

2019

EAST OHIO

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

LAITY VOTER

GUIDE



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH **EAST OHIO CONFERENCE**

Tracy S. Malone, *Bishop*
CYNTHIA PATTERSON, *Conference Secretary*

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
8800 Cleveland Ave., PO Box 2800
North Canton OH 44720
Phone: 800-831-3972 (Ext. 113)
Email – cpatterson@eocumc.com

May, 2019

Dear Lay Member to Annual Conference:

One of the responsibilities you have as a Lay Member of Annual Conference – scheduled to meet at Lakeside, June 10 – 13, 2019 – will be the election of six (6) Lay Delegates to General Conference. Lay Members will also be electing six (6) additional Lay Delegates to Jurisdictional Conference and five (5) Reserve Delegates to the Jurisdictional Delegation. All of these Lay Delegates will join East Ohio Clergy delegates of equal number in representing East Ohio at General and Jurisdictional Conference in 2020. **This means that our total General Conference Delegation will have 12 persons, 6 lay and 6 clergy.** The Jurisdictional Delegation is larger; it will be comprised of a total of 24 persons. It will include the 12 elected to General Conference and an additional 12 lay and clergy elected to the Jurisdictional Conference.

I have enclosed for your careful review the biographies of the candidates endorsed by their Districts to stand for election as delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

The process of these elections begins with an important Laity Session that will take place in Hoover Auditorium at 8:30 a.m. Monday morning, June 10, 2019. At this meeting nominations of candidates for election to General and Jurisdictional Conference will be taken from the floor. These lay nominees will join those lay candidates who have been nominated by their respective districts at the 10 District Conferences this spring. If you plan to nominate someone from the floor at the laity session please contact me for guidance.

Please read Conference Rule 7, ELECTION OF GENERAL AND JURISDICTIONAL DELEGATES, as found in The Pre-Conference Workbook. The rule details the process involved in electing Lay and Clergy Delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences. I hope you will read it and become familiar with this process. How you respond this summer will affect our church profoundly.

The Disciplinary qualifications required of any lay person before he or she is eligible to receive votes and/or be elected to General and Jurisdictional Conference can be found in the 2016 *Book of Discipline*, ¶ 34. It is quoted below.

¶ 36. Article V.—The lay delegates to the General and jurisdictional or central conferences shall be elected by the lay members of the annual conference or provisional annual conference without regard to age; provided such delegates shall have been professing members of The United Methodist Church for at least two years next preceding their election, and shall have been active participants in The United Methodist Church for at least four years next preceding their election, and are members thereof within the annual conference electing them at the time of holding the General and jurisdictional or central conferences.

Each candidate will be asked to affirm that he or she has met these qualifications.

Please bring this biographical material with you to Annual Conference. I pray that the peace of God be with each of you as we gather for our annual meeting at Lakeside.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns.

Yours in Christ's Service,



Cynthia Patterson
East Ohio Conference Secretary

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

GENERAL CONFERENCE

May 5-15, 2020
Minneapolis, MN

JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

July 15-18, 2020
Fort Wayne, IN

2019 LAITY VOTER GUIDE

TOM ABRAHAM

Three Rivers: Millersburg

Voter Number: 042

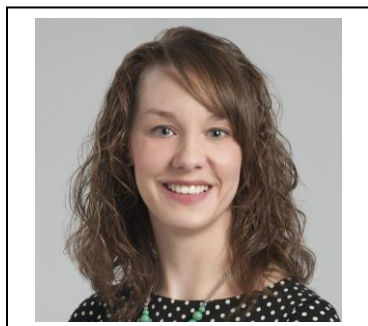


Jesus Christ saved me, a hopeless drug addict Easter 1986. Scripture and Godly examples help shape me. My wife and I have 5 children and a local mission field of employees. Been UMC Chair of many boards, lay speaker 23 years, mission trips from Harlem to Honduras, built HFH homes, served as Lay Director WR Emmaus Community and Walks. Teaching includes Disciple classes in church and prison, and Sunday school classes. Mottos I try to live by, "Be a friend, make a friend, bring a friend to Christ." And "We may be the only Christ that some might ever see."

SUSAN ACHBERGER

North Coast: University Circle

Voter Number: 058



Cancer clinical trial quality assurance coordinator at Cleveland Clinic; member of 2016 General Conference Delegation Steering Committee; attended 2016 Jurisdictional Conference as reserve delegate; Vice Chair of Conference Personnel Committee; life-long United Methodist; lay delegate to EOAC 6 yrs.; active member of University Circle UMC; Staff Parish Committee member 6 yrs.; Administrative Council member 6 yrs.; Outreach Committee member 9 yrs.; BS chemistry and MBA healthcare management from Baldwin Wallace University; MS biochemistry and molecular biology from Michigan State University; member of P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization) International; member of Iota Sigma Pi national honor society for women in chemistry

2019 LAITY VOTER GUIDE

DR. MARTHA E. BANKS

Canal: Christ Woodland

Voter Number: 077



Dr. Martha E. Banks is a research neuropsychologist and former professor at The College of Wooster and Kent State University. She is a retired VA clinical psychologist.

She is a Certified Lay Servant, Assistant Dean of Mission u, 2016-2019 General Conference delegate, and member of EOC's C&S Board, CORR, and BMCR. She received the 2014 EOC CORR-ageous Leashership Laity Award and 2016 Bishop Thomas Leadership Award.

Dr. Banks was President of the Society for the Psychology of Women. Her leadership, 200+ presentations, and 100+ professional publications on women, trauma, and health care have been recognized with an APA Presidential Citation.

MELODY D. BARNES

Mid-Ohio: Ashland First

Voter Number: 070



Retired nurse, Certified Lay Servant, Rule of Christ Ministry trainer for the East Ohio Conference. 34 years Hospice Volunteer to present, serves in the Medical Reserve Corps, active in the Community Emergency Response Team, registered with the Ohio Response for Disaster Services. Serves on Emmaus Ministry, teaches Sunday School. Married, mother of 3, grandmother of 2 married young men, great-grandmother of 3 wonderful boys.

2019 LAITY VOTER GUIDE

AMY BARR

Mid-Ohio: Mt. Gilead Trinity

Voter Number: 069

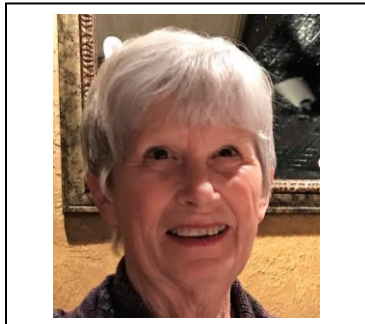


Member of Mt. Gilead Trinity for 21 years. Was active in district and conference ministries as a youth, including CCYM. Have served as acolyte coordinator, nursery coordinator, member at large to administrative council and Finance committee. Currently serve on SPRC, local unit UMC nominations, and district UMW leadership team as Membership and Outreach coordinator. Also, active in chancel choir, and teaching a "younger" adult Sunday school class. Married to husband Jeremy for 13 years, with one daughter, Carolyn.

KATHLEEN M. BERAN

Three Rivers: Berlin

Voter Number: 043



Church has been a significant part of my life from my earliest memory. I have served at local and district levels in Ohio, and at local, district, conference, and jurisdictional levels as part of the Texas Annual Conference. I have been employed as a consultant to UMCOR. I have a passion for the small church and its enormous role in the future of our denomination. I believe that it is through grandparents bringing their darlings into the sanctuary, and the congregation fussing over those spectacular children that Faith is sparked, nurtured and developed into full

flame.

2019 LAITY VOTER GUIDE

IRENE BEVILLE

North Coast: Mt. Pleasant

Voter Number: 059



Member of Mt. Pleasant UMC for more than 60 years and during that time I have served my church as Church School superintendent, UMW President, Church Council Chairperson, and Lay Leader. At the District level I am currently the Chairperson of the Lay Leadership Development Committee. At the Conference level - served on the Finance Administration Committee and am currently serving on the Board of Ministries and the Conference Committee on Lay Servant/Speaker Ministries. I am a retired school administrator and feel that my profession was what God called me to do. I love the Methodist Church and have always wanted to experience the General and/or Jurisdictional Conference.

BONNIE BLISS

Firelands: Oberlin First

Voter Number: 032



I have been a member of Oberlin First for 50 years. Very active the last 15. My husband has been a member all of his life. We have been married for 50 years. I am also a retired school teacher.

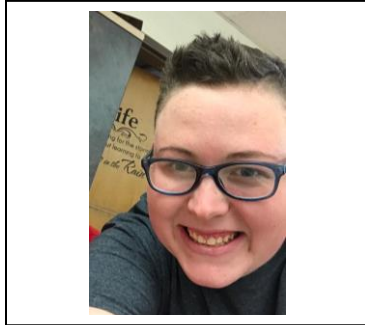
As a Grandparent of lesbian and caring for all children of God that they would still be loved and accepted by God no matter their sexual orientation. I would rather feel that theirs is a gift and loved rather than be chastised because they are different than the majority. When did we become Judge and jury?

2019 LAITY VOTER GUIDE

OLIVIA BRADLEY

Tuscarawas: Massillon First

Voter Number: 056



I am 24 years old and have been very involved within the church specifically in the children's department. I have led Sunday school for ages 5-12 and also the head of the nursery department both at Clearview UMC and now at First UMC in Massillon OH. I have also volunteered and helped with VBS and now currently on the team for the rEcess program that is starting within the Tuscarawas District. I want to go to General conference because I feel like I can bring a new perspective to the ever growing and changing church.

DORIS BROWN

Tuscarawas: Navarre Otterbein

Voter Number: 057



Passionate about helping people find their place in the church. GCORR and Evangelism Awardee. UMW Woman of the Year and District and Conference UMW/Mission U leader. Tuscarawas District Strategy Chair at-large AC member. Former District Lay Leader. Navarre Otterbein UMC Adult Sunday School Leader, Treasurer, Support member for new church start, Board member for Canton Calvary Mission. Have attended many Jurisdictional & General Conferences as an observer. Believe every parent should give children & young people opportunities to be involved in the church to serve so they understand and appreciate The United Methodist Church.

2019 LAITY VOTER GUIDE

VERNON L. BROWN

Mahoning Valley: Warren First

Voter Number: 048

No photo was provided

Personal:

- Western Reserve Walk to Emmaus, 2000; Served Weekend Teams; Lay Director, 2014
- Certified Lay Servant, 2003; Delivered sermons for District churches
- Initiated Kairos Prison Ministry for two state prisons; Served Weekend Teams after retirement
- Former board member, United Methodist Community Center of Youngstown

Local Church:

- Former Lay Leader, Lay Delegate; Chair Pastor-Parish Relations
- Usher; Chair of Financial Campaign

Mahoning Valley District:

- Former President United Methodist Men
- Former Lay Speaker of the Year

East Ohio Conference:

- Served EOCCORR
- Served Executive Board of EOCUMM

DONALD BURDSALL

Mid-Ohio: Cardington First

Voter Number: 055



My membership has always been in the Methodist/United Methodist church and have served on most of the committees of the local church. Teaching Sunday School and accompanying youth on mission trips are ways that I have connected with youth. At the district level I have served on the Superintendency, Nominating and Lay Servant Committees. Currently, I serve as the Mid-Ohio District Lay Leader and am a certified Lay Speaker. I represent Mid-Ohio on the Conference Board of Laity. Was a delegate to the 2016 Jurisdictional Conference and first reserve

Lay Delegate to the Special 2019 General Conference.

2019 LAITY VOTER GUIDE

ELLEN BURROWS

Canal: Hudson

Voter Number: 076



LOVE the LORD, His transforming grace. Understand connectional system, boards agencies. Methodist 47 years; 4 Jurisdictions: NCJ, SEJ, SCJ, WJ; 5 conferences: EOC (Berea, Hudson), N. Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, CalPac. NCJ Jurisdictional Delegate 2004-2008. EOCCOM: Evangelism, Healthy Church Initiative Team. CANAL DISTRICT: AC Lay Member at Large (multiple years); UMW Nominations Chair, Spiritual Growth. HUDSON UMC: Membership Evangelism Chair, Prayer Team, Bible Study Leader (Disciple, Christian believe, Experiencing God, Companions In

Christ), Lay Leadership, UMW Board. PERSONAL: Japanese American. From corporate America, Fortune 500 companies, Sales and Marketing, R&D. B.S. Biochemistry. Extensive domestic and international travel. Resided: Taiwan, Germany, Saudi Arabia.

ROBERT CATCHPOLE

Mahoning Valley: Church Hill

Voter Number: 080



I am recently retired after 40 years in the fire service. I live with my wife Julia (also recently retired). We've been members of Church Hill UMC for about twenty years where I've held numerous positions, currently Head Trustee. I am also an ERT and a UMVIM leader. I believe that GC2019 has done great harm to our LGBTQ siblings in Christ. I hope to be part of a church that finds a way forward that does not exclude and yet respects the beliefs of the traditional congregations. I pray that we can become United to Transform lives of Christ.

2019 LAITY VOTER GUIDE

RICHARD A. CORDER

Tuscarawas: Crosspoint

Voter Number: 054



I grew up and was baptized in the EUB church. After the merger with Methodist church, attended Strasburg UMC, New Phila. First UMC, Bolivar UMC, McDonaldsville St Paul UMC, Simpson UMC and Crosspoint UMC. I have served in almost every appointed position during this time except the nominating committee and several many times (Finance, Trustees). I joined the Crosspoint UMC from day one of its existence and have served by attendance, monetary gifts, IT administrator, missions, small group leader and nursery staff. My assistance with RFKC camp for the past two years was a highlight of my missions.

CRUZ DAMIAN

Firelands: Chippewa Church at the Lake

Voter Number: 068



I have been a member of the UMC within the EOC for five years. As laity, I am committed to serve with the church body. As a young person of color, I aspire to represent the EOC as a delegate to the GC2020. I am very passionate about our UM polity and structure. Although the English language is my second language, my passion for ministry and membership are essential to a more diverse and inclusive delegate representation. I am a husband and father of three, my wife, Letty, is a licensed local pastor at Chippewa Church at the Lake.

2019 LAITY VOTER GUIDE

PAULINE DAUGHERTY

Mid-Ohio: Lakefork

Voter Number: 071



Raised in church. Held many offices. Am currently Ad Council Chair. Mother of 3, grandmother of 5, great grandmother of 1.

SUZANNE (SUE) DENHAM

Firelands: LaGrange

Voter Number: 031



After many years of bouncing from denomination to denomination, in 2000 I returned to the UMC. I joined LaGrange UMC, and have been actively involved ever since. I was a delegate to Annual Conference, lay leader, SPRC chair for many years. I now teach "tween" Sunday school, member-at-large to annual conf., chair of Firelands Lay Servant Committee, member of EOC Lay Servant Committee, and serve on Firelands mission/outreach and nominating committees. I am a certified lay speaker. I am also a volunteer at Flat Rock Homes and serve on their board. I enjoy gardening, reading, and quilting.

2019 LAITY VOTER GUIDE

SARAH DIXON

Western Reserve: Mayfield

Voter Number: 053



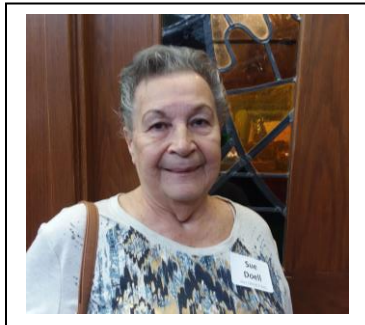
I am a 30 year old wife and mother, a high school choir teacher, and professional musician. Since I was a child I have served various United Methodist Churches in both volunteer and staff positions including Director of Music and Worship Leader. I am proud to be a life long United Methodist, and have been involved in churches in three districts (Ohio Valley, North Coast, and Western Reserve). I am a member of Mayfield UMC where I sing and play piano with our worship band, participate/lead LifeGroups, and serve on our Worship Committee and Visioning

team.

SUSAN ELLEN DOELL

Firelands: Port Clinton Trinity

Voter Number: 030



I became a United Methodist in 1973 at Nottingham UMC, Cleveland Ohio. I am a retired physician's assistant with three adult daughters. I have served my churches in various positions. I am serving Port Clinton Trinity for the second time as Lay Leader. I have been a District at Large delegate since moving to the Lakeside and also delegate from Trinity since 2000 to Annual Conference. It has been my "bucket list" to serve as a delegate to General Conference.

2019 LAITY VOTER GUIDE

HOLLY GRANT

Canal: Shreve

Voter Number: 078



I am an attorney with experience interpreting and drafting regulations and have previous experience as a delegate. This is helpful in the fast paced work of General Conference that includes many proposed changes to our Book of Discipline.

I believe in our Wesleyan focus on personal and social holiness that calls us to grow in Christ and take His love into the world. I love serving in our children's programs, GriefShare, and Women's Small Group. I am part of UMW and the Education and

Evangelism Committees. My prayer for our Church is revival. Feel free to contact me at 330-716-5225.

KIMBERLY GREEN

North Coast: Celebration

Voter Number: 060



My name is Kimberly (Kim) Green. I am currently serving in the role of East Ohio Conference Lay Leader, member of Extended Cabinet, member of the committee on Episcopacy, co-chair of the North Coast District Strategy Committee, a member of both the North Coast District Leadership Development Committee and the North Coast District Strategic Funding Committee, and lay leader at Celebration United Methodist Church.

Professionally, I am the Director of Nursing at The MetroHealth System in Cleveland. I am currently involved in several ministry initiatives that link my life's work with helping families and communities thrive.

2019 LAITY VOTER GUIDE

DAWN GRYGIER

Firelands: Vermilion Grace

Voter Number: 029



Lifelong Methodist (parents met in a Methodist church). Youngest Lay Speaker in conference when first completed the program, as a member (then and now) of Vermilion Grace UMC. Currently working on reviving those credentials. SPRC Chairperson and member of other church committees. Leads adult study class - loves to challenge mature Christians to deepen and revive their faith, love of God and love of all humans. Member of local committee dedicated to transportation for seniors, those with special needs and others with transportation

needs. Tries to promote Jesus's mission of bringing the Kingdom of Heaven to Earth. Loves to feed people.

MICHAEL HAMMOND

Three Rivers: Roscoe

Voter Number: 044



Michael has been a member of Roscoe UMC in Coshocton since 2005 and served as the Lay Delegate to Annual Conference since 2013. He is a member of the choir and orchestra, serves as a liturgist, and UM Men president. Michael served as 2018 Associate Lay Leader for Three Rivers District and will become District Lay Leader in July 2019. Michael currently works as a Communications Officer for the Holmes County Sheriff's office and works for WKLM Radio in Millersburg as a DJ. Michael and his wife of 14 years live in Coshocton. His stepson currently serves in

the Air Force.

2019 LAITY VOTER GUIDE

SHEILA HARMON

Southern Hills: Ragans Chapel

Voter Number: 041

No photo was provided

I have taught Sunday School, Youth Group, served on PPR, delegate to Annual Conference, member of UMW and was an officer for over 40 years. I've been a member of Emmaus since my pilgrims walk in 1994 and served 12 years on the board. I was a Bereaved Parents Counselor at Good Samaritan Hospice for over 10 years after the death of our son. I am married, my husband Thurman and I have been married 49 years. I love serving the Lord and his word according to the Bible.

KENTON JARVIS

Firelands: Port Clinton Trinity

Voter Number: 033



I am a PK who grew up surrounded and shaped by a loving and inclusive faith community. Currently, I am a senior engineering education major at Ohio Northern. Professors, advisors, and peers describe me as an "Agent of Change." I am an active ally for the LGBTQ+ community. I find it difficult to reconcile the Church that has so loved me with the Church that continues to exclude some from full participation. I long for the Church to be a place where I can enthusiastically invite all of my friends and family to worship God.

2019 LAITY VOTER GUIDE

LENORA ELLEN JEFFERSON

Mahoning Valley: Centenary

Voter Number: 049

No photo was provided

I was born one of 8 children in Youngstown
I graduated from Hubbard High School
I have one daughter a son-in-law and three grandchildren
I attended YSU, majoring in Medical Technology
My jobs held consisted of mail carrier, lab assistant, lab tech and retired from General Motors after 31 years
I am member of Centenary UMC of Youngstown. I chaired SPPR and administrative council. I also served on trustees, finance and fund raiser committees

I have been very active in UMW on local, district, conference and regional schools
I served as Chairperson of Programs of EOC
I was part of the team for the selling of Centenary UMC

ALLEN D. LAFERTY

Mid-Ohio: Crestline

Voter Number: 073



Married 39 yrs. wife Sherrill; Business owner-38 yrs; U.S. Army veteran; Local church Crestline 1st UMC; Past Local Lay Leader, SPRC -Chair, Finance -chair, S.S. & Bible study teacher; District - Leadership committee, Past District Lay Leader 6 yrs.; EOC- currently Conference Board of Trustee (chair), Past-Board of Ordain Ministry (4 yrs), Leadership committee; Past Associate (3 yr) and Conference Lay Leader (5 yrs), Board of Laity 12 yrs.-chair 5 yrs; National-vice chair (4 yrs.) Association Annual Conference Lay Leaders, General Conference Delegate 2008, 2012 & 2016

Chair of EOC delegation; Served Local BD. Habitat for Humanity, currently Crestline Village Council; Mission trips to Mississippi, Haiti, Russia.

2019 LAITY VOTER GUIDE

MARLA K. LANEY

Firelands: Trinity

Voter Number: 028



Marla attends Trinity United Methodist Church in Sandusky, Ohio. She is a Certified Lay Minister and enjoys preaching and teaching. In addition, she is a past member of the District Committee on Ordained Ministry and the Lay Servant Committee.

Marla works part-time at Erie Shore Network, Inc. helping the mentally ill with support groups and various activities.

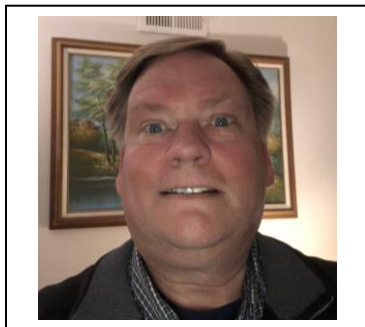
Marla wrote a book about her challenges with her own mental illness entitled "Somewhere Under the Rainbow." She states that she is Somewhere Under the Rainbow of God's divine promise and plan.

Marla lives with her husband, Tom, two dogs and a cat.

DONALD A. LAUX

Canal: Rootstown

Voter Number: 050



I am the father of 2 wonderful sons and the Grandfather of 5 more Blessings from God! I am a Retired Voc. Horticulture Teacher (Cleveland, Ohio) and a United Methodist Church member for 35 years. While attending Rootstown UMC for 33 years I have served in many positions including: Choir, Youth advisor, SPPRC chairperson, current member; Lay Leader; Chairman, current Vice-chair of the Administrative Board; & current Finance comm. member. This is my 21st year as an EOAC Delegate: Church Lay Delegate (1999-2003) and Canal District At-

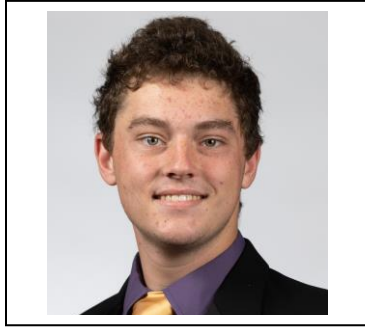
Large Delegate (2004-2019). Striving to Love as God Loves us!

2019 LAITY VOTER GUIDE

THOMAS LEWIS

Canal: Johnson

Voter Number: 052



My name is Thomas Lewis. I am currently a sophomore mechanical engineering student at Ohio Northern University. I was raised in the United Methodist Church, and it has always been a large part of who I am. I served 7 years on District Youth Council (Western Reserve, and Canal). I also served on the Conference Council on Youth Ministries for 6 years (4 of which were on the Executive Team). I was also chosen to be on the design team responsible for NEXT 2018 (Through GBHEM). I attended the Special Session of General Conference in 2019, and have always wanted to be a delegate.

SANDY MAREK

North Coast: Berea

Voter Number: 066



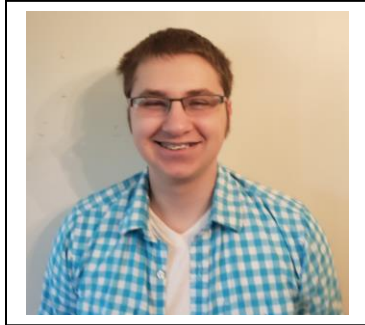
I participated, as delegate, to the 2008 Jurisdictional Conference. I am serving as Lay Leader of the Berea UMC, Stephen Minister, Board member of West Side Community House. Have taken courses on "Methodist Polity" and the "Doctrine of The United Methodist Church." A certified Lay Speaker since 2006, Dan Drew District Superintendent. A United Methodist member of over 35 year. A member of Pleasant Hills UMC (+20 yrs) and now Berea UMC (8 yrs).

2019 LAITY VOTER GUIDE

JONAH MITCHELL

Canal: Chapel of the Cross

Voter Number: 079



My name is Jonah Mitchell. I'll be going to Baldwin Wallace University in the Fall to pursue a calling to ordained ministry as an elder in The United Methodist Church. I've had a lot of conference experience, both as a delegate for Annual Conference and as a member of CCYM and Canal District DYC for Youth Annual Conference. I truly love my East Ohio Conference and the strong support that you have given to developing my faith in Christ. I hope to serve in whatever way that I can and God sees fit.

CAROL NELSON BURNS

Firelands: Lakeside

Voter Number: 027



A lifelong educator (and learner), I joined Youngstown's Belmont Methodist Church as a serious teenager. Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Dr. Martin Luther King are among my models for living Wesleyan precepts in the social injustices of my era. A first generation Welsh American, multicultural work and family experiences shaped a broader understanding of and deeper commitment to the core meaning of the Christian community; relationships built on God's Grace and love of other. I serve on the Board of Church & Society, Firelands Lay Servant Committee, UMW Conference and Lakeside units, and related committees where needed and useful.

2019 LAITY VOTER GUIDE

JASON NIES

Three Rivers: Millersburg

Voter Number: 045

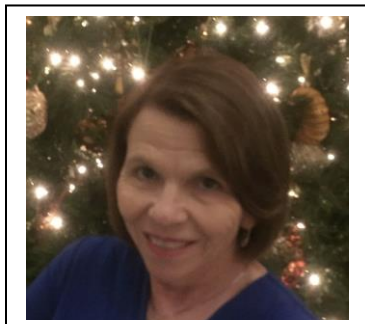


The United Methodist Church is where I encountered Jesus 19 years, 10 months, and 14 days ago. As I grew in my faith, I learned to answer God's call. I serve my local church in a number of capacities from ushering to Ad board. I work with a mission team in Uganda and Southern Sudan traveling in country 6 times in the past 10 years. I chaperoned a youth mission trip to Puerto Rico, and I have been called to the southern hills of Jamaica to witness and support local farmers. God has called and I am answering.

JODY PARRISH-POLEN

Southern Hills: Caldwell

Voter Number: 040



I have been a member of the Caldwell UMC for many years filling various positions within the church including teaching Sunday School, assisting with Bible School. I currently serve as President of the local UMW unit, Co-Chair of the Fellowship Team, Financial Secretary, Finance Committee and Administrative Council.

On the District level, I am a member of UMW Mission Team, the Mission and Strategy Committee, and an At-large Lay Delegate to Annual Conference.

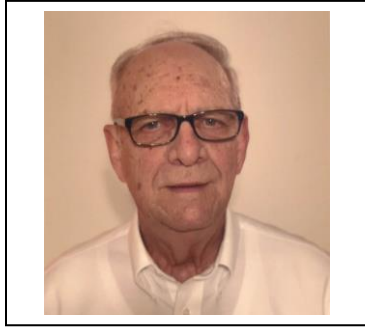
I have a degree in Agriculture from Ohio State University, and teach for Caldwell Exempted Village Schools. I have two adult daughters and five grandsons. I live on the century old family farm in Noble County.

2019 LAITY VOTER GUIDE

KENNETH PHILLIPS

Southern Hills: Jerusalem

Voter Number: 039

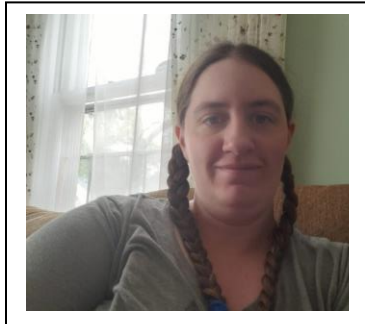


I have been a member of the Jerusalem church my entire life and have been active from MYF days until present. I have been a Certified Lay-Servant since 1986 and have served on the District Lay Servant committee for several years. I am a retired school Teacher/administrator in the Public Schools with 45 years of service. During that tenure I served in positions ranging from Teacher through Superintendent. I am very conservative in my scriptural beliefs.

JILL PONGALLO

North Coast: Christ

Voter Number: 061



I'm 31 years old and have been active in church my entire life. I graduated from Strongsville High School/Polaris Career Center with training in Early Childhood Education. My love of teaching/helping kids has helped me become head of education at Christ UMC, where I was confirmed in 2001. I enjoy teaching our children's Sunday school as well as singing in the choir and playing bells. My family and I cook and serve many meals for church events as well as our monthly community meal. I believe I add an important perspective as a young adult member of a smaller urban church with progressive views.

2019 LAITY VOTER GUIDE

BLAIR PORTER

Firelands: Columbus Avenue

Voter Number: 026



I will be a Junior at Huron High School. I am the chaplin of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries and have served on the executive committee for the last 5 years. I serve on the EOC leadership committee and the Board of Laity. I am a member at large for the Firelands District. I serve on the district Missions committee, and am the chaplin of the Firelands Youth Council. I serve on my local church's Administrative Council, finance committee and education committee. I have received permission from my high school administration to attend General

Conference 2020 if elected.

CONNOR PRUSHA

Western Reserve: Chardon

Voter Number: 074



CCYM chairperson (2017-2018); CCYM Executive team member (2013-2018); Division on Ministries with Young People member and co-chair; a division of Discipleship Ministries (2016-2020); CCOM Member (2017-2018); pursuing certified candidacy for ministry; Chardon UMC lay member to annual Conference; Jurisdictional Conference Delegate (2016); advocate for young voices to be heard within the church while also pursuing compromise, Christian conferencing and unity, and wisdom, Freshman Religion Major at Baldwin Wallace University;

dedicated to letting the Holy Spirit guide us as we seek God's future for His church.

2019 LAITY VOTER GUIDE

DOROTHY (DEE DEE) RENCEHAUSEN

North Coast: Cleveland Christ

Voter Number: 062



I am a member of Christ UMC (North Coast District) in Cleveland where I am a member of the Choir, the bell choir, and over the years I have served on most of the committees of the church.

I have been a Methodist all my life and am currently a member of the Finance Committee, the Staff Parish Relations Committee, and serve as Chair of Trustees. For the past 22 years, I have been a delegate to Annual Conference.

JERRY RINEHART

Ohio Valley: Mt. Pleasant (Carroll Co.)

Voter Number: 035



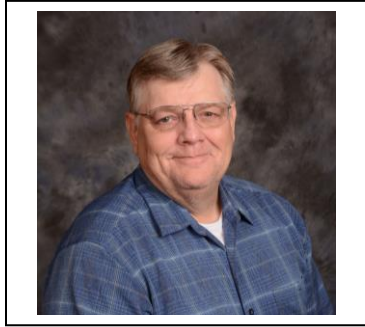
Currently, Co-Director of Ohio Valley Lay Servant Ministries, member of Conference ARAP committee. General and Jurisdictional Conference delegate in 2000, 2004, 2008, and 2012. Board of Discipleship and Upper Room Ministries in Nashville 2009-2012. Annual Conference Chair Board of Trustees 2009-2016. Served on numerous leadership positions at local, district and conference levels in past 25 years.

2019 LAITY VOTER GUIDE

BYRON ROCK

Three Rivers: Fredericktown

Voter Number: 046



After attending the 2019 Special General Conference, I am compelled to deepen my commitment to God and His Church by prayerfully seeking to be a delegate to the 2020 General Conference. I offer many years of experience and leadership in business, church, and community service. UMC member for 35 years, business management 30 years, 4-H volunteer at 20 years, delegate to annual conference 8 years, missions chair 4 years, chair of church trustees 4 of 6-year term, Sunday school teacher and men's Bible study leader. I prayerfully request your support

consideration.

RICHARD JAMES SAMMARTINO

Mahoning Valley: Western Reserve

Voter Number: 081



I am a sophomore at Ohio Wesleyan University studying Religion & Classics. I am a life-long United Methodist and was VP of CCYM in high school. At OWU, I am a member of Methodist Student Movement & the Classics Club. I am Youth Director at Ontario UMC & also work as a tutor for inner city elementary school students. I hope to one day be ordained an elder in the UMC. This summer I will be a religious life intern at Lakeside Chautauqua.

2019 LAITY VOTER GUIDE

PAUL SANICKY

North Coast: East Shore

Voter Number: 063



I serve on many committees within the local church and I am also involved at the conference level within the Leadership Committee. I am also the chairperson at East Shore Church UMC for Mission and Evangelism. My principles are supporting, praying and encouraging with all pastors and church workers with all my capacity. I believe I have an essential part, voice and role in church and that's why I am inspired to run as a delegate to the 2020 General Conference. It is important to focus on pursuing our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the

Transformation of the World. Thank you for your trust, support and prayers.

RICHARD B. SAPHORE

Mahoning Valley: East Fairfield

Voter Number: 047



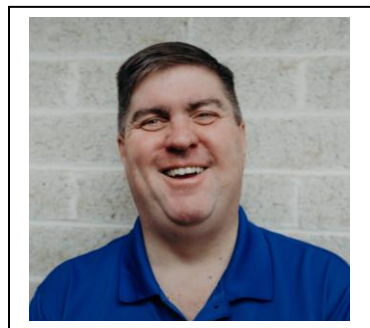
Lay Leader of the East Fairfield UMC in New Waterford, Ohio. Married 15 years to my wonderful wife with four daughters. I am deeply involved in the church participating with the veteran programs, church security plan, permanent usher, attend council meetings, and mentor young members as liturgists giving them a sense of ownership. My family and I have been attending EFUMC since 2004.

2019 LAITY VOTER GUIDE

BRIAN SHEETZ

North Coast: Strongsville

Voter Number: 064



Executive Director, East Ohio United Methodist Foundation. Advocate for young clergy. I have a unique 30,000 foot perspective of the General Church and the Annual Conference. Well-informed voice in the middle. Focused on more than just the human sexuality debate at General Conference, our ability to make and mature disciples goes far beyond this single issue. Strong commitment to United Methodist missions. Annual Conference delegate 14 years. Delegate to 2016 and 2019 General Conferences. Served in local church: missions, finance, youth, stewardship, education, Ad. Board Chair, building, Royal Family Kids Camp, mentoring, and dish washing. Favorite experience: having my nails painted by a 6 year old Royal Family camper.

SAM SHIPLEY

North Coast: Bennett's Corners Community

Voter Number: 065



Son and husband of pastors, father of 6 and law firm CIO. Being a lifelong follower of Jesus, a technologist and student of history, I strive to find the balance between tradition, introducing new ways, while most importantly, focusing on God.

Student of Jesus and Wesley
Counselor, 11 ASP mission trips
Confirmation & adult teacher
Committees; Worship, Trustees, Youth

Directed, sung in choirs
Play, lead praise music
Traveling gospel group Co-director
Painted steeples, cleaned stained glass, organized attics

Striving to be a servant to all in every life situation – at church, work, home, grocery
Passions: family, colonial history, homemade ice cream

2019 LAITY VOTER GUIDE

PATRICIA SINGELYN

Western Reserve: Garretttsville

Voter Number: 067



I am a member of the Garretttsville United Methodist Church and I have been a member of UMC since I turned 13 years old. I am a retired school teacher and former union president. I am a widow; I have four children and 4 grandchildren. I am currently serving on the Western Reserve Missions Committee and will serve as the chair this next year. I am a member of (CEF) Christian Educational Formation and Vice Chair of the Western Reserve Emmaus Community. I have been a member-at-large to annual conference for the past 7 years. In 2016 I was given the honor of

being Lay Speaker of the year.

CLARK SPRANG

Canal: Shreve

Voter Number: 075



I am a retired executive officer of Goodyear Tire where I served as Chief Financial Officer of several foreign based operations. I worked with the CEO to implement strategic growth initiatives globally. I currently serve as one of 5 Board Members of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy.

I am a faithful and active member of Shreve UMC. I have served on Finance, Ad. Council, Missions, and recently chaired SPRC. I am an adult Sunday School teacher and worship leader. I have been married to Ruth for 53 Years.

2019 LAITY VOTER GUIDE

LUCINDA (CINDA) STARR

Southern Hills: Christ

Voter Number: 038



A United Methodist for over 18 years and have served in several leadership roles in my Church, District and Conference

I believe and am committed to:

The authority of Scripture and the Lordship of Jesus Christ. That marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in a single exclusive union which is accordance with Scripture. In Gender Equality and that all persons are of Sacred Worth and that hateful and harassing behavior/attitudes are not in accordance with

Scripture. That all sin can be forgiven with confession, repentance and becoming a new person in Jesus Christ

BOB WAGNER

Ohio Valley: Harsh Memorial

Voter Number: 036



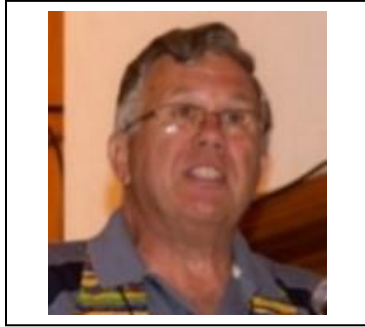
I became a member of the United Methodist Church in 1984. I have been a Lay Speaker/ Lay Servant for 26 years. I currently serve on the Board of Trustees at both the District and Conference level. I have been an Annual Conference Delegate for the past 7 years. I am the current Administrative Council Chair for and have served various other roles in our local church. I am a former District Lay Leader. I believe the Bible is the inspired word of God and the only infallible guide to Christian living. I have a strong desire to see integrity restored to our denomination.

2019 LAITY VOTER GUIDE

WILLIAM WATTS

Canal: Uniontown

Voter Number: 051



Lifetime United Methodist, serving from youth leader to treasurer. AC delegate for 8 years. Chair of East Ohio Methodist Federation for Social Action, recipient of James. S. Thomas Leadership Award, national MFSA board, national treasurer for MFSA and the Love Your Neighbor Coalition. As treasurer for EORMN, I work for full inclusion of GLBTQ+ people in the life of the church. Volunteered at 3 General Conferences. Also chair Uniontown Lions Club eyeglass program. Retired from Goodyear, traveled to 54 countries. I believe it is our job to be the hands and

feet of Jesus and proclaim God is love!

BECKY WEISENAUER

Firelands: Tiffin Harmony

Voter Number: 025



I have attended the EUB/UMC my entire life and currently am a member at Tiffin Harmony UMC. I am the Youth leader for Jr./High school students, Lay leader, member of Ladies Aide committee, PPR committee, Administrative council, head of the finance committee, choir and weekly praise team. During the last few years I have re-designed our web page and keep it updated weekly and as new ministries and events occur. I also design a power point presentation every Sunday with our announcements and a different student focus each week. I am an active member

of the HCI Initiative 2018-2019.

2019 LAITY VOTER GUIDE

RAY WHITE

Mid-Ohio: Ashland Christ

Voter Number: 072



I am a maintenance supervisor at a Christian retirement-nursing community and have been since 1995. I have been a district member at large since 2010. I trained as a UMCOR Emergency Response Technician and have taken both basic and advanced lay servant training. I'm currently serving on Mid-Ohio district superintendency and Mid-Ohio district church building and location committee. I'm married to Rev. Laura White, and we have been attending Ashland Christ UMC since she was

appointed there in 2018.

BEULAH M. WILLIAMS

Firelands: Oberlin Rust

Voter Number: 034

No photo was provided

Member of Rust UMC 55 years. Widow, 4 sons, 31 grands and church family. I served as church school teacher and children's choir helper in the early years of my life. 4 years as president of U.M. Women and 40 years as a member of U.M. Lay Leader 2 year, and Certified Lay Speaker (now). Now serving as chair person of the Mid Week Prayer group. Delegate to E.O.C. (my last yr). On kitchen committee: cook; attends the mission; Rust U.M.W; and Firelands District U.M. W. team 4 years.

2019 LAITY VOTER GUIDE

BETTY L. WILSON

Ohio Valley: Hammondsville

Voter Number: 037



I have been a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conference 5 times (2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, and 2016). I have been a lay speaker for 43 years and understand UMC polity. I have taught Sunday School and Bible Studies for over 50 years as well as working with Bible School and Pioneer Clubs. I read and study the scriptures daily and stand on God's Word as my understanding is inspired by His Holy Spirit. If elected, I will vote as guided by the Holy Spirit.