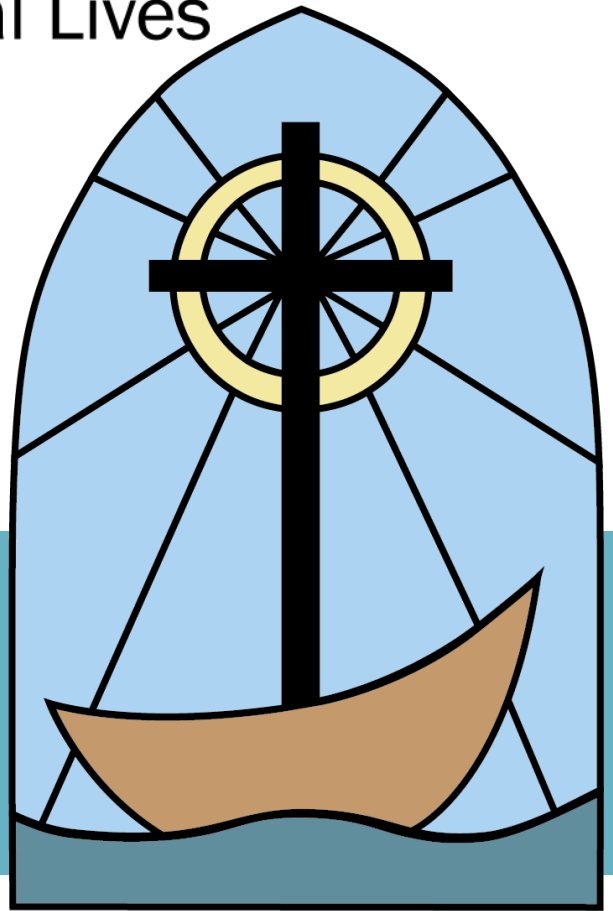


HOLD FAST TO THE MAST

Strengthening Our Spiritual Lives

LAITY CONVOCATION 2022

Saturday
February 12
9:00 am - Noon



Kara Lassen Oliver



Rev. Dr. Regina Davis-Bridges



George Groves

Also including: Bishop John L. Hopkins, Greenstone UMC:Chicago, Disciples UMC: Mt. Morris, River Forest UMC, and Roselle UMC

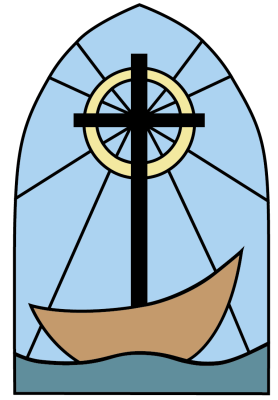


PROGRAM

HOLD FAST TO THE MAST

Strengthening Our Spiritual Lives

LAITY CONVOCATION 2022



WELCOME TO LAITY CONVOCATION 2022

Your Conference Board of Laity is excited to bring you this learning event. By our calculation, this is the 18th annual Laity Convocation. We are disappointed that it needs to be via ZOOM. As we saw from last year's evaluation, we all appreciated being able to have Laity Convocation, but long for time to see our friends and colleagues from across the NIC. But, we are doing the best we can to bring to you learning we believe will help each of you and assist you with what you can do in your local churches.

We believe we have an exciting and informative session for you. We will worship together, learn about strengthening our spiritual lives, find out about new ministries happening in local churches across the conference, and hear great music from local churches of the NIC.

The vision of our annual conference is making and supporting vital Christians in vital congregations that engage with their communities and the world for peace, justice and mercy. The Board of Laity supports this vision as our **WHY** is to provide support and direction for the ministry of the Laity on the local, district, and conference levels. Our **HOW** is through building relationships and connections with local church leaders and clergy to help equip and empower them for ministry. At the end of Laity Convocation, we hope you will be excited about what you have learned and ready to use the information at your local churches.

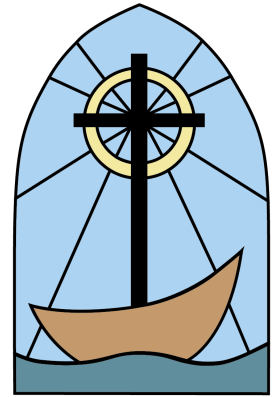
Please visit our webpage at www.umcnic.org/laity for more information and resources.

One note, in our work to find new ministries happening across the NIC, we spoke to a number of lay and clergy and receive a number of good suggestions. Some churches were unable to provide us with a video of their ministry and we respect the reasons provided as to why not. We hope to continue to present ministries from around our conference and will work to show the diversity of our conference as we do so.

HOLD FAST TO THE MAST

Strengthening Our Spiritual Lives

LAITY CONVOCATION 2022



SCHEDULE

Intro	Music from around our conference
Welcome	Mark Manzi
Opening Worship	Karen Bonnell
Greeting	Bishop John L. Hopkins
Introduction of First Presenter	Barb Farley
Wesleyan Spirituality: Body Mind, and Spirit	Kara Lassen Oliver <i>Associate Publisher for Upper Room Publishing</i>

BREAK

Introduction of Second Presenter	Leonard Jones
The Power of Ruach	Rev. Dr. Regina Davis - Bridges <i>Light for the Path Spiritual Clinical Counseling Services</i>

Introduction of Third Presenter	Jim Loeppert
Establishing and Facilitating Small Groups for Spiritual Formation	George Groves <i>President Northern Illinois Conference United Methodist Men</i>

Introduction to Breakout Session	Mark Manzi
----------------------------------	------------

Breakout Session

BREAK

Local Efforts in Out Reach

Introduction of First Local Church	Lisa Butler
Chicago: Greenstone UMC <i>A Legacy of Church and Community Revitalization</i>	Rev. Luther Mason, Randy Livingston, Ruthie Wilkerson

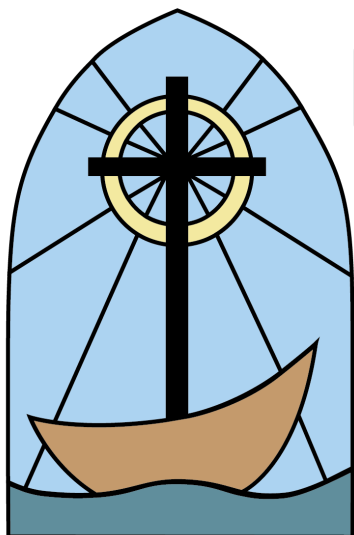
Introduction of Second Local Church	Connie Augsburg
Mt. Morris: Disciples UMC - Lot 12/Kids Club	Denise & Deb Creek, Becky McCanse, Jenny & Emily Kirchner

BREAK

Introduction of Third Local Church	Chester Lacey
River Forest UMC - <i>A Twist on Traditional Ministry</i>	Rev. Chris Coon, Becky Eanet, Cindy Belle, Jerry Hills, Holly Katz
Introduction of Fourth Local Church	Karen Bonnell
Roeslle UMC - <i>Nit Wits</i>	Carol Thorsen, Sharon Beaver, Mike & Sherrie Magnni, Ed & Linda Stanish, Pastor Hyo Sun Oh

Ending Remarks	Gene Williams
----------------	---------------

Closing Prayer	Walton Davis, CLM
----------------	-------------------



HOLD FAST TO THE MAST

WELCOME

Bishop John L. Hopkins



Bishop John L. Hopkins

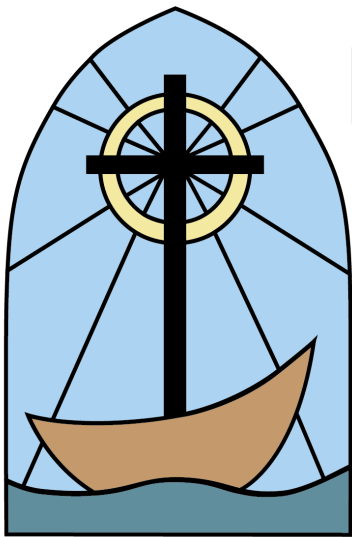
Bishop John L. Hopkins is a retired Bishop of The United Methodist Church. He was born in Montgomery, Alabama, and his childhood was spent in Montgomery, Houston, Atlanta, and Ft. Wayne. After marrying Elaine M. Smithson in 1964, he attended Indiana University, receiving a B.A. with Honors in Psychology. 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. In 2021, Bishop Hopkins agreed to leave retirement to become the Interim Resident Bishop for the Northern Illinois Conference where he continues to serve.

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.



HOLD FAST TO THE MAST

WESLEYAN SPIRITUALITY: BODY, MIND AND SPIRIT

Kara Lassen Oliver



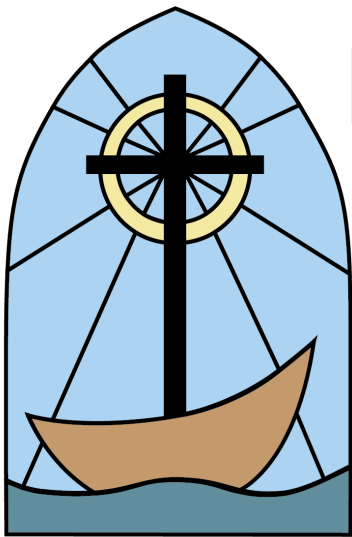
Kara Lassen Oliver

Kara Lassen Oliver serves as the Associate Publisher of The Upper Room.

After graduating with a Master of Divinity degree from Vanderbilt Divinity School (2000), Kara began working with the United Methodist Youth Organization. She then served two years as youth pastor at Belmont United Methodist Church (2003-2005), where she continues to be an active member.

In 2009, Kara and her family moved to Malawi as volunteers in mission where she functioned as an educator, pastor, and grant writer. While in Malawi, Kara also began to work part-time with Discipleship Resources International (an initiative of Discipleship Ministries) as Publishing Coordinator. She continued that work after returning with her family to Tennessee and, in 2014, became DRI's Director of Publishing Initiatives for the Central Conferences, managing 14 publishing teams and 40 DRI team leaders in twelve countries. In 2018, Kara began working for The Upper Room as Director of Spiritual Formation and Discipleship with responsibility to facilitate alignment and foster synergy among our ministries situated in the Center, transitioning to Executive Director of the Center for Christian Spiritual Formation. In January of 2022, Kara steps into the role of Associate Publisher supervising magazine, book, and multi-platform publishing.

Kara is an editor and published author in the area of spiritual practice. She is also gifted as a preacher and teacher, spiritual guide, and retreat leader.



HOLD FAST TO THE MAST

THE POWER OF RUACH

Rev. Dr. Regina Davis-Bridges



Rev. Dr. Regina Davis-Bridges

The Power of Rauch. **Ruach** is the Hebrew word translated as *God's Spirit* or even *Breath, Wind or Air*. *Ruach* is depicted in both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. These sacred scriptural accounts vividly depict for us the power embedded in God's *Ruach*, the Divine Breath of Life. In our individual spiritual journey's, we must pause the busy and often frenetic paces of our lives to rediscover, reconnect, and be revitalized by *Ruach*, the Divine Gift of Breath. In this session we will learn the spiritual practice of sacred breath work for mind, body, and spiritual healing and restoration.

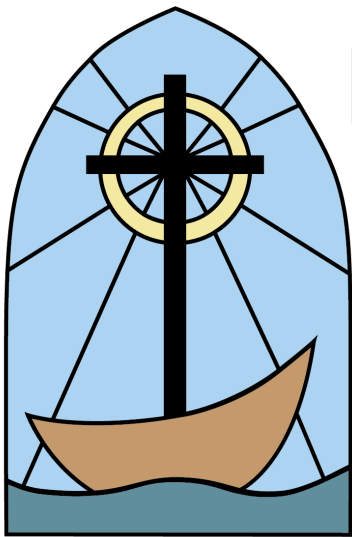
Rev. Dr. Regina Davis-Bridges has been fortunate to have a wide variety of professional experiences. Currently she is in private practice ministry at *Light for the Path Spiritual Clinical Counseling Services*. Her private practice ministry focuses on:

- Traditional and spiritual counseling for individuals, couples, and groups.
- Spiritual Guidance and spiritual direction.
- Energy Work/Healing/Reiki
- Dream Work
- Women's issues.
- Leadership coaching.
- Counseling and restorative work for persons in compassionate and helping professions.

In her professional life, Rev. Dr. Davis-Bridges worked in public schools for almost 30 years. During these years she served as Principal, Coordinator of Special Education, Coordinator of District Diversity Training Initiative, and School Social Worker. She has been an Adjunct Faculty member at a local Community College. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a Diversity Trainer. She has been an Ordained United Methodist Deacon since 2001.

Rev. Dr. Davis-Bridges is a presenter and speaker on a variety of topics spanning her experience in educational, faith, administration, counseling, academic, and social work settings.

Dr. Davis-Bridges has degrees from University of Illinois–Urbana-Champaign (B.A Psychology), a Masters Degree in Social Work from University of Illinois-Chicago, a M.A. from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, and an M.A. in Educational Administration from Governors State University. She earned a Doctorate Degree in Educational Leadership from National-Louis University.



HOLD FAST TO THE MAST

ESTABLISHING AND FACILITATING SMALL GROUPS FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION

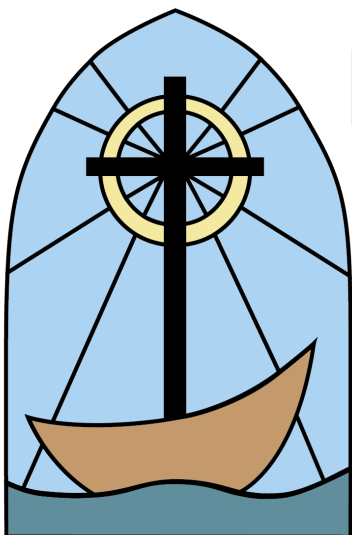
George Groves



George Groves

George Groves has been involved with the UMM for over 25 years and is currently president of the Northern Illinois Conference United Methodist Men, plus is a member of numerous conference committees and boards including the Board of Laity, Annual Conference Planning Committee, Nominations, Annual Conference and the UMFoundation of the NIC. George is a Certified Lay Servant and a Men's Ministry Specialist.

George and his wife Chris live in Naperville and have been members of Community UMC, since 1987. At CUMC, George serves on multiple committees and is very involved in the life of the church.



HOLD FAST TO THE MAST

LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES

Chicago: Greenstone UMC

1211 S St. Lawrence Ave.

Chicago, IL 60628

773-928-7870

greenstoneunitedmethodistchurchchicago.wordpress.com

A Legacy of Church and Community Revitalization

Rev. Luther Mason

Randy Livingston

Ruthie Wilkerson

Mount Morris: Disciples UMC

102 Maple Ave

Mount Morris, IL 61054

815-734-4853

disciplesumc.org

Lot 12/Kids Club

Denise and Deb Creek

Becky McCanse

Jenny and Emily Kirchner

River Forest UMC

7970 Lake Street

River Forest, IL 60305

708-771-3668

rfumc.me

A New Twist on Traditional Ministry

Rev. Chris Coon

Becky Eanet

Cindy Belle

Jerry Hill

Holly Katz

Roselle UMC

206 S. Rush St

Roselle, IL 60172

630-529-1309

roselleumc.org

Nit Wits

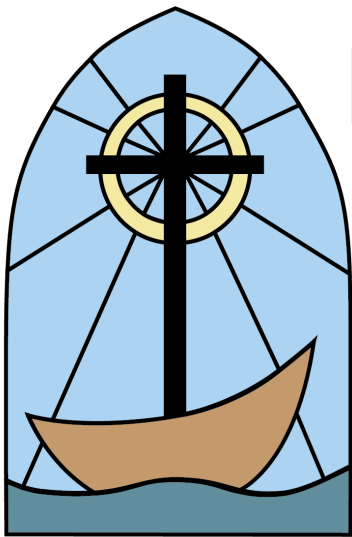
Carol Thorsen

Sharon Beaver

Mike and Sherrie Magnini

Ed and Linda Stanish

Pastor Hyo Sun Oh



HOLD FAST TO THE MAST

BOARD OF LAITY

Co-Conference Lay Leaders

- Connie Augsburg
- Mark Manzi
- Eugene Williams

District Lay Leaders

- Leonard Jones; Prairie Central District
- Karen Bonnell and Tom Weber; Prairie South District
- Melisa Ramirez and Scott Stich; Prairie North District
- Lisa Butler and Dawn Shires; Lake South District
- Ellen Feliciano, Chester Lacey, and Bonnie Lill; Lake North District

Members by Virtue of Office

- Peggy Hanson, Director of Lay Servant Ministries
- George Groves, UMM Conference President
- Jim Loeper, UMM Director of Scouting
- Marilyn Steenwyk, UMW Conference President
- Barb Farley, UMW Representative
- Rev. Dr. Char Hoffmann, Clergy Representative
- Rev. Arlene Christopherson, Assistant to the Bishop/Director of Connectional Ministries

Special Thanks Goes to

- Randy Lawrence, Webinar Director
- Ed Green, Video Editor
- Laura Lopez, NIC Events Administrator
- Lisa Smith, NIC Communications Specialist
- Anne Marie Gerhardt, NIC Director of Communications