



**LAITY CONVOCATION 2021**

# The Other Side

Making our churches vital in a post-pandemic world

**SATURDAY, FEB 13  
9 AM TO 12 NOON**



Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey



Rev. Adam Hamilton



Rev. Dr. F. Douglas Powe

# program

# LAITY CONVOCAION 2021

## The Other Side

Making our churches vital in a post-pandemic world

Welcome	Mark Manzi
Introductions	Eugene Williams
Opening Scripture Verse / Prayer / Introducing Bishop Hopkins	Connie Augsburg
Greeting	Bishop John Hopkins
Scripture Verse / Introducing Discipleship Task Force	Lisa Butler
Discipleship Task Force Update	Karen Bonnell
Scripture Verse / Introducing Anti-Racism Task Force	and Rev. Caleb Hong, Co-Chairs
Anti-Racism Task Force Update	Eugene Williams
Scripture Verse / Introducing Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey	Nadia Kanhai
Presentation "Communal Prayer"	and Rev. Jarrod Severing, Co-Chairs
Scripture Verse / Introducing Rev. Mike Jones and Diane Klinefelter	Mark Manzi
Vital Churches Update and Communal Prayer	Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey
Break and CLM Celebration	George Groves
Scripture Verse / Introducing Adam Hamilton	Rev. Mike Jones/Diane Klinefelter
Presentation: "Helping People Grow in Faith"	Peggy Hanson
Scripture Verse / Introducing Rev. Hannah Kardon and Drew Jones	Lois Moreland Dean
Helping People Grow in Faith	Rev. Adam Hamilton
Scripture Verse / Introducing Rev. Dr. F. Douglas Powe	Tom Weber
Presentation "Outreach in this New Time"	Rev. Hannah Kardon and Drew Jones
Introducing Local Efforts in Outreach	Peggy Hanson
Local Efforts in Outreach	Rev. Dr. F. Douglas Powe
Closing Remarks / Final "Thank You"	Mark Manzi
Closing Prayer	Rev. Paul Lee, Neville Reid and Rev. Scott Christy with Arpan Sutaria, Seema Bhagatsingh, Binny Christian and Jenessa Bhagatsingh
	Connie Augsburg
	Eugene Williams



# Welcome

## Bishop John Hopkins



**Bishop John L. Hopkins** is a retired Bishop of The United Methodist Church. He was born in Montgomery, Alabama, and his childhood was spent in Montgomery, Houston, Atlanta, and Ft. Wayne. After marrying Elaine M. Smithson in 1964, he attended Indiana University, receiving a B.A. with Honors in Psychology. He graduated from Yale Divinity School and was selected for the two-year Wheelock Residency at the Church of Christ at Dartmouth College where he practiced hospital, campus, and parish ministry. During this residency, he served as the Protestant Chaplain at Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital in Hanover, New Hampshire. He was ordained deacon and elder in the North Indiana Conference.

After serving a two-point charge in LaPorte, Indiana, Bishop Hopkins was appointed in 1976 as Wesley Foundation Director at Ball State University. In 1983 he became Director of the Council on Ministries in North Indiana and, in 1989 was appointed in South Indiana as Senior Pastor at The Methodist Temple in Evansville. He was elected to the episcopacy in July 1996 at the North Central Jurisdictional Conference and assigned to the Minnesota Area for eight years. In September 2004, Bishop Hopkins was assigned to the Ohio East Area until retirement in 2016.

Bishop Hopkins was appointed by the Council of Bishops from 2004-2012 to serve as the first Chair of the Connectional Table, which provides a forum for the understanding and implementation of the vision, mission, and ministries of the global church. During this time, Hopkins helped lead The Call to Action effort focused on increasing vital congregations around the world.

He has served on the Executive Committee of the Council of Bishops, the United Methodist Publishing House Board, the General Board of Church and Society, the General Council on Ministries and the Committee for the Advance for Christ and His Church. His episcopal responsibilities have included serving on the trustees of Hamline University, Ohio Wesleyan University, Mt. Union University, Baldwin Wallace University, and The Methodist Theological School in Ohio.

Bishop Hopkins was instrumental in the formation of Operation Classroom in Sierra Leone and Liberia. His mission travel has included Angola, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Korea, China, Japan, Mexico, Bulgaria, Germany, Philippines, and Vietnam. Currently, he serves on the board of Educational Opportunities, Inc. that provides scholarships for clergy to study in the Holy Land.

# Communal prayer

## Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey



**Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey** serves as Director of the Bishop Bruce Ough Innovation Center at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. Her local church ministry appointments include executive pastor of Ginghamburg UMC in Tipp City, Ohio, partnering with Senior Pastor Mike Slaughter for a decade of dramatic growth, with both local and global missional fruitfulness.

Most recently, Rev. Kibbey has served on the executive staff of the United Methodist West Ohio Conference as the creator and director of the Missional Church Consultation Initiative (MCCI). This training, coaching and resourcing initiative has now spread across several United Methodist Conferences, eventually engaging nearly 200 churches of all sizes and settings around the country in creative revitalization resourcing for a fresh season of impact.

Rev. Kibbey is a nationally recognized trainer, consultant and author of multiple books and resources, each aimed to equip and fuel the spiritual and missional renewal of pastors, leaders and congregations. Her greatest passion is igniting church-wide congregational momentum with what she terms a "Breakthrough Prayer Initiative," which was the foundational heartbeat of the MCCI and is now known as independent training/equipping for thousands of church pastors, leaders and members.

She has written a number of books and resource, including (available at [Cokesbury.com](http://Cokesbury.com) or [Amazon](http://Amazon.com)):

- "Floodgates: Holy Momentum for a Fearless Church" @2016, Abingdon Press
- "Ultimate Reliance: Breakthrough Prayer Practices for Leaders" @2019, Abingdon Press, a small group 5-session resource, with supporting DVD of short breakthrough prayer video stories
- "Ultimately Responsible: When You're in Charge of Igniting a Ministry" @2006, Abingdon Press

Rev. Kibbey's newest publication, a "nuts and bolts" how-to deployment resource for churches and leadership teams, is called "Open Road: The Adventure of a Breakthrough Prayer Initiative" and will be available spring 2021 at [MarketSquarebooks.com](http://MarketSquarebooks.com) and Amazon.

You can reach Rev. Kibbey at [sue@snkibbey.com](mailto:sue@snkibbey.com) and/or find more breakthrough prayer initiative resources and video stories at [snkibbey.com](http://snkibbey.com).



# Helping people grow in faith

## Rev. Adam Hamilton



**Rev. Adam Hamilton** is the founding pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. He grew up in the Kansas City area, earned a B.A. degree in Pastoral Ministry from Oral Roberts and a Master of Divinity Degree from Southern Methodist University where he was awarded the B'nai B'rith Award in Social Ethics.

He was named one of the "Ten people to watch in America's spiritual landscape" by Religion and Ethics Newsweekly. For his work in racial reconciliation, Rev. Hamilton was awarded the Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Award. Named United Methodist Person of the Year for 2012 by the United Methodist Reporter for his leadership within the United Methodist Church. For his efforts in Kansas City, he has been recognized with the first Founder's Civility Award by American Public Square at Jewell (APS). He's received numerous other awards for community service.

Rev. Hamilton launched The Church of the Resurrection with his wife and two children in 1990. It has since grown to over 22,000 adults and children under his leadership. Today the church is the largest United Methodist Church in the United States with five locations around the Kansas City area: Leawood, Olathe; Kansas City, MO; Blue Springs, MO and Overland Park.

The congregation has a three-fold focus: Connecting with thinking people and inviting them to become followers of Jesus Christ, engaging in acts of justice and mercy in the community, and working to renew the United Methodist Church.

Rev. Hamilton has written over 30 books, including "Words of Life, Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas", "The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life", "When Christians Get it Wrong", "Making Sense of the Bible", and "Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times". Rev. Hamilton and LaVon have been married over 38 years and have two adult daughters and a granddaughter.

## Outreach

### **Rev. Dr. F. Douglas Powe, Jr.**



**Rev. Dr. F. Douglas Powe, Jr.** is director of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership, and is the James C. Logan Professor of Evangelism (an E. Stanley Jones Professorship) and Professor of Urban Ministry at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.

Rev. Powe is an ordained Elder in the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church who is committed to helping urban congregations and congregations in transitional areas flourish through community partnering. His research interests are church revitalization, urban theology, and Methodist theology.

A published author, his most-recent book, co-authored with Henry H. Knight, III, is titled "Transforming Community: The Wesleyan Way to Missional Congregations." It followed "Not Safe for Church: The Ten Commandments for Reaching New Generations," co-authored with Jasmine Rose Smothers; "Religio-Political Narratives in America: From Martin Luther King, Jr. through Jeremiah Wright," co-authored with Johnny Hill and Angela Sims; "New Wine, New Wineskins: How African American Congregations Can Reach New Generations"; "Just-us or Justice: Moving Toward a Pan-Methodist Theology"; and "Transforming Evangelism: The Wesleyan Way of Sharing Faith," co-authored with Henry H. Knight, III.

Rev. Powe holds a Doctorate of Philosophy in Systematic Theology from Emory University, a Master of Divinity from Candler School of Theology, Summa Cum Laude, and a Bachelor of Arts from Ohio Wesleyan University, Magna Cum Laude.

## **NIC Local Efforts in Community Outreach**

### **WESLEY UMC, STERLING**

**Rev. Paul Lee Pastor and the People of Wesley**

### **COURT STREET UMC - ROCKFORD**

**Rev. Calvin Culpepper and the People of Court Street**

### **SOUTH SHORE UMC, CHICAGO**

**Neville Reid - Kairos Prison Ministry**

### **EMMANUAL UMC - EVANSTON**

**Rev. Scott Christy with Arpan Sutaria, Seema Bhagatsingh,  
Binny Christian and Jenessa Bhagatsingh**

## DISCIPLESHIP TASK FORCE

### To Grow and Reach New Disciples of Jesus Christ

- By encouraging individuals in the life-long practice of developing and strengthening a personal relationship with God;
- By supporting congregations in fostering discipleship in all of their ministries; and
- By sharing the Good News with people who do not know Jesus.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:16-20)

#### Youth Discipleship—Deacon Sharon Rice and Pastor Seamus Enright

- What Does Jesus Meme to Me? (Access Passcode: 8c^#9cWA)
- Jumpstart helps for pastors or youth leaders: [umcnic.org/jumpstart](http://umcnic.org/jumpstart)
- Intentional Discipleship Systems: Rev. Caleb Hong and Rev. P Devon Brown [umcdiscipleship.org](http://umcdiscipleship.org)
- See All the People: [seeallthepeople.org/](http://seeallthepeople.org/)
- Junius Dotson's AC2020 Bible Study: [vimeo.com/464247676](https://vimeo.com/464247676)
- Intentional Discipleship Zoom with Ken Sloane and Scott Hughes: [vimeo.com/413202543](https://vimeo.com/413202543)

NIC Intentional Discipleship System (IDS) trainers are standing by to assist your church leaders with incorporating an Intentional Discipleship System. Contact Discipleship Task Force Co-Chairs Karen Bonnell and Rev. Caleb Hong through [DiscipleshipTF@umcnic.org](mailto:DiscipleshipTF@umcnic.org)

#### Prayer—Karen Bonnell and Ellen Feliciano

Prayer Network: [umcnic.org/prayernetwork](http://umcnic.org/prayernetwork)

Times Like These: [umcnic.org/news/nic-prayer-booklet-for-times-like-these](http://umcnic.org/news/nic-prayer-booklet-for-times-like-these)

Are you a good writer? What is God putting on your heart that needs to be shared with others in the NIC? Share a Bible verse, devotion of ~250 words and a prayer, all fitting on 1 page to [DiscipleshipTF@umcnic.org](mailto:DiscipleshipTF@umcnic.org).

Pray for the NIC with the NIC Prayer Team the second Friday of the month. Request the Zoom link at [DiscipleshipTF@umcnic.org](mailto:DiscipleshipTF@umcnic.org).



# ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE

## To Live Out the Conviction that Racism is Incompatible with Christian Teaching



2020 was the first full year of anti-racism awareness, learning and engagement for the Anti-Racism Task Force and members of the Northern Illinois Conference. We continue many of our initiatives in 2021 by evaluating and strengthening their impact. We will also roll out new initiatives and collaborate with other NIC committees to better understand and address inequities. The following goals, objectives and activities reflect our ongoing work:

**Goal 1:** Double youth participation from 25 to more than 50 high school students through Justice Generation and affiliated programs as we continue to develop and grow young prophets to speak out against racism.

Objective: Increase understanding, conviction and anti-racist activism by end of 2021.

- Continue with a series (2 more events) with the Conference on Native American Ministries
- Conclude first year of Justice Generation and start year 2 in the fall with increased participation
- Roll out Justice Camp in June 2021
- Partner with the Inclusive Collective and other Campus Ministries

**Goal 2:** In 2020, the Task Force formed a Champion Team, with 2/3 lay members leading their congregations on the anti-racism path. We trained 70+ through C-ROAR and aim to double adult participation in awareness and learning opportunities by the end of 2021.

Objective: Provide ongoing learning, understanding, engagement and activism opportunities.

- Conference Anti-Racism Training class implementation (committee formed, roll-out date tbd)
- Continue to grow membership and engagement in the Anti-Racism Champion Team
- Roll out Individual Awareness Assessment (by 3rd Q)
- Revise and enhance online Learning Path engagement
- Enhance awareness and engagement through regular website updates and social media presence
- Continue to host panels on current events and address noteworthy news through our Rapid Media Response process when warranted.

**Goal 3:** In November 2020, the Northern Illinois Annual Conference approved mandatory quadrennial anti-racism training for all clergy, which is being designed and will be rolled out in collaboration with the Board of Ordained Ministry. In addition, we aim to double clergy participation in anti-racism awareness, learning opportunities and leadership skill-building by end of 2021.

Objective: Equip and support clergy with resources, tools; and learning and engagement spaces to enhance their ministry through anti-racism preaching, teaching, and pastoral care.

- Continue to grow membership and engagement in the Anti-Racism Champion Team
- Clergy Peer Reflections & Engagement (by 3rd Quarter)
- Ephesus Project (Church/Pulpit Exchange) (pilot kicked off in Jan. 2021)

*Want to know more or get involved? Contact the Anti-Racism Task Force at [AntiracismTF@umcnic.org](mailto:AntiracismTF@umcnic.org) or visit [umcnic.org/antiracism](https://umcnic.org/antiracism).*



## VITAL CONGREGATIONS TASK FORCE

### **To Increase the Number of Highly Vital Congregation**

The Vital Congregations Task Force has launched a pilot program with 17 churches across the conference with representation in every district. Congregations will work with leadership from Epicenter (led by Paul Nixon) over the next two years in assessment, planning and implementation toward vital ministries.

The goal of this pilot program is that each church works with their coach-consultant(s) to create a ministry development plan with actionable steps, a plan that is within their reach to garner church consensus. The plan will focus on their assets and values, as well as the needs and values of their community, to discern a clear way forward for their church. The plan will focus on building community relationships and partnerships for more effective and synergistic ministry and will take seriously the post-Christendom and post-COVID context.

The strategic team has also perfected their tool for measuring the vitality of churches based on spiritual, financial, worship and missional factors. The analysis of church vitality will be rolled out to congregations throughout 2021 along with tools and support to move the church to a more vital ministry.

Meanwhile, coaching options and trainings opportunities are underway in partnership with the Office of Congregational Development.

## Vital Congregations and Communal Prayer



**Diane Klinefelter** has been a member of Bethel United Methodist Church in Shannon, Ill., for 5 years and has actively been involved in the communal prayer services of the church. Diane shares her story of what those prayer services meant to her and how they affected her.



**Pastor Mike Jones** is a second career pastor having been launched into ministry from his home church, the First United Methodist Church in Savanna. Mike has served at the Wesley UMC in Stockton, the Willow and Kent UMC's in rural Stockton, the First UMC in Dixon, and the Bethel UMC in Shannon. Mike currently works for a non-profit, Church Properties Reimagined, serving UMC churches in the city of Chicago. Prior to ministry Mike first worked as a metallurgical engineer for General Motors for 2 years; he then was a partner in Law-Jones Funeral Homes in northwest Illinois and served as Carroll County Coroner for 16 years. Mike's passion to revitalize the church to reach people for the kingdom of God is what led him into the ministry in 2003. Mike currently serves as co-chair on the conference task force for Congregational Revitalization. Mike has learned through ministry that prayer is the engine that will drive revitalization in our churches.

## Vitality! How to Grow Faith in Your Local Church



**Drew Jones** is a member of Urban Village Church and attends the Hyde-Park | Woodlawn site. Over the last seven years, Drew has served in a variety of roles at UVC, including worship team leader and worship coach. Drew, a Chicago native, has traveled to more than 15 countries as the lead singer in the United States Air Force regional band. An education administrator, veteran, professional musician, and father--he hopes to share the love of God with marginalized populations.



**Hannah Kardon** is the Teaching Pastor of Urban Village Church, a multi-site, anti-racist, LGBTQ+-affirming community boldly rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Hannah believes that God is good, that God made us all to be exactly who we are, and our differences are a gift. This has led her to all kinds of places – from a childhood in Tokyo to a Christian commune in Memphis to an outdoor church of homeless folks, to right here at UVC to be a part of God's bold inclusive, relevant mission. When not churching it up, Hannah loves puzzles, trashy television, swimming, her husband Matt and their two children. She is co-author of "Finding Peace in an Anxious World" and a co-author of the upcoming United Methodist Women 2021-2022 Program Book.



## Resource: Vitality! How to Grow Faith in Your Local Church

**THE TAKE-AWAY:** You can begin to grow your own faith, the faith of your community, and the faith of those who have yet to come to your church **right now**. Here's how –

- Bring **INTENTION** and **ATTENTION** to already occurring activities
- **JUST DO IT**, just start trying something. Failure is learning, success is gravy.
- **USE RESOURCES**, some are listed below but we also have the gift of the internet, our Conference media resources, and your friendly local Pastor.
- **REST**. I'll say that again. **REST**. Empty cups don't fill anything.
- **YOU ARE CALLED**. You are here, which means Christ has called you to serve and grow your church. God has equipped you with everything you need.

**SUPPLEMENTARY RESOURCES:** Want to start a small group, new practice, or one-time experiment? These might help:

### Spirituality/Spiritual Disciplines/Contemplative Life

- "Meditations of The Heart" by Howard Thurman
- "Joy Unspeakable: Contemplative Practices of the Black Church" by Barbara Holmes
- "The Wisdom of the Desert" by Thomas Merton
- "The Examen/Spiritual Practice" by Ignatius of Loyola
- "Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices That Transform Us" by Adele Calhoun

### Bible Studies & Commentaries

- "Womanist Midrash" by Wilda C. Gafney
- The Belief Commentary series, on all Bible books
- "N.T Wright for Everyone" Bible study guides
- BibleProject YouTube video animations, on passages and canonization
- "The New Oxford Annotated Bible" with introductions for each book

### Practices to Start Any Meeting or Meal With, To Encourage Spiritual Growth

- Share an unfamiliar visual image of scripture to reflect with (the blogs "Curious Christian" and "Qspirit" and many major museums have great collections)
- Light a candle and/or do a breath prayer
- Get colored pencils and paper, do a coloring prayer
- Divide into prayer partners and pray for each other

## Kairos Prison Ministry

Kairos (which means "God's special time") is a world-wide, inter-denominational Christian outreach ministry that shares the love of Jesus Christ and the gospel message of salvation to persons serving prison sentences in correctional facilities throughout the world. As you know, Jesus is already active in prisons bringing people to Him; Kairos is one way that we participate in His redemptive work.

In Illinois, there are active Kairos programs at Stateville and Pontiac prisons, and several others. For each Kairos event at a prison, there are several groups of volunteers who assist with this effort. One set of male Kairos volunteers visits a group of about 42 inmates inside the maximum-security prison facility from mid-day Saturday through mid-day Tuesday twice a year (each called a "Kairos weekend"), once in April and again in October (currently on hold due to the pandemic). While there, the volunteers provide a gospel "retreat" from inside a prison auditorium, leading the inmates in worship, fellowship, discussion, Bible Study, spiritual exercises and prayer. The aim of the program is to let the inmates know that the Lord loves them and wants to be in relationship with them regardless of their past, and guide them in the process of repentance and both seeking and experiencing God's forgiveness for the rest of their lives. In between the respective Kairos weekends at the prison, Kairos volunteers visit the facility once/month for a 2-hour "reunion" with the inmates to confirm they are following up on what they learned at the Kairos weekend and answering any questions they may have regarding their walk with Christ.

The meeting area at the prison facility is divided into various tables of 10 people, 3 Kairos volunteers and 7 inmates. A bowl of home-made cookies is in the middle of each table, and throughout the Kairos weekend certain of the Kairos volunteers continue to replenish the supply of cookies. The cookies (about 20,000 in all) are made by numerous church volunteers in advance of the Kairos weekend according to a special recipe, designed to comply with prison regulations. The inmates are especially grateful to receive the cookies and sense the love and caring that went into them. Indeed, some come for the cookies but leave with the gospel.

The inmates are also grateful for the many letters that outside volunteers, from across many participating churches in the Chicagoland area, write to them for the Kairos weekend. These letters offer messages of Christian hope and grace, to men who usually do not receive letters even from family members, and at times move some of them to tears.

**continued on the next page**

## Kairos Prison Ministry (continued)

Kairos also has a ministry known as “Kairos Outside”, which sponsors weekend events at non-prison locations, for women related to incarcerated men -- such as mothers, wives, daughters and sisters – who experience unique pain from the imprisonment of their loved ones. Kairos Outside is principally run by women volunteers from area churches, but men play a role in transportation and serving meals.

Kairos is one of the most powerful ministries of the church, giving prisoners a connection to the body of Christ outside of prison walls, and sharpening the witnessing skills of the many volunteers who support it. It will continue to bless inmates and volunteers long after the pandemic is over. I pray you join us in this impactful ministry.

Your brother in Christ,

Neville Reid  
312 375 1504  
nreid@foxwibel.com

For more information on the Kairos prison ministry program and its effectiveness, visit [www.kpmi.org](http://www.kpmi.org).

[Visit their YouTube channel for testimonial videos.](#)

[View a PBS report filmed at a Kairos weekend in India.](#)



## **LAITY CONVOCAION 2021**

# **Board of Laity**

### **Co-Conference Lay Leaders**

Connie Augsburgur

Mark Manzi

Eugene Williams

### **District Lay Leaders**

Deji Sanyaolu, Aurora District

Lisa Butler and Dawn Shires, Chicago Southern District

Ellen Feliciano and Chester Lacey, Chicago Northwest District

Karen Bonnell and Tom Weber DeKalb District

Bonnie Lill, Elgin District

Melissa Ramirez and Scott Stich, Rockford District

### **Members by Virtue of Office**

Peggy Hanson, Director of Lay Servant Ministries

George Groves, UMM Conference President

Jim Loeppert, UMM Scouting Coordinator

Lois Moreland Dean, UMW Conference President

Rev. Dr. Char Hoffmann, Clergy Representative

Rev. Arlene Christopherson, Assistant to the Bishop/Director of Connectional Ministries

**“The Board of Laity’s WHY is to provide support and direction for the ministry of the Laity on the local, district, and conference level. Our HOW is through building relationships and connections with local church leaders and clergy to help equip and empower them for ministry.”**

**Please visit [umcnic.org/laity](https://umcnic.org/laity) for more information and resources.**





## Certified Lay Ministers and Candidates

**The Call of the Laity:** Lay ministry is the work of mission or ministry to which each believer is called. As Christians we are all called to this ministry or priesthood, not just clergy. Each of us has a responsibility to proclaim the Good News and reach out to others in love. The scripture for this call is from 1 Peter 2:9: "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

The Certified Lay Minister "is called and equipped to conduct public worship, care for the congregation, assist in program leadership, develop new and existing faith communities, preach the Word, lead small groups, or establish community outreach ministries as part of a ministry team with the supervision and support of a clergy person. A certified lay minister is assigned by a district superintendent in accordance with ¶419.2." (¶ 268.1, 2016 BOD)

### Presenting our CLMs!

**Kris Aves** is a member of Faith UMC in Genoa, DeKalb District. She is the chair of the Staff Parish committee and a youth leader. She serves the district as an at-large lay member of Annual Conference. Kris is the co-chair of the NIC VIM. Kris' ministry is planning and advocating for mission at the Conference and local church levels. She is married with one adult daughter. Kris enjoys gardening, quilting and traveling.

**Dawn Barr** is currently assigned to Van Brocklin-Florence congregation in Freeport in the Rockford District. In addition to serving in the local church, Dawn works part-time as a Customer Service Rep at First State Bank in Lake Carroll. Dawn's call to ministry is currently serving part-time a local church which is holding services on Facebook Live and Zoom. She also serves in bereavement ministry which she has found to be a passion as she walks with those mourning. Dawn is married and has six grandchildren that she's able to spend time with daily.

**Fay Bennett** is a member of Hemenway in Evanston in the Chicago Northwestern District. In her local church Fay is the worship chair, youth leader and administrative assistant. Fay serves as the District UMW Vice-President. She is a delegate to the Interfaith Action of Evanston. Fay's CLM ministry is to serve her local church in an associate role as administrative assistant, youth group leader and in care ministry. Fay enjoys cooking and gardening; she has 4 children and 3 grandchildren. She completely reads the Bible every other year and this is the year!



## Certified Lay Ministers and Candidates (continued)

**Kurt Beystehner** is a member of Alden UMC in the Elgin District. He is the Lay Leader and serves as CLM. He is a member of Gideon's International and Office Ministry. Kurt is the president of Clavey's Nursery. Kurt's ministry is serving the local church in an associate capacity, providing pulpit supply and special music for Alden and nearby Harvard UMC. He also runs a ministry through his office and with his employees. Kurt enjoys traveling in his motorhome across the nation, sharing the gospel with all he meets. He also enjoys spending time with his bride of 44 years, 3 children and their families and 3 dogs. He spends time studying the bible with his employees, walking and enjoying God's creations. He reads especially the bible, sings and plays the guitar.

**Kathy Brock** is a member of Chicago: Maple Park in the Chicago Southern District. In her local church she is the Lay Leader and Senior Care Minister. She serves in the District DMCR and is a member of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. She works at Arden Court Alzheimer Care Facility as a volunteer. Kathy's ministry call is caring for seniors and vulnerable adults by taking them to doctor appointments, running errands and visiting those unable to attend worship. She provides support and companionship for those struggling with memory loss. She enjoys running 20-25 miles weekly; spinning two times each week also.

**Dawn Crowley** is a member of Stockton: Wesley in the Rockford District. In her local church she is co-chair of the Education and Training Team, Sunday School Superintendent and a Sunday School teacher. Dawn is a member of the District Committee for Lay Servant Ministries. Dawn's ministry is in the community to meet the needs of others and bring opportunities of learning; working with youth. Dawn is recently married with two daughters, three stepsons and three grandchildren. She works as an auto insurance claims adjuster and spends time as a Girl Scout leader.

**Walton Davis Jr.** is a member of Chicago:Gorham in the Chicago Southern District. He serves in his local church as Lay Servant, CLM and Prayer Leader. Walton serves on the district Code Red Strategy Team. He also serves on the Conference Code Red Team, as Conference trustee, Commission on Religion and Race, member of the Board of Ordained Ministry and as the CLM representative to the Committee on Lay Servant Ministries and as a director for United Voices for Children. Walton's ministry is as a prayer warrior and serves on the Gorham Prayer Ministry and leads prayer Tuesdays at 7:00 a.m. He is a retired attorney, a widower, avid fisherman, father of 3 daughters, which he proudly notes are: an ordained minister, a Cook County Judge and a medical doctor.



## Certified Lay Ministers and Candidates (continued)

**Peggy Hansen** is a member of Carol Stream: St. Andrew in the Aurora District. She serves in her local church as at-large member of Administrative Council, member of Lay Leadership and UMW President. Peggy is the Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries and UMW Conference Communications Coordinator. Peggy's ministry is "for the laity" by encouraging, training, advocating, ensuring opportunities, helping find a place for one's call while working with clergy and conference staff on behalf of the laity. Peggy has been married to John for almost 50 years and is the mother of two sons, a daughter-in-law, grandmother to 3 and best friend to a rescued Labbie. Peggy is proud of her Iowa roots and still is a Cyclone fan and Cubbies fan for life.

**Toni Lucas** is serving the congregation at Albany UMC in DeKalb District. She serves on the Keagy Town & Rural Committee for the district and Conference Anti-Racism Task Force. Toni's ministry is serving the local church with a certification in Rural Ministry with a specialization in United Methodist Studies. She has 4 children, 14 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren and 6 great-great grandchildren (including "steps"). Toni enjoys reading, traveling and learning.

**Mike McIntosh** is a member of Carol Stream: St. Andrew in the Aurora District. He serves on Staff Parish and as UMM president while participating in Chancel and Tone Chimes Choirs. Mike's ministry is to serve and work with men at the local and conference level. He has completed the Men's Specialist process of the CLM. Mike is married and is a foster father and canine father of three! (Candidate)

**Jim Miller** is a member of Princeton: First and is serving as pastor of East Jordan, Sterling in the DeKalb District. He's a member of the District Strategy Team. Jim's ministry is serving the local church. He is married and has 3 children. Jim enjoys fishing and woodworking.

**Steve Pearce** is a member of Evans UMC, Machesney Park in Rockford in the Rockford District. He is serving Burritt Community Church as a part-time pastor and continues to be an organist in both churches. His CLM ministry is serving the local church and music ministry. Steve is married and has a special interest in the history of the Titanic and her sister ships. He has a traveling museum with a presentation telling the stories of the ships which he shares with schools, churches, community centers, retirement homes, etc. (Candidate)

**Marcia Peddicord** is a member of Princeton: First in the DeKalb District. She serves her local church as the administrative assistant, financial secretary and CLM. She is the DeKalb District Lay Academy Dean and a member of the District Committee on Lay Servant Ministries. She also serves on the district shepherding team. She is a conference "Rule of Christ" trainer. Beyond her local church she serves as an Instructor: Meaningful Visitation of Hospital/Retirement Homes. Marcia's ministry is congregational/compassionate care to those who are sick and dying; Chair of the Hospital Chaplaincy Board; On-Call Chaplain; Member of the Hospital Ethics Committee. Marcia enjoys knitting, reading, teaching and playing with her dogs.



## **Certified Lay Ministers and Candidates (continued)**

**Jay Schaney** is a member of Stockton: Wesley in the Rockford District. He serves his local church as the Media Coordinator and on trustees. He's a member of the district Strategy Team. Jay administers the Conference CLM Group Facebook page. His ministry is worship media specialist, especially working with small and rural churches. Jay is married with a family that also participates in the Rockford Lay Academies. (Candidate)

**Jeff Spang** is a member of Millbrook UMC in the Aurora District. He serves as the chair of administrative council. Jeff serves on the District Committee on Lay Servant Ministries and is a member of the faculty. Jeff's ministry is reaching out to unchurched believers through relational ministry and supporting his and nearby local churches. His wife joins him in camping and traveling where they look forward to seeing God's handiwork following His calling.

**Paul Vehmeier** is a member of Freeport: Harmony in the Rockford District. In his local church, Paul is a prayer leader including at the weekly Thursday Night Session. Paul's ministry statement: "I went to CLM training to prove I did not have a call to ministry. I found out I do have a call: I can pray. I do not believe in the power of prayer, I KNOW the power of prayer. I know the joy of answered prayers and heartbreak of unanswered prayers. My prayer is that you will hear God's call in your life. I am here to pray for you!" Paul is married with two children and five grandchildren. He likes to do woodworking, photography, sing and dabble in theater. Favorite hobby is family.

**Rod Wangelin** is a member of Walnut: Red Oak in the DeKalb District. At his local church, Rod serves on the board of Trustees, as a Sunday School teacher, a member of Pastor Parish Relations and the nominations committee. His CLM ministry is leading worship and nursing home care for veterans' services and helping families prepare for and assist in services at local nursing homes and veterans' homes. He leads worship when pastor is away and assists veterans when called. Rod grew up on a dairy farm and was greatly affected by a serious accident his father experienced. He spent 15 years in the Navy where he was first called to serve in worship. (Candidate)

**Kristine Warning** is a member of Frankfort UMC in the Aurora District. She serves as local Lay Leader and Member to Annual Conference. She coordinates a monthly meal at a local homeless person's shelter and works with youth in the community at the local animal shelter. Kristine's ministry is assisting her local pastor by proving support of music and presenting information; working with youth. She is a retired educator and school psychologist. Her interests include quilting, fabric arts, animal rescue, supporting youths and children and culinary arts.





## LAITY CONVOCATION 2021

# Obituaries



### Gerald Ora Hayes

July 6, 1938 - January 27, 2021

Gerald was a member in several churches from Catholic to Baptist to AME, but we know him best as a member of the Neighborhood UMC where he was active at the local level, district and conference levels. He served as the Northwest District Lay Leader and served on many conference boards and committees, including the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Board of Laity.



### Kathy Dickerson

September 23, 1937 - June 25, 2020

A lifelong resident of Hebron, Ill., Kathy was a member of the Hebron United Methodist Church since May 1952, and held many offices within the church structure. She had been the church secretary since 1983. Kathy was a Certified Lay Speaker and held several district and conference positions, including Elgin District Lay Leader, Elgin District Shepherding Team, Annual Conference Shepherding Team, and the Board of Laity.



## **LAITY CONVOCATION 2021**

**Thank you for helping make and support vital Christians in  
vital congregations**

Bishop John Hopkins  
Karen Bonnell  
Rev. Caleb Hong  
Nadia Kanhai  
Rev. Jarrod Severing  
Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey  
Rev. Mike Jones  
Diane Klinefelter  
Rev. Adam Hamilton  
Rev. Hannah Kardon  
Drew Jones  
Rev. Dr. F. Douglas Powe  
Rev. Paul Lee and The People of Wesley UMC  
Rev. Calvin Culpepper and The People of Court Street UMC  
Neville Reed  
Rev. Scott Kristy and The People of Emmanuel UMC  
Peggy Hansen  
Randy Lawrence, Laity Convocation Webinar Director  
Ed Green, Laity Convocation Webinar Editor  
Anne Marie Gerhardt, NIC Director of Communications  
Laura Lopez, Laity Convocation Registrar  
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