

Ross Street UMC in Lancaster, led by the Rev. Fran Keller, has fewer than 20 members in weekly worship; but the congregation is faithful and forward-thinking in its outreach to neighbors struggling with poverty. Members responded to the COVID pandemic by starting monthly food distribution in partnership with community volunteers and LUMINA, an EPAUMC-sponsored neighborhood services agency. The church has battled growing hunger since 2020 by giving away over 96,000 pounds of food in its parking lot and delivering it to nearby homes. The 40-pound boxes from Blessings of Hope, which typically are gone in under an hour, include New Testament Bibles and encouraging messages of hope.

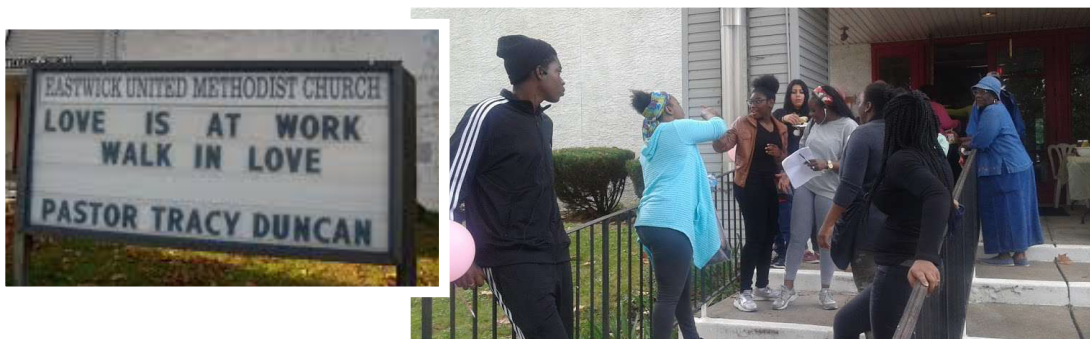




## South District—Philadelphia: Eastwick UMC

Eastwick UMC, led by the Rev. Tracy Duncan, has been helping its community in many ways during the pandemic, including hosting vaccination clinics for all ages, in partnership with Rite Aid Pharmacy and the city's Department of Health. Its annual Walk for Hunger raises funds to support Eastwick's food bank and other food banks related to Philabundance. Eastwick's Mission House Food Bank serves about 4,000 families a year and partners with Philabundance and Giant Food Markets to assist those who are dealing with food insecurities.

In the wake of Hurricane Isaias, which struck in 2020, the church was open to serve neighbors dislocated by historic flooding. It provided food and connections with the Red Cross for temporary lodging. Today church leaders work with Eastwick United CDC, a Recognized Community Organization (RCO), to address residents' long-term environmental justice concerns and economic recovery needs. The church is also revitalizing its evangelism and prayer outreach ministries.



## East District—Philadelphia: Holmesburg UMC

Holmesburg UMC in Northeast Philadelphia, led by the Rev. James LaMontagne, serves its community by offering Bible study and curbside prayer, movie nights for children and families, and distribution of free food, clothing and household items from its pantry and its popular "Ann's Attic."

Neighbors attend the weekly Bible study, which has grown to about a dozen attendees; and two recently joined the church. People express thanks for the food pantry, a lifeline to more than 60 families weekly, some of whom now attend Sunday worship. The church changed from giving out food and clothing to offering a more comfortable "shopping" experience, where neighbors can choose items and enjoy conversation with one another. The curbside prayer encounters are also generating thankful testimonies and even a few new worship attendees. So are the movie nights, which draw dozens of grateful children and adults to view child-friendly, animated films.



# 2022 Harry Denman Evangelism Awards

## Awarded by the EPA Conference Congregational Development Team

The EPAUMC Congregational Development Team annually presents Harry Denman Evangelism Awards, which honor UM lay, youth and clergy leaders who freely, devotedly share their Christian faith and the gospel with others. Denman Awards are sponsored by the UMC's Foundation for Evangelism. Awardees chosen are exemplary leaders who exhibit "outstanding efforts in Christian evangelism by faithfully carrying out the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ."

### Youth Denman Award: Lydia Ermer



Lydia Ermer, a faithful youth member of Levittown: Emilie UMC, is demure but deeply caring and passionate about serving and sharing Christ, especially in co-operative ministry with others. An active leader in the EPA Conference Council on Youth Ministry, she demonstrates concern for justice, fairness, inclusiveness and compassion. She expresses her faith to other youth and eagerly welcomes new CCYM members to help them feel they belong. Lydia is always ready to volunteer for events, to offer creative ideas and try new approaches, while recognizing profound lessons for growth in each activity.

### Laity Denman Award: Rosalind McKelvey

Rosalind McKelvey, a Christ Servant Minister, is a longtime servant, advocate, interpreter, leader and caregiver for Deaf persons. Known throughout the Eastern PA Conference and beyond, she attends to the physical, emotional, spiritual and communication needs of Deaf persons in many places with ardent compassion and grace. From volunteering at the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf to organizing the Germantown Deaf Ministries Fellowship, Inc. in Philadelphia to advocating before church and public policy leaders, she offers creative, sensitive, outspoken wisdom about the needs and concerns of the Deaf community. She also teaches American Sign Language to Deaf and hearing persons. Roz has directed Deaf choirs and interpreted worship at Philadelphia: Grace UMC and other churches and events, offering many Deaf members a place to belong and to contribute their gifts.



### Clergy Denman Award: The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey A. Weber



Since being appointed to Readers UMC in 2020, Dr. Weber has welcomed 16 new members into the congregation, including a dozen this year. A lifelong member at Stroudsburg UMC, he served in the U.S. military and in state government, followed by a career in higher education at East Stroudsburg University. Upon retiring, he answered the call to ministry, becoming a Licensed Local Pastor in 2020. Jeff is known to be passionate, relational and effective in evangelism, and he is active beyond the local church, demonstrating a true servant's heart. He brings his rich, diverse background into ministry among all ages. He has adapted to a profound hearing impairment suffered during his

military service, combining use of sign language with lipreading and new technology.