



NOMINATION

BIOGRAPHIES

2014

District Board of Administration

District Board of Administration

The district board of administration consists of the district superintendent, the assistant district superintendent, the district secretary, the district treasurer and members-at-large elected by the District Conference. Each member-at-large of a district board of administration shall be a covenant member of a local Wesleyan church. A ministerial member-at-large shall be chosen from among the ordained ministers of the district.

Duties of the District Board include:

- (1) To serve as the chief governing body of the district in the interim of district conference sessions.
- (2) To carry out the plans and objectives of the district conference and the general church.
- (3) To adopt an annual budget of income and expense for the district.
- (4) To administer the district's plan for raising the United Stewardship Fund.
- (5) To plan and conduct conventions, institutes or seminars for pastors and other workers in the district, promoting such for the purpose of spiritual refreshment, leadership development and greater efficiency.
- (6) To serve the district conference as a committee on pastoral relations and ministerial appointments.
- (7) To have the general oversight of all district officials, district departmental officers, boards, committees, employees, auxiliary organizations of the district; to approve their plans and to coordinate their work.
- (8) To exercise authority over district property and other legal affairs.

DISTRICT BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION – MINISTERIAL NOMINEES

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GEORGE, ROBIN



Robin has been walking with the Lord for 46 years and has pastored for 35 of those years. He was ordained in 1979 and serves full-time as Senior Pastor of Brookside Wesleyan Church in Wellsville, NY. Most of Robin's ministry (30 years) has been in this district except for four years as an assistant pastor in the Indiana South District. He serves the Western New York District as a member and Secretary to the District Board of Administration, as CYC Director (11 years), led many children's camps, taught at Houghton Family Camp, and has served several times as a General Conference Delegate.

ODEN, WES



Wes has been a follower of Christ for 43 years and has pastored for 25 of those years. He was ordained in 1986 and serves full-time as Senior Pastor of Houghton Wesleyan Church. He has served in that capacity for 15 years. Previous to that Wes pastored 11 years in the Wisconsin District, serving as their Assistant District Superintendent, chairing their District Board of Ministerial Development and as Director of Global Partners. In this district, he currently serves on the District Board of Administration. He is married to Rev. Cindy Oden who is also a pastor at Houghton Wesleyan Church. Wes and Cindy have two grown sons.

SHAMBACH, JASON



Jason has grown up learning to love and follow the Lord throughout his whole life. Since 2010, he has been serving the rural community in and around Canaseraga, NY while guiding Valley Wesleyan Church to do the same. Previously, he was assistant director of a Christian conference and retreat center in New Jersey while finishing his M.Div. at Asbury Theological Seminary. Jason has served on the District Action Committee. He is husband to Daniella Shambach and father to four children.

STRAND, STEVE



Steve has been walking with the Lord for forty-eight years and has pastored and been a missionary for twenty-six of those years. He was ordained in 1987 and served full-time as Co-Pastor of Peace Wesleyan Church of Falconer, New York for eleven years. Previous to that, Steve pastored three years in the Western Michigan District, seven years as an Assistant Pastor (Worship, Preaching, Pastoral Care) at the Houghton Wesleyan Church, and six years as a missionary in Central America (Honduras). Steve has served this district as Director of Global Partners and has helped at Houghton Family Camp and with the Church Multiplication Task Force. From June 2008 to December 2010 he worked with the Wesleyan Church in Hispanic Ministries.

WOOD, REBECCA



Becci serves on the Pastoral Team at the Wesleyan Church of Hamburg. She and her husband, John, have been serving at WCH for 19 years. Becci was raised in the Wesleyan Denomination and appreciates her strong Christian heritage from her family and Wesleyan ties. Becci previously served on the DBA and DBMD, but needed to step away from those positions as a lay representative as she prepared for ordination in 2011. She has also served in the leadership of many denominational conventions, including the upcoming Gathering for pastors and spouses in January 2015 and General Conference to be held here in Buffalo in June 2016. Becci's passion is to see The Church be effective in how God designed her to be used for His purposes.

CONTINUING TO SERVE TWO YEAR TERMS AS MINISTERIAL

REPRESENTATIVES:

- Dr. Steve Dunmire (Houghton College, Church Relations)
- Dr. Christopher Baldwin (The Vine Wesleyan Church, Senior Pastor)

DISTRICT BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION – LAY NOMINEES

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BUBAR, MATTHEW



Matt felt God's call on his life at a young age and chose to give his life to Christ after an evening service at his Dad's church. He moved to Western New York after graduating from Wheaton College and soon began attending the Wesleyan Church of Hamburg. Matt became a covenant member in the early 2000's and later served on the board there. Matt has a wife and four elementary-middle school-aged children.

FARROW, BARBARA



Barbara is a southern girl as she was born and raised in NC. She graduated from Houghton College with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology and Bible. She received a Master's Degree from Ball State University in Indiana, and has been employed in the field of Social Work since 1980. She has been employed full time for the past sixteen years at Baker Victory Services in Lackawanna, as the Director of Preventive Services. Her most important role is being a dedicated follower of Jesus Christ since the age of 14, being a mother of three beautiful children, and being the wife of Pastor Cap Farrow for the past 34 years. Her greatest joy is doing ministry on the Westside of Buffalo, and educating suburban friends about injustices on the poor and how to help and not further hurt them. She enjoys mentoring youth and adults while being involved in a relational ministry. Her life is sold out to the cause of Christ.

HILLIKER, JUDY



Judy is a covenant member of Christ Chapel Wesleyan Church and lives in Silver Creek. She grew up in a Christian home and was raised in the Christ Chapel church all her childhood years...but has been a strong follower of Jesus Christ for 32 years. Her father and step mom, are Bob and Betty Barnett. She is the owner of Hae Jude Custom Signs and Apparel in Silver Creek and has been in business for 20 years. Judy and her husband, John Hilliker, were youth leaders at Christ Chapel for 5 years building the outreach program from about 6 teens to as high as 80 teens. She is currently on the women's ministry team and also heads up the Solid Grounds Cafe' at Christ Chapel.

DISTRICT BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION – LAY NOMINEES

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KELLEY, CATHY



Cathy is a Covenant Member at Fillmore Wesleyan Church. She is a homemaker. She has been walking with the Lord for 35 years. Over the past 36 years she has attended Wesleyan churches in Orchard Park, Cuba and Fillmore. Cathy has served on the District Board of Administration, as District Insurance Director, on the Women's Retreat Committee, the District Nominating Committee, on the District Action Committee, as Houghton Family Camp registrar, on her church's Local Board of Administration (Vice Chair), Church Treasurer, Office Manager, as VBS Director, as Local Social Concerns Director and as Preschool Financial Secretary.

KERR, RALPH



Ralph is a Covenant Member at Houghton Wesleyan Church in Houghton, NY where he has attended for the past 14 years. He has been walking with the Lord for more than 60 years. Ralph presently serves as Sunday School teacher, and as a greeter. He has also served as a worship leader and chairman of the local church board at another church. In this district, he has served on the District Board of Administration, District Board of Ministerial Development and as a delegate to District Conference. He is a retired Superintendent of Schools and serves as President of the Teaching and Learning Institute. His latest venture is serving as the General Manager of the Genesee Rapids, a baseball league affiliated with Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

ZHUANG, JUN



Jun was born in China where he did not have a chance to know God in the first 22 years of his life. In 2002 Jun came to the U.S. for graduate study when he firstly entered a church. In November 2003 Jun and his wife, Jie Zhao, were baptized in Lexington Chinese Christian Church, Lexington, Kentucky. They have been following the Lord since then and serving in local churches as lay members. Jun got an MS degree from the University of Kentucky in 2004 and a Ph.D. degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2008. In August 2008, Jun joined the University at Buffalo as an Assistant Professor in Industrial and Systems Engineering, since then Jun

DISTRICT BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION – LAY NOMINEES

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and his family have been attending Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church (EHWC) -- Chinese Church (EHWCC). Jun's father and mother visited Buffalo from China, got to know Jesus Christ, and were baptized at the EHWC in March 2010. Jun and Jie are Covenant members of the EHWC. Jun's current ministries at EHWCC include: the General Coordinator of the leadership team, a leader of the worship team, a coworker of the translator team, a coworker of the Audio/Video team, and a coworker of the website/social media team. Jun is passionate about being a disciple by spreading the Gospel as well as building up the Church.

CONTINUING TO SERVE TWO YEAR TERMS AS LAY REPRESENTATIVES

- Kim Pecora (North Collins Wesleyan Church)
- Gary Stith (Fillmore Wesleyan Church)

District Conference Action Committee

The District Conference Action Committee consists of the district superintendent, the district treasurer and from three to nine other members elected by the conference with due consideration for lay representation. The district superintendent shall be the chair or shall appoint another to serve instead, and the committee shall elect a secretary and other officers as deemed necessary. The duties of the Action Committee are:

- To receive all resolutions and memorials for the district conference, to review them, and to report them to the district conference with the committee's recommendation.
- To conduct and report on any research or investigation regarding the merits of proposed district legislation as requested by the district conference or district board of administration, or as deemed necessary by the committee.
- To assign members of the committee to study, prepare and plan any phase of the committee's work and report back to the committee.
- To review the standing rules of the district in order to make recommendations to the district conference concerning the alignment of such rules with General Conference legislation, and concerning any other necessary amendments.

ACTION COMMITTEE MINISTERIAL NOMINEES

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LONG, RICHARD



Rick has been following our Lord for 30 years. He was a mechanical engineer and manager at Dresser-Rand when he received the call into pastoral ministry in 1999. Rick served Hillside Wesleyan, Olean as Sunday school superintendent from 1990 until 2000. He was LBA vice-chair from 1992 until he became an assistant pastor in 2002. Rick started full-time ministry as the solo pastor of Hillside Wesleyan in 2004 and he was ordained in 2008. Rick has been pleased to serve on the Action Committee twice since ordination.

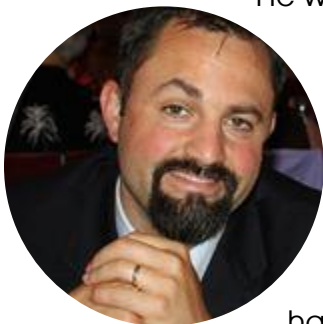
ODEN, CINDY



Cindy has been a Christian for the past 51 years. She is an Ordained Minister in the Wesleyan Church and serves as Assistant Pastor at Houghton Wesleyan Church. She has been on staff there for the past 18 years there. Cindy also serves on the District Board of Ministerial Development. She is married to Dr. Wes Oden and they have two sons.

WARD, JONATHAN

Jon has been walking with the Lord for 33 years and has pastored for 15 of those years.



He was ordained in 2000 and serves full-time as Senior Pastor of the North Park Wesleyan Church in Cuba, NY. He has served in that capacity for 8 years. Previous to that, Jon served as an Assistant Pastor in Indiana and Maryland and 4 years as a solo pastor in Kentucky. Jon also served in the Chesapeake District as assistant Director of their Junior High Summer Camp and in this district as Director of Wesleyan Men. Jon is married to Ashley Ward and they have four children.

ACTION COMMITTEE MINISTERIAL NOMINEES

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WOOD, REBECCA



Becci serves on the Pastoral Team at the Wesleyan Church of Hamburg. She and her husband, John, have been serving at WCH for 19 years. Becci was raised in the Wesleyan Denomination and appreciates her strong Christian heritage from her family and Wesleyan ties. Becci previously served on the DBA and DBMD, but needed to step away from those positions as a lay representative as she prepared for ordination in 2011. She has also served in the leadership of many denominational conventions, including the upcoming Gathering for pastors and spouses in January 2015 and General Conference to be held here in Buffalo in June 2016. Becci's passion is to see The Church be effective in how God designed her to be used for His purposes.

CAHILL, MELISSA



Melissa was raised in a Wesleyan parsonage and accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior at the age of four. She is a Covenant Member of the Brookside Wesleyan Church in Wellsville, New York where she serves as the church's Nursery Coordinator. Melissa taught in a local, Christian, elementary school for eleven years and for the past six years has served the local school districts as a substitute teacher. Each summer, she looks forward to the District Refresh Retreat where she has served as the Nursery Director for the past eleven years.

HAYES, GRAHAM



Graham has been following Jesus for 50 years. He has been a Covenant Member of the Wesleyan Church of Hamburg since 2003 where he serves as the Secretary of the Local Board of Administration. He applies his skills as a Geospatial Demographic Consultant helping churches understand the geographic distribution of their member and the potential impact on their communities.

KEDGE, SHANNON



Shannon is a covenant member of Fellowship Wesleyan Church where she has been serving the Lord for 12 years. She began working part-time as the Assistant Treasurer for the church in February 2008 and became the full time Office Manager in January 2013. She also serves on the church's Finance Committee and worship teams and is a board member of Peace of the City Ministries.

Nominating Committee

The District Nominating Committee consists of the district superintendent as chair, and two or more ministers and an equal number of lay members elected by the district conference. The elected members of the nominating committee shall not succeed themselves and may not be reelected until after a lapse of one year. The committee shall organize itself. It shall serve for one year and shall meet as called by the chair.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – LAY NOMINEES

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ALLEN, DOUGLAS



Doug has been following the Lord for 30+ years. He has been a Covenant member of the Wesleyan church for 20 years, serving as Worship Leader first at Big Tree Wesleyan Church and then Fellowship Wesleyan Church. He has also served as Worship Leader at Refresh '10, '11, '12, and '13. He is Facilities Manager for the Buffalo City Mission Society.

BARNETT, BETTY



Betty is a Covenant Member at the Wesleyan Church of Orchard Park, NY. She is a retired elementary school teacher and a homemaker. She has been walking with the Lord and has attended The Wesleyan Church of Orchard Park for more than 30 years. Betty has served as a member of the District Board of Administration, as a delegate to General Conference, as Best Years Fellowship Director along with her husband Bob, on her church's Local Board of Administration (vice chair), in the choir, as a Sunday School teacher, as Sunday School Superintendent, as Chair of Little People's Preschool Board, on the Missions Committee, as a Mentor for World Hope (Buffalo) and as a Children's Church Director.

NIGHTINGALE, SARAH



Sarah has been serving Jesus for 50 years. She is married to Rev. Rich Nightingale who has been the pastor of East Aurora Wesleyan Church for the past 20 years. Sarah is the director and a teacher in Toytown Preschool which is housed in her church. Sarah has served in many ministries on the local and district level. She has been children's ministry coordinator, adult and children's Sunday School teacher, newsletter editor and discipleship leader. She has been a Western New York District delegate to General Conference in 2008, District Wesleyan Women Director, on the District Women's Retreat Committee and as lay member for the District Board of Administration.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – MINISTERIAL NOMINEES

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FARROW, CASPER



Cap is the Pastor of Grace Community Wesleyan Church. He has been involved in the WNY District of the Wesleyan Church for 17 years. He served as the Men's Ministry Pastor at EHWC for 9 years prior to being assigned as Solo Pastor at Grace. He has studied and practiced being a servant leader, and he believes that is what God is calling young men and women to be.

SCHARA, ROBIN



Robin is Pastor of Women's Ministry and Global Missions at Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church. She is a Licensed Minister and is preparing for ordination. Robin is married to Don Schara and they have two children.

DUFFY SMITH



Duffy is a covenant member of Wesleyan Church of Hamburg and a licensed minister in our district. He is a 30+ year veteran of the Consumer Goods Industry having held executive positions with Campbell's Soup, Frito-Lay, Gerber Products, Imperial Sugar, and Rich Products. He is a partner with Summer Street Capital Partners and sits on various boards that include Northeastern Seminary's Advisory Board, the Near East Initiative – a Christian foundation in the Arab world, as well as several businesses. He works with DS Joey and pastors within the district and has been involved in a number of “consultations” with churches across districts within the Wesleyan denomination. Duffy earned a M.Div. from NES in May 2013.

CHURCH MULTIPLICATION DIRECTOR

DWYER, MIKE



Mike has served Christ for 14 years. He is an Ordained Minister in the Wesleyan Church and serves as Executive Pastor for Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church. He previously worked as an attorney and social service case worker. Mike has served his church as Men's Ministry Coordinator, adult Sunday School teacher, as a Children's Church host, usher, greeter, and as a delegate to District Conference. He has assisted in ministry at Grace Community in Buffalo, Faith Wesleyan in Cheektowaga and has served on the District Board of Administration. He is nominated as a ministerial representative for the 2012 Action Committee.

DISTRICT SECRETARY

GEORGE, ROBIN



Robin has been walking with the Lord for 46 years and has pastored for 35 of those years. He was ordained in 1979 and serves full-time as Senior Pastor of Brookside Wesleyan Church in Wellsville, NY. Most of Robin's ministry (30 years) has been in this district except for four years as an assistant pastor in the Indiana South District. He serves the Western New York District as a member and Secretary to the District Board of Administration, as CYC Director (11 years), led many children's camps, taught at Houghton Family Camp, and has served several times as a General Conference Delegate.

DISTRICT TREASURER

HOUGHTON, NADINE



Nadine is a covenant member of Angola Wesleyan Church where she has served faithfully since 1965. She came to know the Lord in 1970 under the leadership of Pastor Dick Kaylor, who was the Pastor of the church at that time. She was married to her late husband Dennis Houghton for almost 45 years. She has 4 children and 9 grandchildren. Nadine worked at Evans Bank for 47 years retiring as an assistant vice president. She is actively involved on the District level serving on the District Board of Administration, District Treasurer, and the District Wesleyan Women Team.

GLOBAL PARTNERS DIRECTOR

GLADDEN, KIMBERLY



Kimberly is currently on staff at Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church as the Small Groups Pastor and also serves as the lead Pastor of ZionQuest Christian Fellowship. A graduate of Florida A & M University (Business degree) and Colgate Rochester Divinity School (Master of Divinity degree) Rev. Gladden loves to see God's people transformed through spiritual growth opportunities and has a unique heart for missions. Having served as the former pastor of Global Missions at Eastern Hills, she has travelled to over 40 countries and has an affinity for the full spectrum of cultures and peoples God has created. In addition to her current local preaching and teaching, she has lectured for the World Council of Churches (Geneva, Switzerland), All Africa Council of Churches (Nairobi, Kenya) and as an exchange scholar at the College of Arts and Science of Beijing Union University (China). Through her ongoing mission relationships she has been in partnership with churches in the Caribbean for over 17 years. Nominated for the position of District Director of Global Partners, she enthusiastically accepts the nomination. Previously serving on the Wesleyan Global Partners Advisory Committee and as delegate to the Wesleyan World Conference in Panama she is at home in the world of missions.



STRAND, STEVE

Steve has been walking with the Lord for forty-eight years and has pastored and been a missionary for twenty-six of those years. He was ordained in 1987 and served full-time as Co-Pastor of Peace Wesleyan Church of Falconer, New York for eleven years. Previous to that, Steve pastored three years in the Western Michigan District, seven years as an Assistant Pastor (Worship, Preaching, Pastoral Care) at the Houghton Wesleyan Church, and six years as a missionary in Central America (Honduras). Steve has served this district as Director of Global Partners and has helped at Houghton Family Camp and with the Church Multiplication Task Force. From June 2008 to December 2010 he worked with the Wesleyan Church in Hispanic Ministries.