



Bishop Hee-Soo Jung recently named the members of the Ohio Episcopal Area Task Team and the consultant who will facilitate its work. The team consists of eight members and two ex-officio staff members from both the East Ohio and West Ohio Conferences. Their role is to actively listen, discuss, discern, and make recommendations to form a new, unified Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church.

"God is calling us into this new strategic journey together. This task team has been prayerfully selected—each person strong in faith and deeply committed to The United Methodist Church. They are organized for this important work," Bishop Jung said.

While the work of the Task Team has begun, Bishop Jung anticipates a vision-driven process with strategic resolution within the next three years.

"Let us offer our prayers that the Spirit will lead this team to cast a vision for a strong, new United Methodist Church in Ohio," Bishop Jung said.

As the Ohio Episcopal Area Task Team begins its work, Bishop Jung has written this prayer for use by individuals and congregations:

"Loving God, Bless us to seek God's renewing presence and love. Guide The United Methodist Church in Ohio land to rise again with dynamic love, bold vision, and a mission to transform the world."



OHIO EPISCOPAL AREA

East & West Ohio Conferences

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CONSULTANT: REV. DOUG ANDERSON

Anderson is well known in both East and West Ohio. Over the years, he has led multiple workshops and seminars in both conferences, including a two-year comprehensive church development process and Church by Size seminars.

"My role as consultant is to facilitate discussions with a variety of leaders from both conferences. These conversations will focus on building relationships and trust. That trust will enable openness and honesty, allowing clarity of God's call to emerge," Anderson said.

Anderson is currently serving a local church in the Indiana Conference and is in his 55th year of ministry. Previously, he served as the founding executive director of the Bishop Rueben Job Center for Leadership Development for 15 years. He and his wife of 52 years have four children, nine grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.



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OHIO EPISCOPAL AREA

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OHIO EPISCOPAL AREA TASK TEAM

OHIO EPISCOPAL AREA TASK TEAM MEMBERS
EAST OHIO CONFERENCE:



Rev. Armando Arellano
He is the administrative pastor of East Shore United Methodist Church in Euclid, Ohio. As an Ordained Elder in Full Connection of the East Ohio Annual Conference. Armando's journey has spanned both the Philippines and the United States. Armando is bilingual and fluent in both English and Tagalog-Pilipino.



Rev. Paige Boyer
She is an Ordained Elder and pastor of Lodi UMC. She has served in various Conference leadership positions during her ministry, most recently on the Redistricting Strategy Team. She earned a bachelor's degree from Ashland University and a master's from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.



Thomas Lewis
He is a mechanical design engineer who enjoys spending time with his wife and one-year-old daughter. Born and raised in the East Ohio Conference and having spent most of his adult life in the West Ohio Conference, he looks forward to seeing the work of the Holy Spirit bring everyone together.



Rev. Hyeran Yu
She is an Elder and a poet. She is serving in her third year at Wellington First UMC. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Professional Communication from Wheeling Jesuit University and a Master of Divinity from Methodist Theological School in Ohio. Rev. Yu completed a CPE program and worked as a scriptwriter, editor, layout artist, and web/graphic designer before starting ministry.



Rev. Andy Call, Episcopacy Committee Chair
He is the lead pastor at Church of the Saviour UMC in Cleveland Heights. He is chairperson of the East Ohio Conference Committee on Episcopacy and serves on the Committee on the Episcopacy in the North Central Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church. Rev. Call is also a member of the denomination's Connectional Table that discerns and articulates the mission and vision of the Church.



Rev. Steve Stultz Costello, Council on Finance & Administration
He has been serving under appointment full-time since 1998. He has a mechanical engineering degree from the Virginia Military Institute and an MDiv from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington DC where he met his wife Rev. Cara Stultz Costello. Together, they have two adult sons, Eli and Atticus.



Rev. Randy May, Trustees President
He serves as Ordained Elder at Willoughby UMC and North Mentor Centenary UMC, and is also a licensed Ohio attorney. He serves on this team because he is president of the East Ohio Conference Board of Trustees.



Kimberly Green, Conference Lay Leader
She is serving in the role of lay leader for the East Ohio Conference. She is humbled and thankful for God's calling, knowing that He is guiding her steps for His glory.

EAST OHIO EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:



Rev. Ed Peterson, Executive Assistant to the Bishop
He is a former district superintendent and now serves as the executive assistant to the Bishop.



Vera Milanovic, Executive Director of Financial & Administrative Services
She is a certified public accountant and holds the Charter Global Management Accountant designation. She serves on the General Council on Finance and Administration of The United Methodist Church. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants. She volunteers her time to various library organizations and the League of Women Voters. Vera has two daughters and four grandchildren.

OHIO EPISCOPAL AREA TASK TEAM MEMBERS
WEST OHIO CONFERENCE:



Pastor Daniel Cardenas
He serves on the leadership team of First United Methodist Church in Middletown, Ohio, and as pastor for the Latino ministry. "There is a joy in our hearts to serve, love, and share the Gospel with the Latino Community in Ohio," he said.



Rev. Leroy F. Chambliss
He is an Elder in the West Ohio Conference and serves as a transitional intentional interim ministry specialist, Kaleidoscope Institute (Associate). He is a graduate of the University of Dayton (Engineering), Pepperdine University (MBA-Org Development and Strategic Planning), and United Theological Seminary (MDiv).



Janet George
She is a lay member of the West Ohio Conference who grew up in the East Ohio Conference. She spent her professional career as a lawyer and legal educator. In retirement, she volunteers for the church as well as with several non-profit organizations.



Catherine Kang
She has been a member of the Columbus Korean United Methodist Church since 1996. She is an immigration attorney at the law firm of Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP. She is married and has two adult daughters.



Rev. Wade Giffin, Episcopacy Committee Chair
He became pastor at Trinity United Methodist in July of 2016 after serving seven years as Director of the Office Ministry for the West Ohio Conference. His tenure on the Bishop's Cabinet and executive team allowed him a breadth of knowledge about clergy development, spiritual formation, and church leadership on every level.



David Scott, Council on Finance & Administration
A parishioner and former head usher at Hyde Park Community UMC, David served four years on the endowment committee. Served five years on CF&A for WOC and four years on the Investment Committee of the United Methodist Foundation of West Ohio. In the private sector, he is with Lifetime Financial Growth here in Cincinnati working with individual estate plans and key employee retention and risk mitigation for small business and construction companies.



Dr. Julie Hurtig, Trustees Chair
She is a member of Ada First UMC. She actively assists the congregation with much of the facility operations and maintenance tasks and has held the role of treasurer since 2006. She was a member of the West Ohio Conference Board of Trustees from 2013 - 2019, and then rejoined the board in 2021, becoming chair in 2022. Dr. Hurtig currently serves as the Provost at Ohio Northern University and is a licensed professional engineer in the state of Ohio.



Leslie Hall, Conference Lay Leader
He serves as co-lay leader for the West Ohio Conference. His goal is to serve and his objective is to represent. Les is the Founder, CEO at Griot Marketing Services, LLC.

WEST OHIO EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:



Rev. Linda Middelberg, Executive Assistant to the Bishop
She is a former district superintendent and now serves as the executive assistant to the Bishop.



Bill Brownson, Chief Financial Officer/Director of Administration
He has been the CFO and director of administration since 2010. Bill brought 20 years of corporate experience from JPMorganChase where his focus was investment management and philanthropic advisory services. He has served many roles in his local church, the conference, and at the denomination level, including a lay delegate to General Conference since 2016. Bill has served on the board of Otterbein SeniorLife since 2013 and is currently its chair.