

2000 General Conference Nominations to University Senate

Chief Executive Officer of United Methodist-related Educational Institutions

Wanda Bigham

President, Huntingdon College in Montgomery, Alabama, received a B. A. in music education and higher education from Morehead State University, a doctorate in higher education from the University of Kentucky, a certificate from Harvard University's Institute for Educational Management, and is a Fellow in Academic Administration of the American Council on Education. She serves on the University Senate and the National Association of Schools and Colleges. Listed in *Community Leaders of America* and in four different *Who's Who* volumes, Dr. Bigham received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Murray State University and was named to the Alumni Hall of Fame from Morehead State University in 1988.

Thomas W. Cole, Jr.

No biographical sketch submitted.

Mark Collier

No biographical sketch submitted.

James Evans Douthat

President, Lycoming College, 1989–present. Ed.D, M. Div., Duke University; B.A., The College of William and Mary. Selected Current Appointments: Chair and Director, Pennsylvania Humanities Council; Director, Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Universities; Director, Pennsylvania Education Telecommunication Exchange Network; Director, WVIA (public radio/television); Director, Williamsport Chamber of Commerce; Director, Susquehanna Regional Healthcare Alliance; Director, Susquehanna Physicians Services, Inc.; Director, Council of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania; Director, Keystone Financial Bank, N.A. Selected Other Activities: Executive Committee, National Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities of The United Methodist Church 1991–95; Graduate, Institute for Educational Management, Harvard University, 1984.

Kevin LaGree

President of Simpson College, Indianola, IA. Previously, he was dean and professor of divinity at the Candler School of Theology, Emory University. An ordained elder and a member of the Iowa Annual Conference and the University Senate, he has served appointments in the Kansas East and North Georgia Annual Conferences. A graduate of the University of Kansas, Harvard Law School and Saint Paul School of Theology, he writes and teaches about leadership, focusing on church leadership as a practice of faith for both laity and clergy.

David Maldonado, Jr.

President of Iliff School of Theology as of June 1, 2000. Specializing in the study of aging and Hispanic studies, he is currently Professor of Church and Society at Perkins School of Theology. He has served as Perkin's Dean for Academic Affairs. He is the author of two books and numerous articles, and has served in the University Senate. He chaired the Hispanic Summer Program Governing Board until 1999. He holds degrees from the University of California at Berkeley, Southern Methodist University, and University of Texas at El Paso, and has received several awards.

Trudie Kibbe (Preciphs) Reed

President of Philander Smith College where she developed the nation's first academic minor in Black Family Studies. Her B.A. and M.S.S.W. degrees are from the University of Texas at Austin, and her M.A. and Doctorate Degrees from Columbia University. She is a professor of Education and the founder of an international leadership journal. She served as General Secretary /iat at GCSRW and Associate General Secretary for GCOM, where she coordinated denominational initiatives for older adults, prison and deaf ministries. She was voted one of the 100 most successful women in Arkansas.

Other Positions Relevant to Academic or Financial Affairs or Church Relationships

Willa Bing-Harris

Education: B.A., Bennett College, Greensboro, NC; M.Ed., Bloomsburg University, Bloomsburg, GA; Ed.D., University of Illinois, Urbana, IL. Current Professional Employment: Professor and Coordinator for Special Education, Department Curriculum and Instruction, Alabama State University, Montgomery, AL. Past Professional Employment: Faculty: Albany State College, Albany, GA; South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, SC; Barber-Scotia College, Concord, NC. United Methodist Church Activities: Member, University Senate, 1996–Present; Administrative Council, Sunday School Teacher, Metropolitan UMC, Montgomery, AL; Lay Member to Annual Conference. Professional Affiliations: Past President, Division on Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities; Alabama Federation Council for Exceptional Children, Past President, Division of Teacher Education.

Bruce Birch

Bruce C. Birch, Dean and Professor of Old Testament at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., was educated at Southwestern College (BA), Southern Methodist University (BD), and Yale University (PhD). He has taught at Yale University, Iowa Wesleyan College and Erskine College. An ordained Elder in the Baltimore-Washington Conference, he

has served as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences and on the General Board of Church and Society. The author of fourteen books and numerous articles, Dean Birch teaches and consults widely in the church and is co-editor of the forthcoming curriculum *Steward: Living as Disciples in Everyday Life*.

Charlene R. Black

Educated at Vanderbilt University, has fifteen years experience as Associate Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Dean at Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, Georgia, where she chairs the Curriculum Council. A lifelong United Methodist, Dr. Black served eight years on the United Methodist Commission on Higher Education, was President of the Wesley Foundation Board, and Conference President of United Methodist Women. She currently serves as Conference Lay Leader, leader of the South Georgia delegation to General Conference, co-chairs the Conference Leadership Forum with the bishop, and is a trainer for Partners in Ministry.

Ted Brown

Native of Kemble, New Jersey, is a lifelong United Methodist and currently serves as President of Martin Methodist College in Pulaski, Tennessee. His academic degrees include: B.A., West Virginia Wesleyan; M. Div., and Ph.D., Vanderbilt University, with postdoctoral studies at Harvard. Dr. Brown is a Director of the National Association of Schools, Colleges, and Universities of The United Methodist Church, and holds membership in the American Association for Higher Education and the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. He and his wife, Cheryl, with their sons Teddy and Tyler, are active members of Pulaski First United Methodist Church.

Maxie D. Dunnam

President of Asbury Theological Seminary. He holds the following academic degrees: B.S.D., University of Southern Mississippi; M. Th., Candler School of Theology, Emory University; B.D. Asbury Theological Seminary. He has served churches in Mississippi, Georgia, California, and Tennessee. He was one of the presidents of the World Methodist Council and Chair of World Evangelism. The author of 31 books, he is former world editor of *The Upper Room*.

Sheila Flemming

No biographical sketch submitted.

Willie Jones

Dean of Students, Compton College, Compton California, Dr. Jones is active in his local church, district and annual conference. His service includes: President of the Long Beach District Union, Conference Board of Laity, Conference Board of Higher Education; President, Board of Directors of The Salvation Army; South Coast Ecumenical Council (Long Beach); President, Affirmative Action Commission, Compton, California; Los Angeles County Planning Committee; President, Paul Robeson Players Cultural Commission. His commitment, knowledge, and experience make him an excellent candidate. He is a lay delegate to the 2000 General Conference.

Yong S. Lee

A lay delegate to General Conference from the Iowa Annual Conference. From 1988 to 1996, he served on the General Council on Finance and Administration, and from 1996 to 2000, on the Connectional Process Team. Dr. Lee is a Professor of Political Science and Public Administration at Iowa State University. He is the recipient of several awards and grants from the United States Science Foundation and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

Robin Lovin

Robin W. Lovin is Dean and Professor of Ethics at Perkins School of Theology of Southern Methodist University. From 1991–94, he was Dean at the Theological School of Drew University. His teaching career includes service as an instructor at Candler School of Theology of Emory University and faculty member at the Divinity School of the University of Chicago. A member of the North Texas Conference, he has written extensively on religion and law and comparative religious ethics. He was President of the Society of Christian Ethics for 1999–2000 and serves as Vice-President of the Association of United Methodist Theological Schools.

Marjorie Suchocki

School of Theology at Claremont. No biographical sketch submitted.

Leslie Wessman

Sonneveldt Professor of Education at Hope College in Holland, Michigan where she has taught for the past ten years. She was the chair of the West Michigan Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry for 12 years, and chaired the Campus Ministry Committee of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry for two quadrennia, from 1989–96. During her tenure on the General Board she participated in several writing task groups. She is a member of Holland First United Methodist Church.

Judicial Council Nominations

Laypersons

Rodolfo Beltran

Attorney Rodolfo C. Beltran, admitted Philippine Bar 1960; Veteran Central Conference lawyer, with expertise in

church cases; 40 years continuous practice law; Conference Lay Leader, three-time delegate General Conference; Chairperson and member of various Boards of Trustees, UMC universities, hospitals, seminary and schools; 22 years legal counsel annual conference; 40 years delegate Philippine Central Conference; chairperson Philippine Central Conference Committee Episcopacy and Board of Trustees 1996–2000; past member GCOM 1988–1994; assigned to four years study homosexuality; present member Commission on General Conference 1996–2004; master mason. Farmer, tennis player. If elected, most willing to serve the general church. Philippine Central Conference.

Lonnie D. Brooks

Mr. Brooks retired after thirty-two years of lay ministry as a geophysicist working in Alaska, Canada, Greenland and arctic Russia. He has experience in industry, management, resources, resolving conflicts, negotiating contract terms, and dealing with complex technical issues. A lifelong United Methodist, he has spent more than thirty years interpreting *The Book of Discipline* and has been involved in general church judicial processes for five years, submitting briefs and presenting oral arguments. He hold a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Georgia Tech. Alaska Missionary Conference, Western Jurisdiction.

Evelynn "Lynn" Caterson

Lifelong United Methodist, Ms. Caterson's lay ministry has included: Judicial Council member for two quadrennia certified lay speaker-over 20 years; Council on Ministries Chair, 15 years; Program for Children in Violent Homes Coordinator; singing and directing choirs; lay member, Board of Ordained Ministry, conference COSROW Chair for two quadrennia. As an attorney, she has served as county assistant prosecutor, municipal court judge and city council member and president. Currently, has her own law firm specializing in labor and employment law, areas which have been a part of many recent Judicial Council decisions. Northeastern Jurisdiction.

James Lamark Cox, Sr.

James Lamark Cox, Sr. is the Lay Leader of the Liberia Annual Conference and Associate Lay Leader of the Africa Central Conference. He is a senator from Maryland County of the Republic of Liberia and the minority leader of the Liberian Senate. He has served as County Superintendent, Deputy Director General, Labor Affairs, and Assistant Secretary of Labor, Department of Commerce and Industry of the Liberian government. He holds degrees in economics from Howard University and New York University. He is married to a United Methodist clergyperson. Liberia Conference, Central Conference.

Mary A. Daffin

Mary A. Daffin, attorney, is a partner in the firm of Barrett, Burke, Wilson, Castle, Daffin & Frappier, L.L.P., Houston, Texas. She served as Assistant U. S. Attorney in the Southern District of Texas from 1978–1982. She is licensed to practice before: Texas Supreme Court, U. S. Supreme Court, U.S. District Courts/Southern, Northern, Western, Eastern Districts

of Texas. She also serves as Adjunct Professor of Law, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Texas Southern University and member of the Methodist Hospital Board. She has served as chair of the Council on Ministries, Administrative Board, and Staff-Parish Relations Committee; sings in the choir and teaches church school at First United Methodist Church in Houston. Texas Conference, South Central Jurisdiction.

Paul Ervin

An attorney and Executive Vice-President of the Foundation for Evangelism. He has served the church in the following ways: President of the National Association of Conference Lay Leaders, Conference Chancellor, Delegate to General, Jurisdictional, and British Methodist Conferences; chaired the Discipleship legislative committee at the 1996 General Conference. He served on the Vision 2000 National Advisory Committee, the Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee, has been a trustee of Gammon Theological Seminary and a former president of the Judicial Council. He and his wife, Katharine, have four children. North Georgia Conference, Southeastern Jurisdiction.

Daniel F. Evans, Jr.

Dan Evans, a member of Meridian Street UMC, Indianapolis, has served multiple terms on the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, Board of Trustees, Administrative Board and Long-Range Planning Committee. He is Chairman of Methodist Hospital of Indiana. Dan serves as Chancellor of the South Indiana Conference and Chairperson of the Large Gift Fund Raising Campaign to build two dormitories at Africa University. He has advised the Indiana Area Bishop on numerous church trial proceedings. Dan is a partner in the Indianapolis office of Baker & Daniels with a primary practice in general corporate, not-for-profit organizations and administrative law. South Indiana Conference, North Central Jurisdiction.

Oscar R. Ferrer

Oscar R. Ferrer is a member of the Central United Methodist Church of Manila, Philippines. Elected as a lay delegate to the 2000 General Conference and the Philippines Central Conference, Mr. Ferrer has served the church in a variety of capacities. He chaired his local church council, has been the president of United Methodist Men in his local church, his district, and the annual conference. A son of a bishop, he holds degrees in journalism and law. He practices law in Manila and is also a columnist for a church newspaper. Philippines Central Conference.

Theophilous Gambe

Attorney and senior partner in Gambe and Chinyenze Associates Law Firm. Conference Chancellor for the Zimbabwe Annual Conference. Chairperson of the Education Committee of the Law Society of Zimbabwe. In this capacity, his committee is the watchdog for maintenance of high training standards for lawyers. He is also a committee member of the Ethics Committee of the Law Society of Zimbabwe. A member of the Chisipiti United Methodist Church in Harare,

Theophilous Gambe volunteers a lot of his time to train local churches in reference to *The Book of Discipline*. Zimbabwe Annual Conference, Central Conference.

Sally Geis

Sally B. Geis, three-time delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences, served on three general agencies: Council on Finance and Administration, Higher Education and Ministry, Church and Society. She participated in consultations in Harare, Zimbabwe and Nairobi, Kenya that led to the founding of Africa University. She helped found the Russia United Methodist Theological Seminary and served as executive coordinator of the United Methodist Theological Initiative in Russia. She authored and co-edited four books written to help Christians debate, in a spirit of understanding and love, controversial issues. Views of evangelical and liberal church leaders are presented. Rocky Mountain Conference, Western Jurisdiction.

Jon Gray

Jon R. Gray, Missouri West Conference, delegate General and Jurisdictional Conferences, 1988, 1992, 1996 and 2000. Board of Trustees Southern Methodist University. Graduate, Grinnell College, 1973; University of Missouri Kansas City School of Law, 1976; GBGM Crusade Scholar, 1974–76. Circuit Judge, 16th Judicial Circuit of Missouri, Kansas City, Missouri since 1987. Director of the Missouri United Methodist Foundation 1986–1997. Chair Missouri West Conference Committee on Episcopacy, 1996–2000; SCJ Committee on Episcopacy, 1996–2000. Elected first alternate lay member of The Judicial Council in 1996. Member Centennial UMC and Community of Hope UMC, a newly formed congregation in the Kansas City Area. Missouri West Conference, South Central Jurisdiction.

Edward H. Hill

Edward H. Hill, attorney, member of Polk Street United Methodist Church, Amarillo, Texas, and graduate of Texas A&M University and University of Texas Law School, has been a lay alternate to the Judicial Council the past two quadrennia. First elected lay delegate to General Conference, he has been a World Methodist Conference delegate. His local church service includes serving as a trustee, chair of the administrative board and staff-parish relations committee, and teaching Bible study. He was conference lay leader for eight years, a General Board of Global Ministries director, and a trustee of McMurry University and of Texas Methodist Foundation. Northwest Texas Conference, South Central Jurisdiction.

James Holsinger

A physician who now serves as Chancellor of Chandler Medical Center, University of Kentucky and Commonwealth Professor of Health Sciences, University of Kentucky. He was the Undersecretary for Health, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 1990–93, and a member of numerous medical associations. He has served local churches in various capacities in seven states. He has been a lay member of Annual Conference in FL, NE, GA, VA, KY, and the VA Conference Lay Leader.

Other service includes Treasurer of the World Methodist Council Executive Committee, the Episcopacy Committees of VA, KY, the SE Jurisdiction; Chair, Interjurisdictional Episcopacy Committee and General Conference delegate four times. Kentucky Conference, Southeastern Jurisdiction.

Daniel A. Ivey-Soto

A member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Mr. Ivey-Soto is active at the general church level since elected reserve delegate to the 1984 General Conference at age 16, the trial attorney 's background is in appeals. He is an adjunct professor in Law and Business at New Mexico Highlands University, and a former high school Spanish and history teacher. He holds J. D., M.B.A., and M. A. degrees. He is endorsed by the Hispanic Caucus at General Conference and the New Mexico Conference Delegation. New Mexico Conference, South Central Jurisdiction.

Steven T. Lett

An attorney who has been elected lay delegate to the North Central Jurisdictional Conference since 1992 and was a 1996 General Conference delegate. A lifelong United Methodist serving in leadership of his local congregation, Christ United Methodist Church, Mr. Lett has served as District Lay Leader. West Michigan Conference, North Central Jurisdiction.

Marc D. Loud

A partner in Loud & Loud, a Washington, D.C. litigation firm. He attends Emory UMC and serves on the PPRC, Administrative Council, Men's Bible Study and Outreach Ministries. Chairman of the United Methodist Lawyers Guild/Washington since 1997, and Co-Chairman of the BWC/UMC Non-Violence Coalition, Marc is a founder of the "Justice Harry Blackmun Summer Law College for Teens" program. Prior to private practice, Marc served as Deputy Chief of Staff/Deputy Legal Counsel to former D.C. Mayor, Sharon Kelly. He also served as law clerk to the Honorable Paul R. Webber III. Baltimore-Washington Conference, Northeastern Jurisdiction.

Ann Alberty Saunkeah

The Executive Director of the Native American Comprehensive Plan and a member of Tulsa Indian United Methodist Church, Ms. Saunkeah was previously employed by Tulsa Public Schools. She holds a bachelor's and a master's degree in elementary education (curriculum and instruction development). She has served in the following capacities: Secretary for the South Central Jurisdiction Episcopacy Committee, the General Board of Discipleship, 1992–2000, The Tulsa Indian Health Center Board of Directors, and Secretary for the Ahalaya AIDS Advocacy and Support Board of Directors. Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, South Central Jurisdiction.

William L. (Ted) Todd, Jr.

Retired Associate Justice, Fourth District Court of Appeal, San Diego County, he helped develop the Three Party Settlement Conference System used while on the Superior

Court. A founding partner of his law firm, his service includes: Supervising Judge, Appellate Department, Supervising Judge of the Juvenile Court, Presiding Judge, Appellate Department and Judge of Family Law, Criminal and Civil Divisions, Special Appellate Settlement Conference Judge while on the Court of Appeal. Mr. Todd retired as Adjunct Professor of Law at California Western School of Law, San Diego, and the National Institute of Trial Advocacy. California-Pacific Conference, Western Jurisdiction.

William White

Bill White and his family are members of First UMC, Madison, WI, where he is Stewardship Chair. Bill has been Wisconsin Conference Chancellor since 1992. He has been a member of the General Council on Finance and Administration since 1991 and chaired its Legal Responsibilities Committee. He is counsel to the North Central Jurisdictional Committee on Appeals and a 1996 and 2000 Jurisdictional Conference Delegate. Bill is a senior partner in a 250 attorney law firm. A son and grandson of United Methodist pastors, he became active after taking, then teaching, the Disciple Bible Study course. Wisconsin Conference, North Central Jurisdiction.

W. Clark Williams, Jr.

W. Clark Williams, Jr. serves as Chancellor for the Virginia Annual Conference. A recent Chair of the Church Council and Staff-Parish Relations Committee in his local church, he has taught Senior High Church School class for 18 years, has taken the Disciple Bible Study class at all three courses, and has taught the Disciple Bible class for Senior Highs. He has also served as District Lay Leader and lay member of the Committee on Ordained Ministry for the Richmond, Virginia District. Associate Dean of a School of Law and Professor of Law for more than twenty years. Virginia Conference, Southeastern Jurisdiction.

Clergypersons

Keith D. Boyette

A native Virginian and lifelong United Methodist, Keith D. Boyette is an ordained elder in the Virginia Annual Conference. He is pastor of Wilderness Community United Methodist Church in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Licensed to practice law in Virginia since 1978 and in Kentucky since 1991, Mr. Boyette was a trial attorney with a large Richmond, Virginia, law firm from 1978–1991. He has been the senior attorney in many cases at the state, federal trial, and appellate levels. He has submitted numerous briefs to and presented oral arguments before the Judicial Council. Virginia Conference, Southeastern Jurisdiction.

Elsie J. Crickard

The Rev. Ms. Elsie J. Crickard, 53, is an elder in the Kansas West Annual Conference. A five-time delegate to General Conference, she chaired the 1992 conference delegation. She has served on the General Board of Church and Society and the General Council on Finance and Administration. A graduate of Saint Paul School of Theology,

she has served small rural and large urban churches. She has served as a district superintendent and has chaired the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. She and her husband, the Rev. Mr. Burr Crickard, have three children. Kansas West Conference, South Central Jurisdiction.

Frank B. Davies

The Rev. Dr. Davies is a medical doctor and senior pastor, born and educated in Sierra Leone. He did his medical training in Germany and received his theological education at the Theological Hall and Church Training College in Freetown, Sierra Leone. His service record includes: Chair of the Medical Board, Member of the Council on Finance and Administration, and member of the Board of Ordained Ministry. He and his wife have three children. Sierra Leone Conference, Central Conference.

Ralph Laurence Dill III

Ralph Laurence Dill, a Doctor of Ministry graduate of Candler, served rural, suburban, new church and urban appointments prior to appointment in 1994 to Trinity UMC, Huntsville, AL. He was District Superintendent, Birmingham-East District. In the North Alabama Conference, he has served as: Trustee, Huntingdon College; Chair, Board of Pensions; President, Council on Finance and Administration; Vice-Chair, Structure Committee, Denman Evangelism Award. Dr. Dill has served twice as Council for the Conference in Church Trials. At the 2000 General Conference, he completes eight years as a member of the General Council on Finance and Administration. North Alabama Conference, Southeastern Jurisdiction.

Philip Fenn

Phil Fenn is senior minister of McFarlin UMC, a “town-and-gown” church near Oklahoma University, which he has served for twenty years. He has involved himself in a career-long pursuit of Biblical and theological studies, especially Wesleyan studies. Phil has served as chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry, Conference Administrative Council, Insurance Committee; elected to multiple General and Jurisdictional Conferences; currently serves as chair of the Order of Elder and as a member of GCOSROW. Phil is committed to a close adherence to the Constitution and *Discipline* with a reliance on listening, thinking, praying and researching church records and legislation. Oklahoma Conference, South Central Jurisdiction.

Thomas H. (Tom) Griffith

Pastor under appointment for 29 years, with both M. Div., M.B.A, Tom has served as both Counsel for the Church and Counsel for the Defense in church trials. He has served as defense advocate in almost 30 other disciplinary cases in three annual conferences. Knowledgeable about *The Book of Discipline*, known and respected by members of the Judicial Council, he has served on the Annual Conference Board of Pensions, Commission on Equitable Compensation, Conference Nominating Committee, and District Committee on Ordained Ministry. He is committed to full inclusiveness of all

in the church, regardless of theological differences. California-Pacific Conference, Western Jurisdiction.

Susan Henry-Crowe

Ordained Elder, South Carolina, 1977. Appointments: Emory University, Dean of the Chapel and Religious Life, 1997–Present, Chaplain, 1991–97; South Carolina Council on Ministries Director, 1989–91, Associate, 1985–89; Pastoral Appointment (3), 1976–85. General Church: Judicial Council, 1992–2000; General Conference Delegate, 1980/84/88 (Reserve); General Commission on Communication, General Council Missional Priority. Annual Conference Preacher: South Carolina, East Michigan, North Alabama Ordination Service. Adjunct Faculty, Candler School of Theology, 1992–2000. Awards: Foundation for Christian Higher Education, Chaplain of the Year, 2000; Candler School of Theology, Alumni/ae Service Award, 1995. South Carolina Conference, Southeastern Jurisdiction.

Belton F. Joyner, Jr.

The Rev. Dr. Joyner currently serves as Administrative Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Ministerial Relations. He is an instructor of United Methodist Ministry, Theology in the Wesleyan Spirit for Duke University's Course of study. Educated at Duke and Drew Universities, he has served as CCOM Director, district superintendent, trustee for three colleges, and a local church pastor for eighteen years. His connectional experience includes: delegate to six General and Jurisdictional Conferences, 12 years with the United Methodist Publishing House Board, the Conference Sexual Ethics Task Force and its Structure Task Force. North Carolina Conference, Southeastern Jurisdiction.

Larry Pickens

Pastor of Maple Park United Methodist Church. Larry and his wife, Debra, have one child – Jessica – age six. Larry holds a Master of Divinity Degree from Garrett-Evangelical Seminary, a Doctorate of Ministry from Chicago Theological Seminary and a Juris Doctorate degree from DePaul University College of Law. Larry is also a graduate of Bossey, a graduate school of the World Council of Churches. He practices law in Illinois and South Carolina. Larry is an alternate to the Judicial Council of The United Methodist Church. He has served as a director of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns. Northern Illinois Conference, North Central Jurisdiction.

Thomas Shanklin

Rev. Thomas Shanklin, author of several articles on the Judicial Council, has served as Secretary of the Troy Annual Conference for twelve years. He earned the M.Div. and S.T.M. degrees from Drew University Theological School, and did post-graduate work in Methodist History, Bible and Theology. Rev. Shanklin has pastored churches in Kansas, New Jersey, Vermont, and New Hampshire. With keen interest in our denomination, he wrote an essay entitled, "Arbitrations and Trials of Members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, 1776–1860." His ability to think clearly about ministry,

theology and administration has earned him respect from clergy and laity. Troy Conference, Northeastern Jurisdiction.

Robert K. Sweet, Jr.

The Rev. Dr. Robert K. Sweet, Jr., of the New England Conference, has served as first and second alternate to the Judicial Council. For twelve years he served on the Northeastern Jurisdiction Committee on Appeals, eight as chairperson. All appeals to the Judicial Council were upheld. During a time of major transition on GCCUIC, he chaired the Personnel Committee. Bob has pastored four local churches and one District. He has chaired the Conference Council on Ministries and the Conference Relations Committee. He holds S.T.M. and D. Min. degrees from Hartford Seminary. Bob is known as a bridge builder. New England Conference, Northeastern Jurisdiction.

Francine Taylor-Thirus

The Rev. Dr. Taylor-Thirus is pastor of St. Andrew's United Methodist Church in the fast-growing western suburbs of Chicago. An African-American woman, she is a graduate of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and holds a Juris Doctorate from Creighton University in Nebraska. The mother of three grown children, the Rev. Dr. Taylor brings a rich background to her work. A former public school teacher and Chicago state's attorney, she embodies a deep love for the church and a thorough knowledge and respect for its order and discipline. She would be "grace-under-fire" as a jurist for United Methodists. Northern Illinois Conference, North Central Jurisdiction.

Jane Tews

Jane Tews, ordained Elder in 1980, is a member of Desert Southwest Conference and currently serves as the Central East District Superintendent. After graduating from the School of Theology at Claremont, Jane served churches in Phoenix and was the Director of Wesley Foundation at Arizona State University. While serving at ASU, she received her Juris. D. from the College of Law at ASU. Jane has been a member of the Arizona State Bar since 1985 and was appointed a Municipal Court Judge in 1991. Jane was elected First Alternate to the Judicial Council in 1996. Desert Southwest Conference, Western Jurisdiction.

Linda Thomas

Throughout her academic studies and ministry, Linda Thomas has focused on the ability of the church to heal societal wounds. In addition to serving local churches, she has had appointment to three UMC seminaries: Wesley Theological Seminary, Iliff School of Theology and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. COSROW past president. Research as a scholar has focused on the church in South Africa, specifically ways black South African Christians used rituals of healing to fight against oppression in an apartheid era. Currently Associate Professor of Theology and Anthropology and Director of the Church and the Black Experience at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL. Northern Illinois Conference, North Central Jurisdiction.

Theodore "Ted" Walter

Member Judicial Council; Delegate General and Jurisdictional Conferences and Chair Legislative Committee, 1984; GBHEM Chair Global Higher Education, 1980-88; Africa University Site Committee, 1987; World Methodist Council, 1981-2001. Wofford College, AB; Emory University, M Div.; Honorary Doctorates: Columbia College 1988, Wofford College 1996; Ordained deacon 1957, elder 1961; Married Pegilie Price, four sons; Appointments: five local churches, two districts; currently Coordinator Clergy Services. Born May 15, 1934. Conference: Wesley Foundation, Parliamentarian 1984-92. Higher Education and Campus Ministries, Council on Ministries, Epworth Board, Chair Trustees Columbia College, 1986-88; Cabinet UMW Representative, 1977-83; Chair Board of Ordained Ministry. South Carolina Conference, Southeastern Jurisdiction.