

# General and Jurisdictional Conference Nominees: 21 clergy and 12 lay members accept delegate nomination

**T**he number of ministerial and lay delegates to the General Conference shall be determined by the provisions of Para. 602, *The Book of Discipline*.

a. The number of clergy and lay delegates to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference shall be determined by the provisions of Para 513, *The Book of Discipline*: provided that the duly elected delegates to the General Conference shall be delegates to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference and additional clergy and lay

delegates shall be elected to complete the total number to which the Peninsula-Delaware Conference is entitled (General Conference – 3 clergy, 3 lay; Jurisdictional Conference – Additional 6 clergy, 6 lay)

b. The additional Jurisdictional Conference delegates, in order of their election, shall be reserve delegates to the General Conference.

c. After all Jurisdictional Conference delegates, in order of their election, are elected, one lay ballot and one clergy

ballot will be taken to elect reserves. The three clergy and three lay persons receiving the most votes shall be elected as reserve delegates to the Jurisdictional Conference. (Reserve – 3 clergy and 3 lay)

**Please Note:** Each clergy nominee and each lay nominee has been assigned a number. This number is VERY important. It is the number that conference members will use to vote (clergy will vote for clergy, laity will vote for laity). You will find the number in parenthesis ( ) after each name.

## Clergy Delegate Nominees (General & Jurisdictional Conference)

John (Jack) Abel (001)

Pastor of Epworth UMC  
Rehoboth Beach, DE (Dover District)

Served in Conference for 13 years:  
Invited Observer, GBHEM Consultation on Judicial Council Decision 1032, 2007; Annual Conference Sessions Committee (Worship); United Methodist Liturgical Scholar's Group, General Board of Discipleship, 2001-Present; Bishop Peter Weaver Financial Summit 2001-2004; Conference Communications Committee 1996-2000; Consultant to Council Director for Technology Resources 1996-1997.

*"I would be honored to serve as a delegate because of my deep and thorough commitment to the United Methodist Church. In 1993, I wrote to friends about my calling. A college mentor replied, 'I will always remember the Methodists for having saved Jack Abel.' Since then, my devotion to our movement has grown in many ways.*

*Each step in my journey of service has brought me greater appreciation for our global ministry in Christ's name. I have grown in three exciting and distinct pastoral appointments. Through Bishop Weaver's Finance Summit I gained a practical Conference perspective. I learned through Ph.D. studies, foreign missions, leadership in our Colloquium on Membership, and involvement in recent years with the General Boards of Higher Education and Ministry and of Discipleship.*

*If elected, I know that the required study, experience, and follow-up will offer opportunities for me to continue in answer to God's call."*

Elaine Ayres (002)

Director, Strengthening  
the Black Church  
Dover, DE (Extension Ministries)

Served in Conference for 19 years:  
Former Chair of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference Committee on Investigation; Member of the Vision Team; Member, Advocacy Resource Team; Member, Embracing the Black Church Task Force; Member, Enabling Ministry Resource Team; Conference Shalom Coordinator and Trainer; Peer Mentor; Co-Chair Camp Pecometh Capital Campaign; Former Member, District Board of Ordained Ministry (Salisbury and Easton Districts); Former Member, Salisbury Board of Laity; Youth Workshop Leader; Salisbury and Easton District Lay Academy Instructor; Member, Black Methodists for Church Renewal (B.M.C.R.); Member, Black United Methodist Preachers (B.U.M.P.); member, National Black Staff Association of The United Methodist Church.

*"It is a privilege and honor to be nominated to serve as a delegate to the General or Jurisdictional Conferences. I wish to be a delegate because serving for 19 years in the various positions in this conference has helped me acquire the knowledge and skills to engage in discussions and discernment as it applies to the General Church. I am particularly interested in understanding the role and responsibility of lay minister and the ordained clergy as it applies to educa-*



John (Jack)  
Abel

*tion, itinerancy and supervision. I'm interested in the discussions about the role and responsibilities of the Superintendent and the Episcopacy in regard to issues of term of office and the issues of Jurisdictional boundaries etc. I'd also like to engage in discussions emphasizing the importance of Christian Education and evangelism. As your delegate, I will address the concerns of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference. Again, I thank you for nominating me."*

Jonathan Baker (003)

Senior Pastor, Aldersgate UMC  
Wilmington, DE (Wilmington District)

Served in the Conference for 34 years: Conference Resource Director – Director of Connectional Ministries 1995-1999; Chair, Conference Board of Ordained Ministry; Chair, Division of Education, Board of Discipleship; Chair, Division of Human Relations, Board of Church & Society; Committee on Native American Concerns; Leadership Development Team; Wesley College Board of Trustees; Board of Governors, Wesley Theological Seminary; Conference Council on Ministries; Delegate to 1996, 2000, & 2004 General and Jurisdictional Conferences; Member, General Commission of Religion and Race; Coordinator of Zambia Volunteer in Mission trip; Coordinator of Congo Volunteer in Mission trip; Chair, Episcopacy Committee; Member, Methodist Action Program Board.

*"Being a delegate means participating in a global gathering where United Methodists come for 'holy conferencing' seeking God's vision and will for our denomination as we face the challenging issues of our world. With critical issues before our denomination I bring experience and commitment to speak with a holy boldness to address these issues. Preparation for the privilege of being a delegate requires the study of the issues, dialogue, research, and openness to the leading of God's Spirit. While it is critical to be informed about the issues, it is also important to be led by God's Spirit. Prayer, especially listening to God, fasting, and reading scripture are ways I prepare inwardly for this journey. I believe God seeks to work through the delegates as they listen, share, pray, and discern God's direction for our church."*

Sandra Steiner Ball (004)

Dover District Superintendent  
Dover, DE (Extension Ministries)

Served in Conference for 21 years:  
Elected as first Reserve delegate to General Conference in 2004; Delegate to the 2004 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference; Conference Personnel Committee; New Church Development Team; Member and secretary of the Jurisdictional Holy Conferencing Table; Alternate to Jurisdictional Conference on Investigation; various Task Forces and District Committees; Conference Youth Coordinator; Chair, Easton District Committee on Ordained Ministry; Board of Stewards; Board of Higher Education; Nominations Committee; Chair, Easton District



Jonathan  
Baker



Sandra  
Steiner Ball

Ministers and Mates.

*"I am passionate about the present and future ministry of the United Methodist Church. Being a delegate gives me the opportunity to make a difference, witness to Christ, share my gifts, and to work with a committed and diverse team of Christian laity and clergy to help set the course for the future of United Methodism. I am a servant who is committed to the spiritual disciplines and will use the means of grace supplied by God to work with others to discern God's will and direction for every level, locally and globally, of our connectional life and ministry. I want to serve in order to contribute to the discussion around the faithfulness and vitality of worship and order, to wrestle with critical social issues theologically and missionally, to offer praise to God through Christ and the Holy Spirit, and to seek God's grace as the church ministers to the world."*

Karen F. Bunnell (005)

Senior Pastor, Elkton UMC  
Elkton, MD (Wilmington District)

Served in Conference for 20 years:  
Currently Chair for the Wilmington District Committee on Superintendent; serve as mentor for two ministerial candidates; Conference representative to the Philadelphia Area Episcopacy Committee; Director of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry; Member, United Methodist Endorsing Agency. Past Service: Wilmington District Mission Area Ministry Council; Chair, Peninsula-Delaware Conference Board of Ordained Ministry; Co-Chair, Division of Worship for Board of Discipleship, Member, Vision Team, Committee Chair, 50th anniversary of full clergy rights for women celebration; led teaching workshops and retreats for youth and United Methodist Women; elected delegate to 2000 and 2004 General and Jurisdictional Conferences; Chair, Jurisdictional Board of Ordained Ministry; Member, Jurisdictional Conference leadership committee.

*"I would like to serve as a delegate because I believe this is a critical time in the life of our denomination - a time of challenge, but also great opportunity. I think it is extremely important to have a pastor serving a local church as a member of our delegation. And I think it is also important to have people with experience at General and Jurisdictional Conference as part of the team. They can help others with the process, they have relationships established already with persons from other areas, and knowledge of persons who are seeking the office of Bishop. I love the United Methodist Church, I am blessed to be living my life in ministry in the UMC, and I would be honored to serve again as a delegate, if elected."*

Boyd Etter (006)

Senior Pastor, St. John's UMC  
Seaford, DE (Dover District)

Served in Conference for 29 years:  
Currently serving as the Annual Conference Secretary, Delegate to 19th World Methodist Conference in Seoul, Korea, July 2006; Past Service: Member and Registrar of the Conference Board of



Karen F.  
Bunnell



Boyd Etter

Ordained Ministry; Delegate to Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference, 2000; Conference Statistician; Past President, Salisbury District Ministers Association; Chairperson, Salisbury District Location and Building; Member, Conference Council on Youth Ministries; Member and Vice-Chairperson, Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry; Member, Conference Council on Ministries.

*"Only the General Conference can speak for the entire United Methodist Church. I look forward to the opportunity to read and reflect prayerfully upon proposed legislation affecting our connectional Church. I believe my experience of 29 years of service as a pastor in local churches of every size and on three of our Districts, and service in a variety of offices in the life of the Annual Conference has equipped me for the role of delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences. I have sought to actively engage church members in discussion and debate of controversial social issues. Earnest effort has been made to illuminate this discussion by reflection upon the Biblical witness and the present positions of our Church as expressed through the Social Principles and resolutions. I sincerely appreciate being nominated by my clergy colleagues, and the privilege of daily service with them in the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference!"*

### Vicky Gordy-Stith (007)

Co-Senior Pastor Skyline UMC  
Wilmington, DE (Wilmington District)

Served in Conference for 14 years: Member, Transition Team: Training Sub-team; Worship Sub-Team Member, Conference Sessions Teams; Member, Committee on Investigation; Probationary Guide, Wilmington District; Membership and Ministry Colloquium Planning Team; Candidacy Mentor and Counseling Elder; Lay Speaker Academy Instructor.

*"I thank God for the many gifts our Conference shares as well as the challenges we face as we reach out to people in need of God's hope. I pray that the United Methodist Church will be a community of love and forgiveness for my children and all children of future generations. After Annual Conference last summer, God nudged me to use this passion for ministry by offering myself to serve as a Conference Delegate to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference."*

*I bring a unique perspective as your representative. I am a young woman pastor, whose spouse also serves as a pastor. Our children, 12 and 9 years old, help me share God's love for all young people. As the daughter of a pastor, I have been in the United Methodist Church all of my life. I have served in Methodist conferences from California to New England to North Carolina, as well as the Peninsula-Delaware Conference. God has gifted me with a passion for dialogue and creative ways to be in ministry together while honoring and building upon our differences.*

*God has gifted our Peninsula-Delaware Conference to be a model for community and mutuality for other conferences. As your General and/or Jurisdictional Conference delegate, I could share our unique wisdom and bring back wisdom from the General Church that we could apply to our conference, as we continue to strive to "live out the ministry and teaching of Jesus Christ—boldly, cooperatively, and inclusively—through life-changing communities of compassion."*

### Patricia Bryant Harris (008)

Senior Pastor, Marshallton UMC  
Wilmington, DE (Wilmington District)

Served in Conference for 19 years: Salisbury District Superintendent, Conference Board of Trustees, Conference Board of Pensions, Conference Personnel Committee, Conference Council on Finance & Administration, Wesley College Board of Trustees, General/Jurisdictional Conference delegate 2000, 2004, General Conference Council on Finance and Administration, General Conference Connectional Table 2008-2012 Budget Process Team.

*"I love the United Methodist Church and I enjoy serving on all levels of the church. It is a privilege to listen to the*



**Vicky Gordy-Stith**



**Patricia Bryant Harris**

*ideas, suggestions and concerns within our local churches and then incorporate those thoughts in the decision making process at General or Jurisdictional Conference. To me, this is one way we help our Church fulfill its call from God for mission and ministry throughout the world including the local churches of our annual conference. I find that serving as a delegate is a spiritually meaningful and rewarding experience."*

### Grant L. Johnson (009)

Executive Director, Salisbury Urban Ministries  
Salisbury, MD (Extension Ministries)

Served in the Conference for 25 years: District: Lay Academy Instructor; Chairperson, Conference Board of Ordained Ministry; Member, New Church Starts Development Team: Past Service: Co-Chairperson, Vision Team, Member, Making Connection Team with Wesley Seminary; Member, Urban Ministry Task Force; Jurisdictional Conference Delegate – 2004; Member, Jurisdictional Board of Ordained Ministry; Delegate, World Methodist Conference in Seoul, Korea, 2006.

*"I have had the opportunity to serve the church in various ministry settings, including rural, small town, suburban, and the inner city. I have served twice as director of Salisbury Urban Ministries which is an extension ministry serving the area's materially deprived population. I have served in many capacities in the District and Annual Conference over the years. These experiences have given me a perspective of the church on several levels. I understand the challenges of being faithful to serving Christ in the rapidly changing culture in which we live. I am committed to leading the church in a relevant ministry in this new environment and making new disciples of Christ. I am especially concerned about the United Methodist presence in urban areas. I am committed to encouraging and equipping clergy and lay leadership with the tools necessary. I would be honored to be selected to be a part of the 2008 delegation."*

### Pearl G. S. Johnson (010)

Pastor, Snow Hill/Ebenezer Charge  
Snow Hill, MD (Salisbury District)

Served in Conference for 15 years: Member, District Board of Ordained Ministry, Co-Chair, Conference Advocacy Resource Team; Member, Board of Stewards for Camping and Retreat Ministry; Member, Conference Vision Team; Member, Black Methodist for Church Renewal (BMCR); Member, Black United Methodist Pastors (BUMP); Past Service: Member, Methodist Action Program; Lay Academy Instructor; Member, Annual Conference Sessions; Co-Chair, Hispanic Task Force; Member, Mission Personnel.

*"I am interested in becoming a delegate to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences. I am always amazed at the gifts that the United Methodist Church brings to the body of Christ. We are faced with the challenges of ministry in this rapidly changing culture. Our nation uses high technology to communicate messages to the world. We will reach future generations not on horses as circuit riders, but with technology. We must never move away from our evangelistic vision of sharing the gospel message."*

*Our church has always been diverse, but the present church is working to embrace our diversity and to share our cultures at the welcoming table of Christ. Our legislation has implied gender inclusiveness, but has not stated it directly. The Peninsula-Delaware Conference is one of the more racially diverse conferences in the jurisdiction. Therefore, we bring a unique perspective to the jurisdiction. Because we are both rural and urban we also bring a unique perspective about social issues such as poverty, employment, and crime to the Northeast Jurisdiction.*

*As we consider the Book of Discipline that shapes our identity for the next four years I would take the time to study the matters with an open mind and willingness to move the Church forward. On the jurisdictional level we will consider the leadership that best can serve the multiplicity of our Episcopal area."*



**Grant L. Johnson**



**Pearl G. S. Johnson**

### Gary L. Moore (011)

Senior Pastor, St. Mark's UMC  
Easton, MD (Easton District)

Served in Conference for 34 years: Conference Secretary; Endorsed National Guard Army Chaplain; Army Representation to Division on Chaplains; Conference Mission Personnel Committee; Administrative Review Committee; Council on Finance and Administration; Chair, Commission on Archives & History; Secretary, Board of Discipleship; Member, Division on Worship; Member, Communications Committee, Member, Delaware Conference Commemorative Booklet Committee; Member, Conference Sessions.

*"To give back to our church which has given me the opportunity of a lifetime – being a local church pastor."*

### Charlotte A. Nichols (012)

District Superintendent  
Salisbury District (Extension Ministries)

Served in Conference for 27 years: Jurisdictional Conference Delegate 1984, 88, 92 and 96; General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate 1992; Easton District Superintendent; Member, Easton & Salisbury District Committee on Ministry; Member, Conference Equitable Compensation Committee; Chair, Embracing the Black Church Task Force; Member, Committee on Episcopacy; Chair, Northeastern Jurisdictional Boundaries Committee; Vice Chair, Board of Ordained Ministry; Member, Northeastern Jurisdictional Partnership Table; Delegate to the World Church Council, 2006 in Seoul, South Korea; Member, Board of Trustees, Wesley College; Member, Board of Visitors, University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

*"I would like to be a delegate to General Conference because I believe our church is at a critical time in history as we address the challenges and opportunities of today's world. We are called as the church to make disciples and to be a transforming agent to a world crying for peace and justice and often met with violence. The unique opportunity to be part of making critical decisions about the covenant life of the United Methodist Church through the 2008 Book of Discipline and helping to address the leadership issues of our great church would be a privilege that I would not take lightly. If elected I would be prayerful, diligent, and discerning with all my duties."*

### David M. Palmer (013)

Senior Pastor, Newark UMC  
Newark, DE (Wilmington District)

Served in Conference for 8 years (previously, 16 years in Western New York): Member, Dover District Committee on Ministry; Candidacy Registrar, Board of Ordained Ministry; Chair, Supervision sub-team, Executive Committee Member, Board of Ordained Ministry. In the Western New York Conference – served on Conference Council; Chair, Camping and Retreat Ministries; Chair, Equitable Compensation; Registrar, two District Committees on Ministry; Candidacy Registrar, Board of Ordained Ministry; Chair, Division of Elders; Member, Board of Ordained Ministry Executive Committee.

*"I have not sought to be a delegate but feel honored to have been nominated. I am willing to serve if elected. I will bring my experiences and insights from the different conferences in which I have served. With my Methodist roots going back three generations, I bring a strong desire to find a way for all of us to move into the future together, while increasing the United Methodist Church's effectiveness in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and the extravagant love of God for all God's children."*



**Gary L. Moore**



**Charlotte A. Nichols**



**David M. Palmer**

## Yvonne W. Penn (014)

Pastor, Cambridge-Vienna Charge  
Cambridge, MD (Easton District)

Served in Conference for 14 years: Co-Chair, Conference Resource Development and Management Team; Co-Chair, Conference Black United Methodist Pastors team; Member, Vision Team; Member, Evangelism Committee; Member, Strengthening the Black Church Committee; Co-Chair, Conference Stewardship Committee; District Board; Appointment Review Committee; Member, New Church Start; Member, Bishop's Financial Summit; Member, Investment Committee; Member, National Evangelism Committee.

*"I wish to serve as a delegate to the General or Jurisdictional Conference to be a voice of church renewal and unity within our Annual Conference and the United Methodist Church. This can best be achieved by effectively addressing the social, political and economic diversity within the church and understanding the common spiritual thread that is woven between each. My diverse experience beyond the walls of the church and within the church enables me to serve as a delegate with a varied degree of understanding.*

*I look forward in accepting the challenge of being a delegate."*



**Yvonne W.  
Penn**

*bring the totality of my faith, relationships and experiences, past and present, to further the unity and mission of the church. Thirdly, to participate in reading, study and holy conferencing to discern God's will for the present and vision for the future. Fourthly, to share in decisions of the UMC regarding the effectiveness of its witness and service, its local churches, districts, conferences and agencies. Fifthly, to experience the global, multi-cultural diversity of the whole United Methodist people across the world. Finally, to contribute a perspective that is rooted in Scripture, responsive to God's sovereignty, sensitive to human well-being, conscious of cultural shifts in a changing world and open to the Holy Spirit's leading.*

## John K. Shitama (017)

Director, Camping & Retreat Ministries  
Centreville, MD (Extension Ministries)

Served in Conference for 16 years: Vision Team; CARE Team; Bishop's Mid-Winter Retreat/Days Apart Committee; Co-Facilitator, Dover District Probationary Member Covenant Group; Spiritual Formation Task Force; Wilmington District Nominating Committee; United Methodist Camp & Retreat Leader National Board

*"The United Methodist Church is at a critical time in its history. If we are to be effective as a denomination in making disciples whom God uses to transform the world, then we must directly address many challenging issues. This will require the willingness to make difficult decisions, for God's sake. This will also require the ability to move beyond institutional maintenance and the courage to challenge the status quo. If elected, I will prayerfully seek to be faithful to God's leading in seeking God's vision for the future of The United Methodist Church."*



**John K.  
Shitama**

## J. Christopher Pennington (015)

Pastor, Christ UMC  
Wilmington, DE (Wilmington District)

Served in Conference for 7 years: Member, Conference Vision Team; Spiritual Director, Delmarva Chrysalis Board of Directors.

*"I'm really excited about the prospect of serving our Annual Conference as a delegate to General or Jurisdictional Conference. I don't think there could be a better way for a young pastor to grow in knowledge and skills than to see the church operate at these levels. As a young pastor, I can bring a fresh viewpoint and I believe that I can represent our conference in a way that both my colleagues and the lay representation would feel honored. I share the goal of our Bishop and the leadership within our conference in striving for excellence in ministry and would like the opportunity to learn new ways to accomplish that. I would like to express heartfelt gratitude to my colleagues who nominated me and my promise that if elected I will represent our conference with the dignity and honor it is due."*



**J. Christopher  
Pennington**

## William T. Sterling, Jr. (018)

Easton District Superintendent  
Easton, Maryland (Extension Ministries)

Served in Conference for 35 years: Board of Ordained Ministry; Chair, Salisbury District Committee on Ministry; Coordinator, Conference Family Ministries; Co-Leader of the first mission team from our Conference to Mississippi immediately after Hurricane Katrina.

*"I believe the Church is in a time of both great challenge and even greater opportunity. I wish to serve as a delegate because my commitment to Christ, my ministerial and life experiences, and my passion for a strong church with a faithful, transforming and credible witness, give me the desire and energy to be a part of this great moment. Our world is changing rapidly. There is a deep hunger for the Gospel. From the days of Wesley, the Methodists have always been a transforming presence at the core of such change. My commitment, if elected as a delegate, is to work with other delegates to help the United Methodist Church clearly define its role in the 21st century, to represent our conference and to do this in faithfulness to scripture and the historic Wesleyan principles of our church."*



**William T.  
Sterling, Jr.**

## James T. Seymour (016)

Director of Connectional Ministries  
(Conference Resource Director)  
Dover, DE (Extension Ministries)

Served in Conference for 31 years: Currently: Conference Council Finance and Administration; four Conference Resource Teams; "Extended" Cabinet; Wesley College Board of Trustees; Episcopacy Committee; Board of Lay Ministries; Nominating Task Force; Vision Team; Personnel Committee; Board of Stewards for Camping & Retreat Ministries; Commission on Archives and History; Bishop's Retreat & Days Apart Committee; Commission On Native American Ministries; other Task Forces: Previous: Wilmington District Superintendent; Conference Statistician; Board Of Ordained Ministry; Peninsula United Methodist Homes; Board of Trustees; Board of Pensions; Church & Society; Conference Council On Ministry; Conference Council on Finance and Administration; Methodist Action Program; Neighborhood House; Committee on Investigation; General and Jurisdictional Service: previously as a delegate and delegation co-chair. NEJ agencies served: NEJ Multi-Ethnic Center Board; NEJ Episcopacy Committee; Vision Table. General agencies served: Board of Church & Society; Commission on Religion & Race; Commission on Central Conference Affairs; Interagency Task Force on Legislation.

*"My reasons are as follows: First, to serve God and others through the wider UM connection. Secondly, to*



**James T.  
Seymour**

## Robbie B. Townsend (019)

Pastor, Grace UMC  
Millsboro, DE (Dover District)

Served in Conference for 8 years: Currently serving: Conference Leadership Development Resource Team; Conference Committee on Investigations, Reserve; Vice Chair, Peter D. Weaver Mission Committee (Congo Relations); Treasurer, Hispanic Ministries Task Force; Mentor, Two candidates for Ministry, President, Greater Millsboro Area Ministerial Association. Previous service: Member, Conference Volunteers In Mission Team to Democratic Republic of the Congo; Hispanic Ministries Task Force; Strengthening the Black Church (Special Ministries Assessment) Task Force; Chair, Mission Area Andrew- Easton District;



**Robbie B.  
Townsend**

Treasurer, Chester Valley Minister's Association; President, Upper Queen Anne's County Ecumenical Ministerial Association.

*"I have always felt called to strengthen the ministry of the United Methodist Church. We have a proud Wesleyan heritage that embraces the scriptural truth that God accepts people where they are but doesn't want them to stay there. Our message of grace and holiness is a two fold mission to share the gospel message for healing and wholeness and to work for the oppressed in social justice issues. My involvement in our conference's partnership with our sisters and brothers of the Congo has helped me to celebrate and work in the global church. It has shown me how this two fold mission goes hand in hand in offering Jesus to a broken world. Serving the Peninsula-Delaware Conference as a delegate to General or Jurisdictional Conference would be an honor and a trust you would have in me to further strengthen our denomination."*

## James C. Van Der Wall (020)

Senior Pastor, St. Paul's UMC  
Wilmington, DE (Wilmington District)

Served in Conference for 29 years: Co-Chair, Conference Nominating Committee; Alternate Delegate to 2004 Jurisdictional Conference; Board of Directors, Peninsula United Methodist Homes; Board of Directors, Neighborhood House; Board of Directors, Methodist Action Program; Alumni Board - Drew Theological School; One of the writers in The Upper Room Disciplines - 2007; Recipient of the Conference Denman Evangelism Award; Recipient of the Order of St. Barnabas; Past secretary of Board of Ordained Ministry; Past secretary for Board of Directors, United Methodist Reporter; Past Chair, Dover District Committee on Ordained Ministry; Past Chair, Conference Communications Committee; Led/will lead local church trips to Israel, Alaska, and the upcoming Wesley Heritage Tour.

*"I love this Conference. Serving as a clergy member of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference since 1980, I have discovered here a wonderful venue for serving God. By having the opportunity to represent our Conference at the General and Jurisdictional level, I will be "paying it forward" ...making decisions that can allow present and future generations to benefit from the ministries of our Conference and the United Methodist Church. There are major issues before us: evangelism, affirming diversity, stewardship, doing more with less, discovering gifted clergy who are able to lead the church, and bridging the gap between the "haves" and the "have nots." For me, the purpose of the church is to create communities of people who serve Christ by serving others. I look forward to joining with others in discerning God's call for our denomination."*



**James C.  
Van Der Wall**

## Amy D. Yarnall (021)

Pastor, Chesapeake City Charge  
Chesapeake City, MD (Wilmington District)

Served in Conference for 9 years: Currently serving: Member, Advocacy Resource Team; Mentor: Previous Service: New Congregational Development Team.

*"First, I am honored to be nominated. Thank you. I think that serving as a delegate would be a tremendous opportunity to honor God. I fundamentally believe in our connectional system, and in the importance of our witness together as United Methodists. One of the strengths of our connectional system is our capability for prophetic witness. I bring to the connectional table the perspective of a 35 year old woman with a passion for Jesus and for renewal of the Church. The age range of 35 and under now accounts for less than 5% of elders in the U.S., down from 20% two decades ago. If elected, I will serve God and God's church with all of the passion, enthusiasm, and love that God has given me with a focus upon the future and how God is calling us into new ways of being and doing."*



**Amy D.  
Yarnall**

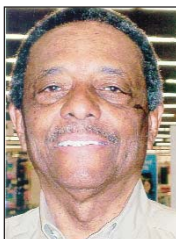
# Lay Delegate Nominees (General & Jurisdictional Conference)

## Gene A. Cray (001)

St. Luke UMC (Salisbury District)  
Member of UMC for 45 years

**Offices held or service given:** 1. In the local church: Presently: Chair, Missions Committee; Vice President, United Methodist Men. Past Service: Sunday school teacher; lay speaker; Chair; Administrative Board; Chair, Stewardship Committee. 2. In the District: Salisbury District Lay Leader; President, United Methodist Men; Chair, Superintendency Committee. 3. In the Annual Conference: Presently: Conference Lay Leader; Past Service: Co-Chair, Nominations Committee; Chair, Order of St. Barnabas Committee; Associate Conference Lay Leader; Delegate, 2004 General and Jurisdictional Conference. 4. In the Community: PTA president; Judge and Chief Judge, Board of Elections in Mardela Springs; Worshipful Master, United Lodge #73 FEAM.

**Nominator's Statement:** "I am grateful to God and to the People of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference for the opportunity to serve as a Lay Delegate to the 2005 General and Jurisdictional Conference. I am much more educated this time, than before, to represent the People of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference as a Lay Delegate in 2008. I have a better understanding of what to expect and a spirit of willingness for God to use me as His servant."



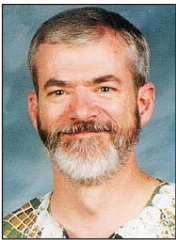
Gene A. Cray

## Kevin Goodwin (002)

Hockessin UMC (Wilmington District)  
Member of UMC for 38 years

**Offices held or service given:** 1. In the local church: Certified Lay Speaker; Co-Chair, Missions; Member, Church Council; Member, Evangelism; Member, Finance; Treasurer, United Methodist Men. 2. In the District: Co-Resource, Missions; Instructor/Author, Lay Leadership School; Member, New District Council. 3. In the Annual Conference: Presently: Conference Missions Resource; Member, Enabling Ministries Resource Team; Member, Vision Team; Member, Nominating Task Force; Treasurer, Northeast Jurisdiction of Marriage Encounter; Member, Wesley Seminary President's Advisory Committee, Member, Africa University Development Committee; Past service: Reserve Delegate, 2000 General Conference; Delegate, 2000 Jurisdictional Conference; Delegate, 2004 General & Jurisdictional Conferences; Secretary, Jurisdictional Finance Committee; Preached in 95 churches (3 Annual Conferences); Team Lay Director, Delmarva Chrysalis. 4. In the Community: 1990 winner, Methodist Action Program's Sam McKay Award; Methodist Action Program Walk for Housing (10 times); Work trips for Red Bird Mission (10 times).

**Nominator's Statement:** "Although I have been a life-time member of the UMC, I took a Lay Witness Mission and a Walk to Emmaus weekend to make me an active member of the Body of Christ. Most of you know me as the Conference Missions Resource (the one with the funny hats). Since starting this task in 2000, I have had the pleasure of preaching in over 95 churches, some in each district. Despite a variety of opinions on some issues, we all know God's love and want to share it with others. My two major concerns are: 1) What will the UMC stand for in the 21st century? We can't let the world define our theology. 2) Getting churches 'missions focused.' Missions is our life blood - it has always defined the Methodist movement. We must always be a Matthew 25 (when did we see you . . .) and Matthew 28 (go make disciples) church."



Kevin Goodwin

## Mildred L. Hamilton (003)

Dale Memorial UMC  
(Wilmington District)  
Member of UMC for 35 years

**Offices held or services given:** 1. In the local church: President, UMW (2 times); Program Resource, UMW; Mentor to the Children's Choir director; Sunday school teacher; Member, Board of Christian Education;



Mildred L. Hamilton

Member, various choirs; Prayer Warrior. 2. In the Annual Conference: Co-Chair, Missionary (Board of Global Ministries); Delegate, 2004 Jurisdictional Conference; Coordinator, Volunteers in Mission; International Missionary (Zambia); Member, Board of Directors/General Board of Global Ministries; Chair, Education Interpretation for Conference UMW. 3. In the Community: Prison Ministries, Deloris Baylor Women's Correctional Center; works with Read A Loud Program; attended the Life-Long Learning Academy; volunteering with the Child Review Placement Board at A.I. DuPont Hospital for Children; sings with the Hildeman Chorale.

**Nominator's Statement:** "I am a native of Washington, D.C. and have attended D.C. Teachers College, Howard and Temple University. I have worked for the state of Maryland and D.C. and for the state of Delaware for 19 1/2 years. During my tenure, I have been a counselor at Terry Psychiatric Center, the Division of Child Protective Service and The Division of Social Service. I have received many awards. One that I am very proud of was the Herman Holloway Award because of my concern for youth and families that they state would provide for. I have worked for 35 years for the state. I am married to Rev. Donald Eugene Hamilton, mother of 6, step mother of 2, grandmother of 12 and great-grandmother to 1. May the work that I have done speak for me, and also the life that I live do the same."

## Ruth A. Higgins (004)

St. Mark's UMC (Easton District)  
Member of UMC for 35 years

**Offices held or services given:** 1. In the local church: Secretary, Administrative Board; Facilitator, Disciple Classes; Bible Studies (long term & short term); Greeter/Usher/Coffee Fellowship; Visitation; Choir; Sunday school; United Methodist Youth Fellowship; Vacation Bible School; United Methodist Women (Food Pantry, Birthday Parties at St. Mark's Village, Services at The House In The Pines, Support monthly Mid-Shore Council On Family Violence). 2. In the District: President, United Methodist Women; Vice President, United Methodist Women; Member, District Committee on Ministry; Member, Board of Laity; Member, District Committee on Superintendency; Member, District Council. 3. In the Annual Conference: Hospitality Chair, Annual Conference Sessions Team; Equalization Member, Annual Conference; Member, United Methodist Women - Missions Team; Committee on Charter for Racial Justice; School of Christian Mission Team; Nominations Team. 4. In the Community: Served in the United States Navy; American Legion Talbot Post 76 (Member, Chaplain, Service Officer, Charity Chair and Ladies Auxiliary); Chaplain, American Legion North Eastern Shore District; Ladies Auxiliary Member, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5118; Member, Local Voiture 1371 (40 & 8); Secretary, Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery Committee; 4-H; Chaperone and Secretary to Band Boosters, Colonel Richardson Middle/High School.

**Nominator's Statement:** "Ruth A. Higgins is a life-long member of St. Mark's UMC in Easton, Maryland. She was born and raised in Easton and attended schools in Easton as well as Talbot County Vocational Technical School where she obtained her LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse) degree while in high school. Ruth was active at St. Mark's growing up. She was a member of the Talbot County 4-H for 10 years, was involved with the Easton High School Band Front and Talbot Post 70 Majorettes. During her summer months, Ruth worked as a Mental Health Career Student at the Eastern Shore Hospital Center in Cambridge. Upon graduating from high school Ruth went to work at the Eastern Shore Hospital Center as a LPN until she joined the U.S. Navy. Ruth joined the service because of her willingness to serve her country and her love of the water. Upon returning to civilian life, she began working at the Upper Shore Community Mental Health Center in



Ruth A. Higgins

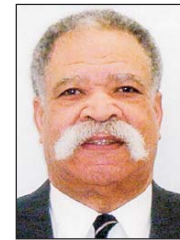
Chestertown, Maryland. Ruth retired from nursing in 1991. She has one daughter, Jennifer, whom Ruth credits as being her greatest accomplishment. Ruth has served many ministries of the Methodist Church and her community. Her family is a close, Christian family. She had great examples of serving God growing up from her grandparents, as well as her parents. Ruth is engaged to be married to Tim, who is her greatest supporter. Ruth notes that her focus is on God and Country, serving her community and giving back to others."

## Harvey W. Hyland, Jr. (005)

New Zion UMC (Dover District)  
Member of UMC for 22 years

**Offices held or services given:** 1. In the local church: Lay Member to Annual Conference; Lay Leader: Past Service: Chair, Finance Committee; Chair, Trustee Committee; Chair, Pastor Parish Relations Committee; Construction Superintendent; 2) Member, Superintendency Committee.

**Nominator's Statement:** "Harvey is a life-long resident of Laurel, Delaware where he lives with his wife, Moezell, and they have three children. Harvey graduated from William C. Jason High School in Georgetown and enrolled in Delaware State College. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and spent four years in the military. He came back home and completed his college education that he had started before joining the Air Force. With our pastor's blessing, we would like to nominate Harvey, a devoted Christian and committed family man. He has worked long and hard in our church and community. He will make an excellent delegate."



Harvey W. Hyland, Jr

## Luray McClung (006)

Hickory Hill UMC (Dover District)  
Member of UMC for 50 years

**Offices held or services given:** 1. In the local church: Administrative Council; Outreach/Evangelism; Education; Worship; Lay Leader; Chair, Nominations; President and Vice President, UMW; Historian; Methodist Youth Fellowship; Director, Children's Choir; Teacher, Adult Sunday school; choir member; Prayer Warrior; Leader, Bible Studies. 2) In the District: Member, Board of Lay Ministries; Associate Lay Leader; Member, Lay Speaking Committee; Instructor, Lay Academy; Preached Evangelistic message in 20 worship services. 3) In the Annual Conference: Member and Secretary, Board of Lay Ministries; Member, Nominating Committee; Member, Enabling Ministries Resource Team; Participant, Nurturing Wholeness in Community. 4) In the Community: Member, Sussex County Library Advisory Board; Volunteer, Green Valley Terrace Rehabilitation and Nursing Home (visited and read scripture); Gideon's Auxiliary - placed Bibles in Dr.'s and Dentist offices.

**Nominator's Statement:** "Luray Mitchell McClung of Hickory Hill UMC is the daughter of the late Wilbur Mitchell and Katherine Wingate Mitchell of Millsboro. Born August 20th, 1944, she grew up on a farm west of Millsboro. In August of 1956, at Carey's Camp, she accepted Christ as her personal savior. She graduated from Millsboro High School, class of '62, East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina, class of '66 and Salisbury University with a Master's of Education Degree in 1974. Her husband of 38 years is Harry Ray McClung of Ocean View. The McClung's have two sons, Aaron and Asher. She retired May 4, 2006 after 40 years in education. Luray welcomes this opportunity to serve God in a new experience. She currently serves as the Dover District Associate Lay Leader and is prayerfully passionate about evangelism, spiritual renewal, rededication to God and to the work God has already planned, in advance, for us to do."



Luray McClung

## Howard J. Mason (007)

Mt. Olivet UMC (Dover District)  
Member of UMC for 60+ years



Howard J.  
Mason

**Offices held or services given:** 1. In the local church: Lay Elder; Coordinator, Lay Speaking; Chair, SPRC; Lay Member, Annual Conference: Past Service: "I have held all positions except the Treasurer." 2) In the District: Instructor/Member, Lay Speaking Committee; Past Service: Director, Lay Speaking; Lay Leader; Member, Superintendency Committee; Member, Council on Ministries; Member, District Superintendent's Office Re-Location Committee: 3) In the Annual Conference: Co-Chair, Advocacy Resource Team; Member, Conference Trustees; Member, Vision Team; Executive Committee Member, United Methodist Men; Member, Area Episcopacy Committee: Past Service: Conference Lay Leader; Associate Lay Leader; Director of Lay Speaking; Member, Board of Global Ministries; Member, United Methodist Men Board; Secretary, Nominations Committee; Member, Annual Conference Sessions Committee; Member, Camping and Retreat Ministries: 4) In the Community: Walk To Emmaus; President, Gideons, North Camp; Member, Del-Tech College Advisory Board; Member, Wilmington School District Advisory Board; Member, 'Industry Week' Magazine Advisory Board; Member, General Board of Church and Society for two terms; Vice President, Jurisdictional Board of Laity; member, Jurisdictional Boundaries Committee; Member, Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee; Member, Jurisdictional By-Laws and Constitution Committee; Delegate, Jurisdictional Conference 1992, 96, 2000, and 2004 (co-chaired in 1996 and 2000; Delegate, General Conference 1992, 96, 2000 (co-chaired 1996 and 2000); Member, New Program Editorial Board for Lay Speaking; Laity screener for General Conference Laity Address.

**Nominator's Statement:** "Howard J. Mason has a true servant's heart. He has tirelessly, consistently, and generously given of himself—his time, talents and treasures—in commitment to serving Christ. Howard is abundantly willing to serve on every level of the United Methodist Church. Along with his willingness he brings a wealth of experience, a comprehensive knowledge of the United Methodist Church and its leaders, and a clarity of mind in dealing with a wide range of issues. He is also fair-minded and balanced. He is willing to hear the views of others without a judgmental spirit. I believe that nearly every waking hour of Howard's life is devoted to some project in which he is serving Christ on some level of church involvement. Yet, there is never any hint of complaint about being overworked. He does everything with such a very joyful spirit that he does not arouse antagonism or contribute to conflict. I count it a joy and a privilege, as his pastor, to submit his name for nomination."

— Thomas F. Gross

## Ruth Oatman (008)

Newark UMC (Wilmington District)  
Member of UMC for 27 years



Ruth Oatman

**Offices held or services given:** 1. In the local church: Chair, Congregational Care Team; Stephen Minister and Trainer; Lay Member to Annual Conference: Past Service: Co-Chair, Stewardship Team: 2) In the Community: Member, Newark Arts Alliance.

**Nominator's Statement:** "Ruth Oatman grew up in India, the daughter of Lutheran missionaries. She and her husband, Lynn, joined Newark UMC in 1980. During that time, Ruth has been active in many teams at her church, singing in the choir, co-chair of the Believers in Action (Stewardship Team), and currently chairs the Congregational Care Team which she started in 2005. Ruth is also an active Stephen Minister and is currently a trainer. She has been one of Newark's lay representatives to Annual Conference since 2004. As a compassionate, caring Christian, Ruth would like to see the United Methodist Church live up to its declaration to be a community of Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors."

## Dona Rayne (009)

Grace UMC (Dover District)  
Member of UMC for 39 years



Dona Rayne

**Offices held or services given:** 1. In the local church: Director, Discipleship; Chair, Missions; Chair, Council on Ministries: 2) In the District: Member, District Mission Area Ministry Council; Certified Lay Leader (Salisbury and Dover): 3) In the Annual Conference: Co-Chair, Vision Team; Member, Spiritual Formation Team; Chair, Small Groups Task Force; Prayer Co-Chair, Pecometh Capital Campaign: 4) In the Community: Member and President, Agape Project, Inc.; Chair, Berlin Heritage Foundation.

**Nominator's Statement:** "It was 1962 at Camp Pecometh that I had my first personal encounter with Jesus. My journey has been one of joys and sorrows, victories and challenges mingled with much forgiveness and grace. I am grateful for experiences through ministries such as Lay Witness Missions, Emmaus, Volunteers in Missions, Lay Speaking Ministries and others that have been an integral part of my training and equipping. Many opportunities have afforded me the occasion to serve in various leadership roles in the local church, district, and conference. In 2004 I completed a four-year degree, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Bible and a minor in Leadership, went to General Conference in Pittsburgh as an alternate Lay delegate, served as a delegate to the Jurisdictional Conference in Syracuse, and became the Director of Discipleship at Grace United Methodist Church in Millsboro. Since 1995, my call to ministry and mission in the community is lived out through Agape Project, Inc., a faith-based ecumenical min-

istry to single mothers and their children. We serve more than 200 single mothers in Worcester, Somerset, Wicomico and southern Sussex County. For the last six years I have served as their board chair."

## Megan Shitama (010)

Chesapeake City Charge  
(Wilmington District)  
Member of UMC for 11 years



Megan  
Shitama

**Offices held or services given:** 1. In the local church: Youth Director, Trinity & Town Point UMC/Jacob's Well: 2) In the Annual Conference: Member, The Bridge Young Adult Event Task Force; Member, Council on Youth Ministry.

**Nominator's Statement:** Over the years I have been involved in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference in many ways. I was a member of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries from 1998-2001. I worked at Camp Pecometh during the summer from 2000-2001 and from 2004 to the present, and am currently working as the Youth Director at the Chesapeake City Charge. I am also on the task force that is planning "The Bridge 2007" young adult event. I am an Exploring Candidate for Ordination, and am attending Wesley Theological Seminary part time. I also attended the UM Young People's Global Convocation and Legislative Assembly in South Africa this winter, where I worked on legislation that would be approved by youth and young adults, and sent on to General Conference. I hope to attend General Conference in order to represent our Annual Conference and follow up on legislation from the Global Convocation Assembly."

## William E. Westbrook, Jr. (011)

Kingswood UMC (Wilmington District)  
Member of UMC for 37 years



William E.  
Westbrook, Jr.

**Offices held or services given:** 1. In the local church: Financial Secretary, Kingswood UMC; Choir Member; Sunday School Teacher (Jr. & Sr. High); Chair, Finance Committee; Chair, Board of Trustees; Usher: 2) In the Annual Conference: Conference Treasurer; ex-officio member of the following: Board of Pensions, Council on Finance and Administration; Board of Trustees; Vision Team; Investment Committee; Congregational Development Corporation; Secretary, Eastern Pennsylvania Peninsula United Methodist Foundation.

**Nominator's Statement:** "William (Bill) Westbrook has been a life-long member of Kingswood United Methodist Church. He has served in several leadership positions at Kingswood and is currently serving as the Financial Secretary. He enjoys singing in the choir and sharing in the teaching of Junior/Senior High Sunday school. His example in servant ministry has also been demonstrated at the Conference level as well. Holding the position as Director of Administrative Services/Treasurer for the last 12 years, he has served as an ex-officio member of the Council on Finance and Administration, Board of Trustees, Board of Pensions, and several other committees as well as the secretary for the Eastern Pennsylvania Peninsula Foundation. He is also committed to his wife of 27 years, Mary Lou, and his three children, Aileen, Derrick and Sarah. When time permits, he enjoys working in his garden as a way of connecting with the beauty of God's creation."

## Lay Delegate Nominee Jurisdictional Conference Only

## Arelela H. Cray (012)

St. Luke UMC (Salisbury District)  
Member of UMC for 54 years



Arelela H.  
Cray

**Offices held or service given:** 1. In the local church: Presently—Member of the Senior Choir; President, UMW, Member, Administrative Council: Past Service: Sunday School Teacher, Chair, Mission Committee. 2) In the District: member, UMW; President, UMW; Member, District Board of Laity; Chair, District Nominations Committee. 3) In the Annual Conference: Presently—Member, Enabling Ministry Resource Team; Member, UMW Nomination

Committee: Past Service: Member, Annual Conference Sessions Committee, Member, Vision Team; President, UMW. 4. In the Community: Volunteer, Deers Head Hospital; Mentor, Student Teachers; Tutor, Children and Young Adults.

**Nominator's Statement:** "I live in Mardela Springs, Maryland. I am a member of St. Luke United Methodist Church in Hebron since 1979. Previously, I was reared and a member of John Wesley United Methodist Church in Mardela. Many capable leaders in the United Methodist Church have inspired my life. As a youth, I was a member of the Methodist Youth Fellowship, taught Sunday school and sang in the choir. I continue to serve my Lord and Savior in the local church and would like to continue to serve in the Kingdom building process."

**Annual Conference**  
**June 8-10, 2007**  
**University of Maryland —**  
**Eastern Shore**  
**Princess Anne, Maryland**