



WESTERN NEWYORK DISTRICT
of **THE WESLEYAN CHURCH**



ANNUAL DISTRICT CONFERENCE

June 19, 2021

*Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church
Williamsville, New York*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Agenda	1-2
Delegate Apportionment.....	3
Baptisms.....	4
Nominating Committee	5-6
Sample Ballot.....	7-8
DBA Summary of Action.....	9-12
Assistant District Superintendent	13
DBMD Report.....	14-15
Ordination Candidate	16
New Licensed Ministers	17
Ministerial Transfers	18
Thrive Financial Initiative	19
District Action Committee	20
Refresh Retreat & Family Camp.....	21
Auditor	22
District Treasurer	23-27
Urban Advocacy	28
Missions.....	29
Obituaries.....	30-32
Pastoral Relations Report.....	33-37
Nominee Biographies	38-45
Statistical Summary.....	46
Prayer Map.....	47



Western New York District of The Wesleyan Church
2021 Annual District Conference

June 19, 2021, 9:00 AM, Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church

Agenda

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Joseph W. (Joey) Jennings, District Superintendent

Wayne Schmidt, General Superintendent of The Wesleyan Church

Service of Communion

Conference Organization

Robin George, District Secretary

Motion about Elections - Plurality, Directors appointed by DBA

Report of the District Superintendent

Joseph W. (Joey) Jennings

Election: Renewal of Call - District Superintendent

Election: District Secretary

Report of District Board of Administration Summary of Actions

Robin George, District Secretary

Report of the Assistant District Superintendent

Steve Dunmire

Election: District Board of Administration (DBA)

- DBA Ministerial (elect 3)
- DBA Lay (elect 3)

Report of the District Board of Ministerial Development (DBMD)

Dan Jones, Chair of the DBMD

- Candidate for Ordination: Robert Grimes
- Licensed Ministers
- Ministerial Students
- Ministerial Transfers

Thrive Financial Initiative

Karen Tucker, *District Thrive Coordinator*

Election: Delegates to General Conference

- Ministerial Delegates (elect 3)
- Lay Delegates (elect 4)

General Church Presentation

Wayne Schmidt, General Superintendent of The Wesleyan Church

Recommendations from District Action Committee

Standing Rule on Pastoral Vacations (#27)

Elections - District Committees

- **Nominating Committee** (*electing 2 lay & 2 ministerial members*)
- **Action Committee** (*electing 2 lay & 2 ministerial members*)

Report of the District Treasurer

Kim Pecora

- Statement of Financial Position
- Fund Activity Summary
- Assessment Payments from Churches
- 2021-22 Assessments
- 2021-22 Budget

Houghton College Presentation

Introduction of Wayne Lewis, Sixth President of Houghton College

Remembering Pastors Promoted to Glory - Robin George

- Richard Bennett
- Nelson Crowell
- Vaughn & Elsie Drummonds
- Arthur Lazewski
- Paul Markell

Upcoming Events

- Refresh Day - July 17, Letchworth State Park
- Service of Ordination - August 8, 4:00pm, North Park Wesleyan Church
- 2022 General Conference - May 22-25, 2022, St. Louis
- The Gathering 2023 - January 4-7, 2023, Orlando

Pastoral Relations Report

Robin George, District Secretary

Category of service for each ordained, licensed, ministerial student and lay minister.

Benediction & Adjourn

**Number Of Lay Delegates
Each Church Should Send To District Conference**
June, 2021

Church	Number of Lay Delegates	Members	Church Status
Anchor Wesleyan Church	1	27	
Angola Wesleyan Church	1	28	
Ashwood Wesleyan Church	1	8	Dev
Bellville Wesleyan Church	1	14	Dev
Big Tree Wesleyan Church	3	82	
Brookside Wesleyan Church	2	46	
Cattaraugus Wesleyan Indian Chapel	1	7	Dev
Christ Chapel Wesleyan	2	76	
East Leon Wesleyan Church	1	26	
Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church	5	378	
Fellowship Wesleyan Church	4	150	
Fillmore Wesleyan Church	2	78	
First Wesleyan Church	2	67	
Forestville Wesleyan Church	2	41	
Grace Community Church	1	35	Dev
Hess Road Wesleyan Church	4	101	
Higgins Wesleyan Church	1	25	
Hillside Wesleyan Church	2	71	
Houghton Wesleyan Church	5	369	
Joy Community Church	1	20	Aff
Levant Wesleyan Church	3	87	
Little Valley Wesleyan Church	2	43	
Lockport Wesleyan Church	1	1	Dev
McCrae Brook Wesleyan Church	1	19	
Mission of Christ Wesleyan Church	1	40	Dev
North Collins Wesleyan Church	4	118	
North Park Wesleyan Church	4	104	
Oakland Wesleyan Church	2	61	
Orchard Park Wesleyan Church	3	90	
Peace Wesleyan Church	1	37	Dev
Resurgence City	1	22	Dev
The Vine Wesleyan Church	3	86	
Watermark Wesleyan Church	7	515	
ZionQuest Christian Fellowship	1	17	Dev
DBA Lay Members	6		
Target: 82	82	2889	

Key

Affiliate Churches	1
Developing Churches	1
> 40	1
41-80	2
81-100	3
101-200	4
201-300	5
301-400	6
401+	7

This number is in addition to ordained and licensed ministers and lay members of the District Board of Administration.



Western New York Baptisms 2020-2021

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them
in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit”*

(Matthew 28:19)

Big Tree – 5

Brookside - 2

Eastern Hills

Timothy Minkler
Hayley Waterman
Destini Kolpack
Charlotte Gworek
Richie Lemire
William Jenkins
Angelina Zangara
Tim Attea
Daisy Dawson
Caleb Dawson
Brookelyn Christopher
Micah Dawson
Kylie Dawson
Hannah Megan
Abby Gaglione
Bill Needham
Nathan Needham
Meaghan Randall
Rich Catalano
Carla Catalano
Riana Catalano
Hanna Rozdaibida

First Wesleyan

Victor Luce
Aubrey Hough

Fellowship - 5

Fillmore - 1

Forestville

Dylan Hawkins

Hess Road – 4

North Park

Hannah Bunk
Kadince Fuller
Emery Harris, Jr.
Thage Harris
Lucas Haskins
Madisyn James
Mylee James
John Molsberry
Kyle Rutkowsk
Katelyn Schrader
Jadon Sortore
Luke Sortore
Megan Sortore
Meraya Sortore
Briana White
Hunter Wilson

Resurgence City – 3

The Vine – 9

Orchard Park – 3

North Collins – 6

Watermark - 8

*“A truly Christian
life is nothing else
than a daily baptism
once begun and ever
to be continued.”*

—Martin Luther

Report of the Nominating Committee

District Secretary

- Robin George (Brookside Wesleyan Church)
- Rick Fohl (Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church)

District Board of Administration

Ministerial (Electing 3)

(1 of which will be for 1 year - replacing Justin Leininger)

- Jason Argo (The Vine Wesleyan Church)
- Terri Niver (Bradford First Wesleyan Church)
- Ruth Strand (Grace Community Wesleyan Church)
- Michael Trippett (Angola Wesleyan Church)
- Jonathan Ward (North Park Wesleyan Church)

Currently Serving on the DBA-Ministerial: Steve Dunmire, Paul Gartley

Lay (Electing 3)

- Barb Hauck (Christ Chapel Wesleyan Church)
- Jeff Klau (Levant Wesleyan Church)
- Jason Mucher (Houghton Wesleyan Church)
- Jun Zhuang (Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church - Chinese Congregation)

Currently Serving on the DBA-Lay: Rick Fohl, Katie Bielecki, Kim Pecora

General Conference Delegate

Lay Delegates (electing 4)

- Melissa Cahill (Brookside Wesleyan Church)
- Rick Fohl (Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church)
- Julie Palmer (Watermark Wesleyan Church)
- Kim Pecora (Angola Wesleyan Church)
- Paul Young (Houghton Wesleyan Church)
- Jun Zhuang (Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church - Chinese Congregation)

Ministerial Delegates (electing 3)

- *Steve Dunmire*
- *Kimberly Gladden*
- *Steve Johnson*
- *Dan Jones*
- *Wes Oden*

District Superintendent is a ministerial delegate ex officio

Nominating CommitteeMinisterial (Electing 2)

- Jason Argo
- Rob Engler

Lay (Electing 2)

- Leigh Meyers
- Lisa Schmidt

Action CommitteeMinisterial (Electing 2)

- Kimberly Gladden
- Steve Johnson
- Dan Todd
- Dan Jones

Lay (Electing 2)

- Barb Hauck
- Daryl Stevenson

Submitted by the 2020-21 Nominating Committee,
Michael Trippett
Nicole Argo
Joseph Jennings
Bruce Ellis
Kristen Sanasith

Sample Ballot

District Conference 2021



District Superintendent

- I favor renewing Dr. Jennings' call for a four-year term
- I do not favor renewing Dr. Jennings' call for a four-year term

District Secretary

- Robin George (Brookside Wesleyan Church)
- Rick Fohl (Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church)
- _____

District Board of Administration

Ministerial (Vote for 3)

- Jason Argo (The Vine Wesleyan Church)
- Terri Niver (Bradford First Wesleyan Church)
- Ruth Strand (Grace Community Wesleyan Church)
- Michael Trippett (Angola Wesleyan Church)
- Jonathan Ward (North Park Wesleyan Church)
- _____

Lay (Vote for 3)

- Barb Hauck (Christ Chapel Wesleyan Church)
- Jeff Klau (Levant Wesleyan Church)
- Jason Mucher (Houghton Wesleyan Church)
- Jun Zhuang (Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church - Chinese Congregation)
- _____

General Conference Delegate

Ministerial Delegates (Vote for 3)

- Steve Dunmire
- Kimberly Gladden
- Steve Johnson
- Dan Jones
- Wes Oden
- _____

Lay Delegates (Vote for 4)

- Melissa Cahill (Brookside Wesleyan Church)
- Rick Fohl (Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church)
- Julie Palmer (Watermark Wesleyan Church)
- Kim Pecora (Angola Wesleyan Church)
- Paul Young (Houghton Wesleyan Church)
- Jun Zhuang (Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church - Chinese Congregation)
- _____

Nominating Committee

Ministerial (Vote for 2)

- Jason Argo
- Rob Engler
- _____

Lay (Vote for 2)

- Leigh Meyers
- Lisa Schmidt
- _____

Action Committee

Ministerial (Vote for 2)

- Kimberly Gladden
- Steve Johnson
- Dan Todd
- Dan Jones
- _____

Lay (Vote for 2)

- Barb Hauck
- Daryl Stevenson
- _____

DISTRICT BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

Summary of Action 2020-2021

July 23, 2020

1. Made annual appointments to various district directors, boards and committees.
2. Approved moving forward to pursue contracting with Wesleyan Church Shared Accounts Services. Up until the transition honorariums would remain the same and once changed over to the denominational services the honorariums for Shannon Kedge and Jun Zhuang for the present time would be eliminated and the honorarium for the District Treasurer would be adjusted whole trying to keep the amounts from the budget the same.

August 17, 2020

1. The DBA Executive Committee in behalf of the DBA approved opening a checking account with KeyBank along with authorizing signers and users for the account to be Kimberly Pecora, Jun Zhuang and Shannon Kedge. Additional users approved for the online account were Joseph Jennings and Sherry Gorveatte.

September 22, 2020

1. Approved opening a checking account with KeyBank along with authorizing signers and users to the account to be Kimberly Pecora and Maribeth Jennings. Additional users approved for the online account to be Joseph Jennings and Sherry Gorveatte.
2. Approved signers for the Western New York District account with the Wesleyan Investment Foundation to be Kimberly Pecora and Joseph Jennings.
3. Approved the official acts as reported by the District Superintendent for June-August 2020 and other various reports as presented.
4. Approved using the District Camp Endowment Fund to pay off the negative balance in the District Insurance Fund and for any remaining balance from the Camp Endowment Fund to be transferred into the Church Development Fund.
5. Approved the initial calls for The Rev. William Lawson (Brookside Wesleyan Church) and The Rev. David Schutte (Fellowship Wesleyan Church).
6. Approved annual appointments to various vacancies for district directors, boards and committees.

December 1, 2020

1. The DBA Executive Committee in behalf of the DBA approved for The Vine Wesleyan Church of 425 Penora Street in Depew, New York to sell their 5-

acres of property with a house and barn at 5335 William Street in Lancaster, New York to the purchaser for the sum of \$260,000.00.

December 8, 2020

1. Approved the official acts as reported by the District Superintendent for September-November 2020 and other various reports as presented.
2. Approved for the \$6,000.00 originally designated for the Pastor/Spouse Retreat to be reallocated along with any other monies that might become available to be able to assist lead pastors with some type of personal rest or retreat and to be given to them from the district around Christmastime.
3. Approved for the initial use of the East Aurora church facility by Watermark Wesleyan for the amount of \$400.00 per month through May of 2021 and for further negotiations to continue with Watermark and the district.
4. Approved for the district to follow through with a survey of the Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church congregation and to engage Nancy Moore and her team that recently assisted with the Watermark assessment with the cost for the survey to come out of the Church Development budget as a grant.
5. Approved the recommendations of the DBMD for Pastor David Schutte (Fellowship Wesleyan Church) and Pastor Dominique Clements (Assistant at The Vine Wesleyan Church) for a district ministerial license.
6. Approved the allocation of lay delegates for the 2021 District Conference.

March 16, 2021

1. Approved the official acts as reported by the District Superintendent for December 2020-February 2021 and other various reports as presented.
2. Approved closing the district's checking account with Community Bank, N.A.
3. Approved a recommendation to District Conference that voting for all elections with the exception of the District Superintendent be done by plurality.
4. Approved for the district to apportion the amount needed for an initial one year subscription for Pastorwell in order to sign up one pastor per church in the membership program.
5. Approved to allot the sum of \$2,000.00-\$3,000.00 to have a new roof put on the house next to the parking lot associated with the Cheektowaga property with monies for this project to come from Church Development Funds.
6. Approved for the East Leon Wesleyan Church of Cattaraugus, New York to sell their parsonage at 8303 Mosher Hollow Road in Cattaraugus, New York to the current renter for the amount of \$60,000.00.
7. Approved agreeing in principle to support the concept of a presented East Aurora property use proposal and to give the District Superintendent flexibility to negotiate something acceptable to begin on June 1, 2021 that will work out for Watermark with a final proposal to be communicated to the DBA.

8. Approved the initial call for The Rev. Paul Gartley as the lead pastor of the Watermark Wesleyan Church.

May 13, 2021

1. The DBA Executive Committee in behalf of the DBA approved the Memorandum of Understanding #1 for the Watermark Wesleyan Church use of the East Aurora facility.
2. The DBA Executive Committee in behalf of the DBA approved the Memorandum of Understanding #2 for the Watermark Wesleyan Church use of the East Aurora facility.

June 15, 2021

1. Approved the official acts as reported by the District Superintendent for March-May 2021 and other various reports as presented.
2. Approved the recommendation of the District Superintendent to appoint Dr. Steven L. Dunmire to the position of Assistant District Superintendent for the 2021-22 church year.
3. Approved a 4% increase in salary along with a monetary bonus for the District Superintendent for the 2021-22 District Budget.
4. Approved a 4% increase in the salary for the District Office Administrator for the 2020-21 District Budget.
5. Approved the 2021-22 District Budget as amended.
6. Approved a recommendation for closing the McCrae Brook Wesleyan Church at 430 McCrae Brook Road in Eldred, Pennsylvania.
7. Approved for listing to sell the church building, parsonage and property of the McCrae Brook Wesleyan Church at 430 and 440 McCrae Brook Road respectively and for proceeds to be deposited to the Church Development Fund.
8. Approved the East Aurora church facility at 364 Main Street in East Aurora, New York as a campus of Watermark Wesleyan Church along with Memorandums of Understanding for the use of the property and supporting church planting grants.
9. Agreed without objection to proposed COVID-19 precautions for district conference and approved a recommendation to district conference that if plurality voting results in a tie that a random selection would then determine the final outcome of the election.
10. Agreed without objection to recommend delaying any increase in the assessment cap for one more year.
11. Agreed without objection for recommending to district conference a change in Standing Rule #27 to allow for pastor's vacation time accrued during any church year to be taken by the end of the calendar year.
12. Approved a list of those requesting to be excused from district conference.
13. Approved the 2021-22 church budgets for the developing churches of the Western New York District.

14. Approved the 2021-22 Church Development grants as presented from the Church Multiplication Team.
15. Approved declaring the following churches to be in financial distress and to reduce their assessable income by 90% for up to \$40,000 for developing churches: Lyndonville Ashwood, Caneadea Bellville, Cattaraugus Indian Chapel, Buffalo Grace Community, Buffalo Mission of Christ, Falconer Peace, Cheektowaga ZionQuest, and Buffalo Resurgence City.
16. Approved the appointments of the following as Supply Pastors: Karen Tucker (Lyndonville Ashwood); Robert Grimes (Caneadea Bellville); Kevin & Elaine Brooks (Lay Pastors/Wesleyan Indian Chapel); Barbara Farrow (Buffalo Grace Community); Matthew Rose (Lockport); Yoshua Bashizi (Lay Pastor/Buffalo Mission of Christ); Elijah Shamenda (Buffalo Resurgence City); Jason & Tammy Claydon (Falconer Peace); and Kimberly Gladden (Cheektowaga ZionQuest).
17. Approved the votes for the following pastoral calls: Doug Ingersoll (Blasdell Big Tree); Matthew Rose (Appleton Hess Road); Pat Jones (Williamsville Eastern Hills); Rob Engler (Fillmore); Bruce Ellis (Forestville); and Paul Palmer (Oakland Nunda).
18. Agreed without objection to the recommendation for holding the WNY District Ordination Service on Sunday, August 8, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. at the North Park Wesleyan Church in Cuba, New York and that it be made optional for ministers to attend.
19. Approved a recommendation for the Pastoral Relations Report for presenting at district conference.

Respectfully submitted, District Board of Administration
Western New York District, Robin W. George, District Secretary

Report of the Assistant District Superintendent

Dear colleagues and friends,

This was my fifth year as Assistant District Superintendent, serving on the District Board of Administration (DBA), the Executive Committee of the DBA, the District Board of Ministerial Development (DBMD), and chairing our Board of Church Development and Sustainability, which is tasked with providing oversight for our district's developing churches.

The WNY District currently has nine developing churches, plus one non-traditional ministry. Eight of these ministries receive administrative support and oversight from the Board of Church Development and Sustainability:

1. Ashwood Wesleyan Church – Lyndonville, NY (Karen Tucker)
2. Bellville Wesleyan Church – Caneadea, NY (Robert Grimes)
3. Cattaraugus Wesleyan Indian Chapel – Irving, NY (Kevin Brooks)
4. Grace Community Church – Buffalo, NY (Barbara Farrow)
5. Mission of Christ – Buffalo, NY (Yoshua Bashizi)
6. Peace Wesleyan Church – Falconer, NY (Jason Claydon)
7. Zion Quest – Cheektowaga, NY (Kimberly Gladden)
- + Urban Advocacy – Buffalo, NY (Steve & Ruth Strand)

There are also two additional developing churches, which operate under the support and direction of other district churches:

1. Resurgence City – Buffalo, NY (Elijah Shamenda), supported by Orchard Park Wesleyan
2. Lockport Wesleyan – Lockport, NY (Matthew Rose), supported by Hess Road Wesleyan

All of these churches have fought the good fight in 2020-21, and are to be commended for their faithfulness, resilience, and creativity in ministry.

I want to thank Dr. Jennings and the WNY District for the opportunity and privilege to serve in this capacity. Please join me again this year in praying for the Jennings as they lead and labor for the Wesleyan Church in Western New York.

Respectfully submitted in Christ,
Dr. Steven L. Dunmire
Assistant District Superintendent

DISTRICT BOARD OF MINISTERIAL DEVELOPMENT

We have received and examined all the annual service reports which have been submitted. We feel that there were no irregularities of such a nature that they should be reported to the District Conference. The following indicates members of the District responsible to submit an annual service report and whether their reports were approved, unsatisfactory or not received (1390.9). The DBMD recommends that the annual service reports be approved as received:

Allen, April A.-----Approved	Jordan, John M.----- Approved
Argo, Jason K.-----Approved	Jordan, Tori E.----- Approved
Austin, Kevin M.-----Approved	Kaufman, Trevor J.----- Approved
Bannister, LeRoy N.-----Approved	King, Shawn F.----- Approved
Bashizi, Yoshua B.-----Approved	Lawson, William R.----- Approved
Beers, Becky L.-----Approved	Lazewski, Teresa F.----- NO REPORT
Beers, Gary L.-----Approved	Leamon, Michael D.----- Approved
Beers, Kevin D.-----Approved	Leckel, Jacob R.----- Approved
Bell, Melissa-----Approved	Leininger, Justin P.----- Approved
Brooks, Elaine-----Approved	Loew, Melinda D.----- Approved
Brooks, Kevin-----Approved	Logan, Ronald L.----- Approved
Butcher, Daniel W.-----Approved	MacBeth, Wayne C.----- Approved
Carr, Caleb J.-----Approved	Mason, Joshua J.----- Approved
Case, Jonathan P.-----Approved	McClain, Gregory W.----- Approved
Chase, Allen S.-----Approved	McGeorge, Alicia J.----- Approved
Cirocco, Gale E.-----Approved	McIntyre, Nila M.----- Approved
Claydon, Jason W. H.-----Approved	McLean James----- Approved
Claydon, Tammy M.-----Approved	Merriam, Floyd E.----- Approved
Clements, Dominique M.-----Approved	Merrill, Andrea C.----- Approved
Cleveland, Karen M.-----Approved	Meyers, Alan L.----- Approved
Cole, Jon P.-----Approved	Michel, Pierre P.----- Approved
Cook, Joseph A.-----Approved	Miller, John L.----- Approved
Crassi, Roger M.-----Approved	Miller, Timothy J.----- Approved
Dawson, Mat A.-----Approved	Minkler, Keith E.----- Approved
Dean, Marcus W.-----Approved	Mullen, Shirley A.----- Approved
DeVries, Roy H.-----Approved	Nightingale, Richard W.----- Approved
Dunmire, Steven L.-----Approved	Niver, Terri L.----- Approved
Duttweiler, Ronald P.-----Approved	Nykyforchyn, William P.----- Approved
Duvall, Mary I.-----Approved	Oden, Cynthia A.----- Approved
Dwyer, Michael G.-----Approved	Oden, Wesley D.----- Approved
Ellis, Bruce M.-----Approved	Palmer, Paul D.----- Approved
Ellis, Patricia A.-----Approved	Payne, David J.----- Approved
Engler, Robert M.-----Approved	Pecora, Bryan M.----- Approved
Farney, Roger J.-----Approved	Pocock, Steven R.----- Approved
Farrow, Barbara J.-----Approved	Raines, Frederick A.----- Approved
Funch, Adam G.-----Approved	Reiller, Edward M.----- Approved
Gallegos, Judy C.-----Approved	Rose, Matthew A.----- Approved
Gartley, Paul E.-----Approved	Rowley, Rebecca G.----- Approved
George, Christopher R.-----Approved	Rutherford, Joshua W.----- Approved
George, Melissa J.-----Approved	Salter-Smith, Cassandra L.--- Approved
George, Robin W.-----Approved	Schara, Robin W.----- Approved
Gladden, Kimberly B.-----Approved	Schenck, Kenneth L.----- Approved
Glendenning, Todd E.-----Approved	Schultz, Carl----- Excused
Grimes, Robert H.-----Approved	Schutte, David E.----- Approved
Hall, Clyde E.-----Approved	Schweigart, Carol A.----- Approved
Heitzenrater, Richard B.-----Approved	Shamenda, Elijah D.----- Approved
Hill, Charles F.-----Approved	Shea, Paul W.----- Approved
Horton, Jonathan C.-----Approved	Sherman, Andrew T.----- Approved
Ingersoll, Douglas F.-----Approved	Smith, Bruce J.----- Approved
Jennings, Joseph W.-----Approved	Strand, Ruth W.----- Approved
Johnson, Steven C.-----Approved	Strand, Stephen C.----- Approved
Jones, Daniel P.-----Approved	Todd, Becky J.----- Approved
Jones, Justin R.-----Approved	Todd, Daniel G.----- Approved
Jones, Patrick B.-----Approved	Tolleson, Bethany E.----- Approved

Trippett, Michael J.-----Approved
 Trotter, Alan D.-----Approved
 Tucker, Karen L.-----Approved
 Walker, Margaret D.-----Approved
 Ward, Daniel M.-----Approved
 Ward, Jonathan D.-----Approved

Wheeler, Brian D.----- Approved
 Wieder, Darren S.----- Approved
 Wilson, Daniel L.----- Approved
 Wrigglesworth, Michael L. ---- Approved
 Yei, Suk May ----- Approved

We, the members of the District Board of Ministerial Development, make the following recommendations to the 2020 District Conference of the Western New York District:

Election to Ordained Minister:

Robert H. Grimes

Granting a license as a Ministerial Student:

Keith J. Clark
 Dylan Hawkins
 Julia Hotchkiss
 Hannah G. Lindo

Listing as an Ordained Minister in Process of Denominational Transfer:

Judy C. Gallegos

Granting a District Ministerial License for those pastoring:

Yoshua B. Bashizi
 Dominique M. Clements
 Cameron N. Duncan
 Nathan J. Marone
 Andrea C. Merrill
 Pierre P. Michel
 David E. Schutte

Renewing a license as a Ministerial Student:

Becky L. Beers
 Melissa Bell
 Joseph A. Cook
 Mat A. Dawson
 Mary I. Duvall
 Tori E. Jordan
 Olivia R. Flint
 Adam G. Funch
 James McLean
 Shirley A. Mullen
 Bryan M. Pecora
 Michael H. Prutsman
 Edward M. Reiller
 Bethany E. Tolleson
 Brian D. Wheeler

Renewing a District Ministerial License for those pastoring:

Daniel W. Butcher
 Barbara J. Farrow
 Trevor J. Kaufman
 Shawn F. King
 Joshua J. Mason
 Joshua W. Rutherford
 Andrew T. Sherman
 Elijah D. Shamenda

2021 Ordination Candidate

Pastor Robert Grimes

Bellville Wesleyan Church



My wife Tammy and I got married in 2001 and have four children of our own. In August 2017, we got primary custody of our niece and nephew. God called me into the ministry at the National Youth Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio in December of 1990. I attended and graduated from Davis College in May 2008 while volunteering

as the youth minister at Tracy Creek Memorial Church in Vestal, NY. I was the Youth Pastor at Olean First Baptist Church from September 2008 – November 2010. In April of 2011, I was asked to be the youth minister at North Park Wesleyan Church and was there while I attended Flame and received my license in 2016. In July 2017, God called me and my family to Bellville Wesleyan Church as the solo pastor and am still there today.

DISTRICT ORDINATION SERVICE
Sunday, August 8, 2021, 4:00 PM
North Park Wesleyan Church

2021 New Licensed Ministers



Yoshua B. Bashizi

Pastor, Mission of Christ Wesleyan Church



Cameron N. Duncan

Assistant Pastor, Anchor Church



Nathan J. Marone

Assistant Pastor, Hess Road Wesleyan Church



Andrea C. Merrill

Assistant Pastor, Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church



Pierre P. Michel

Assistant Pastor, ZionQuest Christian Fellowship



David E. Schutte (Transfer from UMC)

Pastor, Fellowship Wesleyan Church

MINISTERIAL TRANSFERS

The following transfers were processed by the Western New York District of The Wesleyan Church during the 2020-2021 Conference year:

ORDAINED MINISTERS TRANSFERRED INTO WESTERN NEW YORK:

Caleb Carr from the Northeast District

ORDAINED MINISTERS TRANSFERRED OUT OF WESTERN NEW YORK:

Dale Argot to the Chesapeake District

Pamela L. Argot to the Chesapeake District

James D. Clements to the Atlantic District

ORDAINED MINISTERS IN PROCESS OF TRANSFER OUT OF WESTERN NEW YORK:

Justin Leininger to Northeast District

ORDAINED MINISTERS IN PROCESS OF DENOMINATIONAL TRANSFER

Judy Gallegos from the Joy Community Church

ORDAINED MINISTERS WHO HAVE APPLIED FOR DENOMINATIONAL TRANSFER:

ORDAINED MINISTERS WITHDRAWN

Darryl S. Lockie to the United Methodist Church (6/18/2021)

Kenneth J. Nash to the United Methodist Church (6/16/2021)

J. Michael Walters (11/5/2020)

LICENSED MINISTERS TRANSFERRED OUT OF WESTERN NEW YORK:

LICENSED MINISTERS PENDING COMPLETION OF DENOMINATIONAL TRANSFER:

David E. Schutte

MINISTERIAL STUDENTS TRANSFERRED INTO WESTERN NEW YORK

Pierre Michel from the Northeast District

Dominique Clements from the Great Lakes Region District

MINISTERIAL STUDENTS TRANSFERRED OUT OF WESTERN NEW YORK

Report of the Thrive Financial Initiative Director

Thrive Financial Initiative 2021

Church	Total TFI Grant	Pastors	Participant year	District Amount
Mission of Christ	\$ 2,500.00	Yoshua Bashizi	Year 2	\$ 500.00
Levant Wesleyan Church	\$ 2,500.00	Al Meyers	Year 3	\$ 500.00
Williamsville Eastern Hills Church	\$ 2,500.00	Andrea Merrill	Year 1	\$ 500.00
	<hr/>			<hr/>
	\$ 7,500.00			\$ 1,500.00
	<hr/>			<hr/>

Rev. Karen Tucker

Thrive Financial Initiative Director

Report of the Action Committee

Amendments to the WNY District Standing Rules (pages 29-36 in the 2020 District Journal)

That which is recommended to be deleted is in ~~Strikethrough~~.

That which is recommended to be added is in **Bold**.

27. PASTOR'S VACATION

District pastors shall be given a minimum of three weeks' vacation with pay (18 days plus three Sundays). Vacations shall range from a minimum of three weeks to a maximum of five with consideration being given to years of full-time service to The Wesleyan Church (guidelines for vacation time are: 1-9 years = 3 weeks; 10-19 years = 4 weeks; and 20 or more years = 5 weeks).

~~Vacation may only be accumulated by prior agreement with the Local Church Board and upon moving any accumulated vacation will be forfeited~~ **Vacation time accrued during any church year must be taken by the end of the calendar year. All unused vacation at the end of the calendar year will be forfeited.** No cash would be paid in lieu of vacation except in special situations where the District Board of Administration should determine otherwise.

Report of the Refresh Retreat & Family Camp Director

In lieu of camp, we will be hosting a “Refresh Day” for the WNY District and friends at Letchworth State Park’s lower falls pavilion on **Saturday, July 17, 2021**. Overnight camps were cancelled at Houghton College in both 2020 and 2021, but we anticipate a normal camp experience for Refresh ’22 at Houghton College will be July 17-22, 2022.

I am stepping down as Camp Director as we begin the 2021-22 fiscal year. I have been camp director for four summers, but was only able to host camp twice (2018 and 2019) before the pandemic hit, and now it’s time to pass the baton. I had stepped into this role with Refresh because it was a natural intersection of my work at Houghton College and service to the WNY District, but that is no longer the case in this new chapter of ministry for me and my family. My family and I will plan see all of you at Refresh ’22 ... but, this time, as campers.

In Christ,
Steve Dunmire
Refresh Camp Director, 2018-2021

Report of the Auditor

In compliance with the *2016 Discipline of the Wesleyan Church*, the financial records of the WNY District of the Wesleyan Church were submitted for review to the individual indicated below.

Based on my review of this financial information and discussions with those responsible for the finances of the District, the financial statements for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2021 appear to materially represent the financial transactions of the district.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the District Board of Administration of the Western New York District, Inc. and management of the District and is not intended to be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Sherry Gorveatte

Director of Shared Accounting Services

The Wesleyan Church

June 16, 2021

WNY District of the Wesleyan Church
Statement of Financial Position
As of May 31, 2021

ASSETS**Current Assets****Bank Accounts**

100000 Community Bank Checking	23,956.12
102000 Key Bank Checking	34,052.12
104000 Wesleyan Inv Foundation	240,955.52
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 298,963.76

Accounts Receivable

120000 Accounts Receivable	20,755.12
Total Accounts Receivable	\$ 20,755.12

Other Current Assets

107000 Ameritrade	202,390.90
1070002 Ameritrade - Unrealized Gain/(loss)	62,734.27
1070010 Ameritrade Money Market	1,448.10
Total 107000 Ameritrade	\$ 266,573.27
120125 Accounts Receivable - Other	0.00
120500 Other Current Assets	0.00
141000 Prepaid Expenditures	0.00
145000 Prepaid Pension	3,272.70
Undeposited Funds	0.00

Total Other Current Assets

	\$ 269,845.97
--	----------------------

Total Current Assets

	\$ 589,564.85
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Fixed Assets

District Church Buildings	67,485,922.00
District Parsonages	4,529,100.00
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 72,015,022.00

TOTAL ASSETS

	\$ 72,604,586.85
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LIABILITIES AND EQUITY**Liabilities****Current Liabilities****Accounts Payable**

210000 Accounts Payable	0.00
Total Accounts Payable	\$ 0.00

Other Current Liabilities

210125 Accounts Payable - Other	0.00
241100 403B Payable	600.00
241111 HSA Payable	526.67
250000 Deferred Revenue	5,613.12

Total Other Current Liabilities

	\$ 6,739.79
--	--------------------

Total Current Liabilities

	\$ 6,739.79
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Long-Term Liabilities

260000 PPL Loan Community Bank	29,100.00
260001 COVID PAYOUTS TO CHURCHES	-23,722.22
Total 260000 PPL Loan Community Bank	\$ 5,377.78

Total Long-Term Liabilities

	\$ 5,377.78
--	--------------------

Total Liabilities

	\$ 12,117.57
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Equity

Opening Balance Equity	72,523,527.54
Retained Earnings	9,880.81
Net Revenue	59,060.93

Total Equity

	\$ 72,592,469.28
--	-------------------------

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

	\$ 72,604,586.85
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District Funds Report

June 1, 2020 - May 31, 2021

Funds	Beginning Balance	Revenue	Expense	Ending Balance
District Ministry	\$307,951.38	\$ 235,431.04	\$ 203,862.60	\$ 339,519.82
General USF/EIF	\$ -	\$ 701,570.50	\$ 678,626.50	\$ 22,944.00
Insurance	\$(17,055.99)	\$ 50,423.69	\$ 45,146.25	\$ (11,778.55)
District Car Replacement	\$ 10,236.94	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 79.00	\$ 12,157.94
District Parsonage Maintenance	\$ 22,533.87	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,632.10	\$ 21,901.77
Refresh Family Camp	\$ 11,200.17	\$ -	\$ 107.25	\$ 11,092.92
Missions	\$ 4,732.76	\$ 143.79	\$ -	\$ 4,876.55
Wesleyan Women	\$ 5,232.09	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 6,232.09
Camp Endowment	\$103,296.11	\$ -	\$ 103,296.11	\$ -
Church Development	\$ 41,321.42	\$ 307,607.01	\$ 213,012.53	\$ 135,915.90
Youth	\$ 8,113.12	\$ 5,647.24	\$ -	\$ 13,760.36
Total	\$497,561.87	\$ 1,309,823.27	\$1,250,762.34	\$ 556,622.80

Revenue	\$1,309,823.27
Less Expenses	<u>\$1,250,762.34</u>
2020 - 2021 Revenue	<u>\$ 59,060.93</u>

Camp Endowment Fund was dissolved by the DBA. The balance was transferred to the Insurance Fund (17,055.99) and the Church Development Fund (86,240.12).

2020-21 Assessments Paid by Churches
As of June 14, 2021

	Actual	Budget	% of Budget
Anchor Church	\$ 8,367	\$ 8,367	100.00%
Angola Wesleyan Church	\$ 8,832	\$ 8,832	100.00%
Ashwood Wesleyan Church*	\$ 370	\$ 370	100.00%
Bellville Wesleyan Church*	\$ 232	\$ 232	100.00%
Big Tree Wesleyan Church	\$ 21,864	\$ 21,866	99.99%
Bradford First Wesleyan Church	\$ 6,767	\$ 6,767	100.00%
Brookside Wesleyan Church	\$ 13,487	\$ 13,487	100.00%
Cattaraugus Wesleyan Indian Chapel*		\$ 61	0.00%
Christ Chapel Wesleyan	\$ 12,975	\$ 13,742	94.42%
East Leon Wesleyan Church	\$ 2,447	\$ 2,669	91.68%
Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church	\$ 116,352	\$ 117,800	98.77%
Fellowship Wesleyan Church	\$ 53,693	\$ 53,694	100.00%
Fillmore Wesleyan Church	\$ 16,953	\$ 16,953	100.00%
Forestville Wesleyan Church	\$ 6,960	\$ 8,641	80.55%
Grace Community Wesleyan Church*	\$ 368	\$ 368	100.00%
Hamburg - Watermark Wesleyan Church	\$ 117,691	\$ 117,800	99.91%
Hess Road Wesleyan Church	\$ 29,240	\$ 29,569	98.89%
Higgins Wesleyan Church	\$ 11,326	\$ 12,678	89.33%
Hillside Wesleyan Church	\$ 14,865	\$ 16,224	91.63%
Houghton Wesleyan Church	\$ 68,400	\$ 68,402	100.00%
Joy Community Church*	\$ 376	\$ 376	100.00%
Levant Wesleyan Church	\$ 22,734	\$ 22,734	100.00%
Little Valley Wesleyan Church	\$ 7,283	\$ 6,755	107.81%
Lockport Wesleyan Church	\$ 3,259	\$ 1,259	258.86%
McCrae Brook Wesleyan Church	\$ 5,691	\$ 5,691	100.00%
Mission of Christ*		\$ 112	0.00%
North Collins Wesleyan Church	\$ 25,388	\$ 26,531	95.69%
North Park Wesleyan Church	\$ 24,333	\$ 24,635	98.77%
Oakland Wesleyan Church	\$ 10,508	\$ 10,508	100.00%
Orchard Park Wesleyan Church	\$ 42,515	\$ 42,582	99.84%
Peace Wesleyan Church	\$ 6,153	\$ 6,153	100.00%
Resurgence City*	\$ 271	\$ 1,082	25.00%
The Vine Wesleyan Church	\$ 31,875	\$ 33,496	95.16%
ZionQuest Christian Fellowship*	\$ 297	\$ 300	99.00%
	\$ 691,871	\$ 700,736	98.73%

District Ministry Fund Budget

EXPENSES	2019-20 Budget	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Budget	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Budget	Change
District Work						
Boards & Committees Expenses	6,000	5,876	6,000	1,142	4,000	-33.3%
Leadership Development/Books	5,000	4,585	5,000	1,020	5,000	
Retreat/The Gathering	6,000	11,765	6,000	12,850	6,000	
Pastors Wives' Event	2,500	129	2,500	0	2,500	
Prayer Emphasis	500	0	500	0	500	
District Conference & Ordination	6,500	3,822	1,500	1,226	5,000	
District Journal	2,000	1,993	2,000	1,661	1,750	-12.5%
Superintendent						
District Superintendent Salary	74,045	69,845	75,156	72,137	78,162	4.0%
Wesleyan Pension Plan	11,105	10,847	11,239	11,239	11,479	2.1%
Insurance - Health & Life	15,432	13,267	11,000	12,634	10,644	-3.2%
Health Saving Account	4,400	4,400	6,000	6,527	6,000	
SS Reimbursement for DS	14,159	14,159	14,329	13,788	14,636	2.1%
District Office						
District Administrator	24,164	24,164	24,526	23,541	25,508	4.0%
Home/Office Utilities	6,000	4,113	5,500	4,993	5,500	
Shared Accounting Services				3,500	8,400	New
Office Expenses	5,000	5,590	5,000	6,719	6,000	20.0%
Social Security for Employees	1,800	1,884	1,742	1,837	1,742	
Team Honoraria						
Assistant District Superintendent	2,500	1,864	2,500	2,509	3,000	
District Secretary	6,000	5,000	4,000	4,333	3,000	
District Treasurer	5,500	4,125	5,500	5,500	3,000	
Events Coordinator	1,200	1,000	0	0	1,200	
Miscellaneous						
DS Travel & Hospitality	7,000	7,724	7,000	1,166	7,000	
Christmas Gifts	1,889	1,889	1,917	1,917	1,975	3.0%
Various Insurance (Property & Auto)	7,000	2,474	2,500	3,847	2,500	
Gifts & Flowers	400	183	400	817	500	25.0%
Markell Scholarship at Houghton	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	1,000	
PastorWell Membership Program	5,000				2,500	New
Emergency Assistance for Pastors		1,994	5,000	6,916	2,000	
Unexpected Expenses	2,000	20,574	2,000	0	2,000	
TOTAL EXPENSES	237,194	229,996	217,909	204,690	222,496	2.1%

WNY District 2021-22 District/USF/EIF Assessment

Church	2020-21 ASSESSABLE INCOME	District Assessment 4%	United Stewardship Fund 2.75%	Education Institution Fund 3.25%	Total Assessment 10%
Anchor Church	\$97,262	\$3,890	\$2,675	\$3,161	\$9,726
Angola Wesleyan Church	\$94,460	\$3,778	\$2,598	\$3,070	\$9,446
Ashwood Wesleyan Church*	\$40,926	\$164	\$113	\$133	\$409
Bellville Wesleyan Church*	\$16,309	\$65	\$45	\$53	\$163
Big Tree Wesleyan Church	\$226,477	\$9,059	\$6,228	\$7,361	\$22,648
Brookside Wesleyan Church	\$150,759	\$6,030	\$4,146	\$4,900	\$15,076
Cattaraugus Indian Chapel*	\$1,000	\$4	\$3	\$3	\$10
Christ Chapel Wesleyan	\$138,858	\$5,554	\$3,819	\$4,513	\$13,886
East Leon Wesleyan Church	\$28,524	\$1,141	\$784	\$927	\$2,852
Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church	\$2,603,269	\$22,800	\$43,500	\$51,500	\$117,800
Fellowship Wesleyan Church	\$538,648	\$21,546	\$14,635	\$17,297	\$53,478
Fillmore Wesleyan Church	\$163,628	\$6,545	\$4,500	\$5,318	\$16,363
First Wesleyan Church Bradford	\$55,244	\$2,210	\$1,519	\$1,795	\$5,524
Forestville Wesleyan Church	\$78,759	\$3,150	\$2,166	\$2,560	\$7,876
Grace Community Church*	\$4,401	\$18	\$12	\$14	\$44
Hess Road Wesleyan Church	\$273,989	\$10,960	\$7,535	\$8,905	\$27,399
Higgins Wesleyan Church	\$92,934	\$3,717	\$2,556	\$3,020	\$9,293
Hillside Wesleyan Church	\$153,335	\$6,133	\$4,217	\$4,983	\$15,334
Houghton Wesleyan Church	\$839,415	\$22,800	\$21,523	\$25,448	\$69,771
Joy Community Church*	\$30,172	\$302			\$302
Levant Wesleyan Church	\$155,401	\$6,216	\$4,274	\$5,051	\$15,540
Little Valley Wesleyan Church	\$87,873	\$3,515	\$2,417	\$2,856	\$8,787
Lockport Wesleyan Church	\$11,720	\$469	\$322	\$381	\$1,172
Mission of Christ*	\$13,310	\$53	\$37	\$43	\$133
North Collins Wesleyan Church	\$287,577	\$11,503	\$7,908	\$9,346	\$28,758
North Park Wesleyan Church	\$229,405	\$9,176	\$6,309	\$7,456	\$22,941
Oakland Wesleyan Church	\$115,353	\$4,614	\$3,172	\$3,749	\$11,535
Orchard Park Wesleyan Church	\$417,704	\$16,708	\$11,487	\$13,575	\$41,770
Peace Wesleyan Church	\$62,737	\$909	\$625	\$739	\$2,274
Resurgence City*	\$41,887	\$168	\$115	\$136	\$419
The Vine Wesleyan Church	\$309,383	\$12,375	\$8,508	\$10,055	\$30,938
Watermark Wesleyan Church	\$5,664,959	\$22,800	\$43,500	\$51,500	\$117,800
ZionQuest Christian Fellowship*	\$24,125	\$97	\$66	\$78	\$241
	\$13,049,803	\$218,471	\$211,311	\$249,927	\$679,709

Report of the Urban Advocacy Directors

Urban Advocacy continues to promote education, spiritual care, service opportunities and church development in the city. We partner with Pastor Yoshua Bashizi, Mission of Christ Church and Global Bridge as well as Pastor Barbara Farrow of Grace Community and other churches in the city. Pastor Yoshua completed three more courses this past year to be licensed as a Wesleyan pastor at this year's district conference. Videos are available with greetings from Pastor Yoshua of Mission of Christ, and Houghton Wesleyan Church has a video interview available including not only Mission of Christ and Grace Community pastors, but also Pastor Elijah Shamenda of Resurgence City.

With the onset of Covid-19, much of Ruth's work with spiritual care at Jericho Road Community Health Center meant finding new ways to support patients and staff impacted by the virus. District Churches were responsive by sewing masks, hosting community testing sites, sending supplies, and praying for medical workers on the frontline. We are grateful for all the prayers, support and active participation of district churches in the city of Buffalo. Thank you! Now Ruth has returned to onsite care in the various locations in the city, Barton, Broadway, Vive on Wyoming. Please pray for the newest clinic site at 21 Doat, just off Genesee St.

Houghton College's East Side Campus had its first graduating class of five AA students in May and ten students graduated from the West Side. These graduates were part of a course Steve offered for Christian engagement with "Major Religious Faiths" and Biblical Literature. District pastors, local leaders and Houghton faculty visited as guest speakers. Classes were taught in hybrid format with some students in the classroom and others online. The focus this year included Policing Reimagined and Ethical Community Response to the Pandemic. This has been a time of heightened awareness of our need to address systemic racism and gun violence. Please pray for the flourishing of the city with God's justice, peace, and life-giving love.

Revs. Steve and Ruth Strand
Urban Advocacy Directors

Report of the District Missions Director

Amid the Covid pandemic, activity within WNY District Missions has been minimal. We still have our Canaan, Haiti project and are looking towards a more stable time for our churches to support the work of that Wesleyan Church. They will need our help more than ever due to Covid.

We have 4 long term missionaries and their families serving with Global Partners from our WNY District;

Kevin & Cindy Austin
Chris & Melissa George
Stacia N.
Stephanie Couch

We have 1 short term missionary who has been approved by Global Partners to participate in their NEXT ministry this summer:

Sara Walck

Submitted by Rev. Robin Schara
District Missions Director

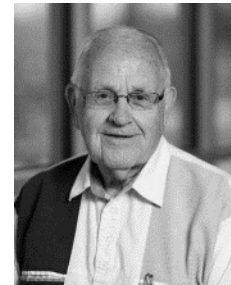
Pastors Promoted to Glory

"Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant.

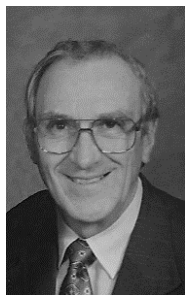
Enter into the joy of your Lord!"

Rev. Richard A. Bennett (1937-2020)

Rev. Richard Allen Bennett an ordained elder in the Wesleyan Church who served as a minister and missionary for 60 years, died Dec. 22, 2021, of complications from COVID-19. He was 83. He had been assistant pastor at Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church in Clarence since 2006 and planned to retire in January. He graduated in 1958 from Army Language School in Monterey, Calif., where he learned Albanian. After his discharge, he married Phyllis M. Klob in August 1960. He and Phyllis started a new Wesleyan church in Crescent, NY, a suburb of Albany, and served there until he was ordained as an elder in 1966. He also became district treasurer for the Champlain District, a post he held for 14 years. He served as a pastor in the Champlain, Central New York, and Western New York Districts. His church in Pulaski sent missionary teams to Albania several times after the fall of the Iron Curtain. On one mission, he and Phyllis spent a year there and established the nation's first Wesleyan church. He also served for 10 years on the board of Bethany Bible College, now Kingswood University. He was a golfer and a home carpenter and enjoyed reading, puzzles, writing articles and games of all kinds. He will be remembered for his warm and friendly spirit and loving pastoral care.



Rev. Nelson D. Crowell (1927-2020)



Rev. Nelson Deforest Crowell passed away Tuesday, January 14th, 2020 at his Florida residence. His wife Betty of 67 years preceded him in death in 2017. Survivors include two daughters, Karen Eignman, Sharon Parker, and a son Rev. Stephen Crowell. He graduated from Houghton College in 1950. Rev. Crowell was a pastor in the Western New York District for 32 years. He served at Higgins Wesleyan Church and Hess Road Wesleyan Church before being called to plant the Cleveland Drive Wesleyan Church in Cheektowaga.

He then took a break from the pastorate to work with his brother-in-law as a building foreman. Together they built churches, dormitories, a school, office buildings and a library. His passion for ministry never seemed to go away and

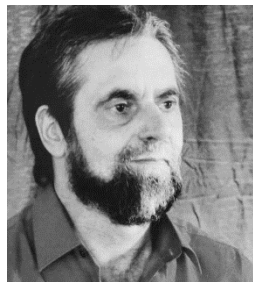
he later served at Fillmore Wesleyan Church and Little Valley Wesleyan Church before his retirement in 1992. Pastor Crowell was known for his attention to detail and his passion for serving the Lord with excellence.

Rev. Vaughn and Elsie Drummonds



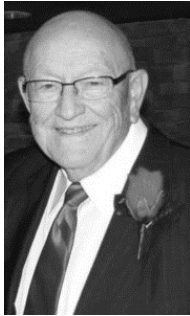
Rev. Vaughn Drummonds served as the District Superintendent of the Western New York District from 1988 to 2000. Vaughn considered his 12 years in Western New York fulfilling and productive years. In the year 2000, Rev. G. Vaughn Drummonds was honored by the Wesleyan Church through the receiving of the District Superintendent's Eagle Award. He was preceded in death by wife Elsie on December 12, 2019. Elsie was a spiritual giant serving with and behind her husband for their nearly 69 years of marriage and ministry. In her sweet quiet way, she was a strong impact for the church, the district, and the Lord. Prior to coming to the Western New York District, her served as the District Superintendent for the West Michigan District of the Wesleyan Church where he served for 8 years. From there, Vaughn was selected Assistant Director of the Office of Extension and Evangelism for the Wesleyan Church at the denominational level in Indianapolis, IN. Vaughn's favorite Scripture passage is Philippians 4:19. If he ever prayed with/or for you, you heard him end every prayer with this passage: "And my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Vaughn's personal ministry verse was Jeremiah 29:11-13 (NASB) "For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart."

Rev. Arthur Lazewski



Rev. Arthur S., of Cheektowaga, entered into rest February 21, 2021, from complications of COVID-19. Art is survived by his wife Rev. Teresa F. Lazewski, and his children Antoinette, Elyse and Chelsea. He was preceded in death by his son Nicholas in 2010. Art and Teresa were both ordained in The Wesleyan Church in 2008. They have served together as assistant pastors in the Western New York District at Grace Community Wesleyan Church and ZionQuest Christian Fellowship. Art was a kind and caring husband, father, neighbor and friend.

Rev. Paul F. Markell (1927-2020)



Rev. Paul F. Markell, 92 stepped into the presence of Jesus on April 15, 2020. He was preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, Ruth Wilde who passed away in 2006. He is survived by his wife, Caroline and his daughters, Sharon Fien and Elisabeth ‘Beth’ Markell; Sandra Browning and Carol Henderson. Paul graduated from Houghton College and was ordained by The Wesleyan Church in 1949. In 1950 he accepted the call to be the pastor of The Wesleyan Church of Orchard Park where he served as senior pastor for the next 46 years. He retired from the church in 1996 and was given Pastor Emeritus status. After retiring, Paul began a counseling ministry and wrote the book *Bound to Fail to Reach the Top — The Light that Gives Hope* that was published in January 2015. Additionally, Paul was elected Assistant District Superintendent for thirty-one consecutive years and was made Assistant District Superintendent Emeritus in July 2004, a position he actively held until his passing, culminating 73 years of service to The Western New York District of the Wesleyan Church. Paul is remembered for being a kind and thoughtful trailblazer, with a huge heart for people.

DBA REPORT ON PASTORAL RELATIONS

I. ORDAINED MINISTERS

A. APPOINTED ORDAINED MINISTERS (3250-3345)

1. DISTRICT SERVICE

The District Superintendent and other ordained ministers in full-time service of the district in a ministerial capacity (3320):

1. Joseph W. Jennings, District Superintendent

2. PASTORAL AND LOCAL SERVICE

a. Ordained Ministers appointed as pastors, associate or assistant pastors within the district (3255):

1. Jason K. Argo – The Vine Wesleyan Church (Depew)
2. Kevin D. Beers – Assistant, Watermark Wesleyan Church (Hamburg)
3. Caleb J. Carr – Assistant, Watermark Wesleyan Church (Hamburg)
4. Jason W. H. Claydon – Peace Wesleyan Church (Falconer)
5. Tammy M. Claydon – Assistant, Peace Wesleyan Church (Falconer)
6. Karen M. Cleveland – East Leon Wesleyan Church (Cattaraugus)
7. Jon P. Cole – Assistant, Houghton Wesleyan Church
8. Steven L. Dunmire – Assistant, Watermark Wesleyan Church (Hamburg)
9. Michael G. Dwyer, Jr. – Assistant, Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church (Williamsville)
10. Bruce M. Ellis – Forestville Wesleyan Church
11. Patricia A. Ellis – Assistant, Forestville Wesleyan Church
12. Robert M. Engler – Fillmore Wesleyan Church
13. Paul E. Gartley – Watermark Wesleyan Church (Hamburg)
14. Kimberly B. Gladden – ZionQuest Christian Fellowship (Cheektowaga)
15. Robert H. Grimes – Bellville Wesleyan Church (Caneadea)
16. Jonathan C. Horton – Assistant, Watermark Wesleyan Church (Hamburg)
17. Douglas F. Ingersoll – Big Tree Wesleyan Church (Blasdell)
18. Steven C. Johnson – Anchor Church (Buffalo)
19. Daniel P. Jones – Wesleyan Church of Orchard Park
20. Justin R. Jones – Assistant, Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church (Williamsville)
21. Patrick B. Jones – Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church (Williamsville)
22. William R. Lawson – Brookside Wesleyan Church (Wellsville)
23. Michael D. Leamon – Christ Chapel Wesleyan Church (Silver Creek)
24. Nila M. McIntyre – Assistant, Hillside Wesleyan Church (Olean)
25. Alan L. Meyers – Levant Wesleyan Church (Falconer)
26. Terri L. Niver – First Wesleyan Church (Bradford)
27. Cynthia A. Oden – Assistant, Houghton Wesleyan Church
28. Wesley D. Oden – Houghton Wesleyan Church
29. Paul D. Palmer – Oakland Wesleyan Church (Nunda)
30. Matthew A. Rose – Hess Road Wesleyan Church (Appleton)
31. Rebecca G. Rowley – Assistant, Fillmore Wesleyan Church
32. Cassandra L. Salter-Smith – Assistant, ZionQuest Christian Fellowship (Cheektowaga)
33. Robin M. Schara, Assistant, Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church (Williamsville)
34. Paul W. Shea – Assistant, Houghton Wesleyan Church
35. Bruce J. Smith – Higgins Wesleyan Church (Freedom)
36. Daniel G. Todd – Hillside Wesleyan Church (Olean)
37. Becky J. Todd – Assistant, Hillside Wesleyan Church (Olean)

38. Michael J. Trippett – Angola Wesleyan Church
39. Karen L. Tucker – Ashwood Wesleyan Church (Lyndonville)
40. Daniel M. Ward - Assistant, Watermark Wesleyan Church (Hamburg)
41. Jonathan D. Ward – North Park Wesleyan Church (Cuba)
42. Darren S. Wieder – Assistant, Watermark Wesleyan Church (Hamburg)
43. Daniel L. Wilson – Assistant, Hess Road Wesleyan Church (Appleton)
44. Suk May Yei – Assistant, Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church (Williamsville)

- b. Ordained ministers on loan to other districts of The Wesleyan Church for service as supply pastors (3100:2; 3260:1). None
- c. Ordained ministers appointed to serve in a local church spiritual formation or Christian education program (3310:2). None

3. EVANGELISTIC SERVICE

- a. General Evangelists (3270, 3285): None
- b. Associate General Evangelists (3270, 3280): None
- c. Reserve Evangelists (3270, 3274, 3285:2): None

4. DENOMINATIONAL SERVICE

- a. Ordained Ministers elected by the General Conference or General Board of Administration as general officials (3320): None
- b. Ordained Ministers employed at the International Center, or those elected or employed by the board of directors of a general subsidiary corporation other than an educational institution, for full-time general church service in a ministerial capacity as set forth in 3320 (cf. 1655:31):
 1. **Kimberly B. Gladden (Director of Discipleship)** *(Also listed in Pastoral Service)*
Ordained Ministers appointed by the General Board of Administration for service in a ministerial capacity as missionaries or workers under the General Departments of Evangelism and Church Growth or World Missions as set forth in 3300:
 1. **Kevin M. Austin – Global Partners (Czech Republic)**
 2. **Christopher R. George – Global Partners (Australia)**
 3. **Melissa J. George – Global Partners (Australia)**
- c. Ordained Ministers employed to serve in a ministerial capacity on the administrative staff or faculty of a general educational institution of The Wesleyan Church or one of the seminaries approved by the Wesleyan Seminary Foundation (3310, df. 2365, 2382):
 1. **Jonathan P. Case – Houghton College**
 2. **Marcus W. Dean – Houghton College**
 3. **J. Michael Jordan – Houghton College**
 4. **John L. (JL) Miller – Houghton College**
 5. **Kenneth L. Schenck – Houghton College**

5. CHAPLAINS (3330):

Ordained Ministers approved by the Committee on Chaplains and commissioned by the government as military chaplains, or employed as full-time professional institutional chaplains: None

6. INTERCHURCH SERVICE (3335):

Ordained Ministers employed in a ministerial capacity in interchurch service, serving with an educational, evangelistic or missionary organization not directly related to The Wesleyan Church, provided such service is approved by the district conference.

1. **Frederick A. Raines (Athletes in Action)**

7. SPECIAL SERVICE (3345):

Ordained Ministers serving in active ministry not otherwise provided for, if such service is approved by the district conference.

1. Ronald P. Duttweiler (Trinity Church of Nunda)
2. Clyde E. Hall (Riverside Chapel, Salamanca)
3. Jacob R. Leckel (Chaplain, Orchard Park Fire District)
4. Gregory W. McClain (Village Church, Assistant Pastor)
5. Stephen C. Strand (Urban Advocacy)
6. Ruth Woolsey Strand (Urban Advocacy)
7. Alan D. Trotter (Tower Church, Bradford, PA)
8. Michael J. Wrigglesworth (Centerpointe Community Church)

B. RETIRED ORDAINED MINISTERS:

Ordained Ministers retired because of age or incapacitated by infirmity, provided they were either on the appointed list, on reserve, or on educational leave at the time of such incapacitation or retirement (3370):

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. LeRoy N. Bannister | 12. Wayne A. MacBeth |
| 2. Gary L. Beers | 13. Floyd E. Merriam |
| 3. Allen S. Chase | 14. Timothy J. Miller |
| 4. Gale E. Cirocco | 15. Richard W. Nightingale |
| 5. Roger M. Crassi | 16. William P. Nykyforchyn |
| 6. Roy H. DeVries | 17. D. Joseph Payne |
| 7. Roger J. Farney | 18. Steven R. Pocock |
| 8. Robin W. George | 19. Carl Schultz |
| 9. Richard B. Heitzenrater | 20. Carol A. Schweigart |
| 10. Charles F. Hill | 21. Margaret D. Walker |
| 11. Ronald L. Logan | |

C. RESERVE ORDAINED MINISTERS (3360):

Ordained Ministers available for but without appointment. An ordained minister who remains on reserve for two consecutive years shall be automatically transferred to the list of ordained ministers without appointment unless continued on reserve by vote of the district conference. (*Denotes number of years listed in this category).

1. April Arbeiter-Allen*
2. Melinda D. Loew**

D. ORDAINED MINISTERS ON EDUCATIONAL LEAVE (3350:1): None

Ordained Ministers enrolled in a seminary or other graduate school for advanced training for church service.

E. ORDAINED MINISTERS WITHOUT APPOINTMENT (3380):

1. Ordained Ministers not available for appointment: (*Denotes number of years listed in this category).

1. Todd E. Glendenning****
2. Teresa S. Lazewski***
3. Alicia McGeorge*

2. Ordained Ministers employed in other than a ministerial capacity by the general church (3320), by a general educational institution or one of the seminaries connected with the Wesleyan Seminary foundation (3310) or in interchurch service (3335): None

3. Ordained Ministers not otherwise listed: None

F. ORDAINED MINISTERS IN PROCESS OF DISTRICT TRANSFER

Ordained Ministers receiving appointment by the district conference 1240:1 A, B, C or D but whose process of transfer between districts of The Wesleyan Church are not yet completed:

1. PENDING COMPLETION OF DISTRICT TRANSFER: None
2. APPLIED FOR DISTRICT TRANSFER

1. Justin Leininger to Northeast District

G. ORDAINED MINISTERS IN PROCESS OF DENOMINATIONAL TRANSFER (3104; 3390):

Ordained Ministers from another denomination who have been granted recognition as ordained ministers in process of transfer (1180:29a; cf. 1390:3; 3104):

1. Judy C. Gallegos from Joy Community Church

II. COMMISSIONED MINISTERS**A. PASTORS (3255):** None

Commissioned ministers appointed as pastors or as full-time associate or assistant pastors of Wesleyan churches in that district (317; 1083:3).

B. OTHER APPOINTMENTS (3059):

Commissioned ministers appointed to service in a local church Christian education program (3310:2) or in a ministerial capacity to district, denominational or interchurch service (3250; 3300; 3320; 3335) and those in retirement (3059:4).

C. COMMISSIONED MINISTERS WITHOUT APPOINTMENT (3380): None**D. COMMISSIONED MINISTERS IN PROCESS OF DISTRICT TRANSFER:** None**E. COMMISSIONED MINISTERS IN PROCESS OF DENOMINATIONAL TRANSFER:** None**F. RETIRED COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (3370:2):** None**III. LICENSED MINISTERS****A. PASTORS (3255):**

Licensed ministers appointed as pastors or as full-time associate or assistant pastors of Wesleyan churches in that district (317; 1083:3).

1. Yoshua B. Bashizi – Mission of Christ Wesleyan Church (Buffalo)
2. Daniel W. Butcher – Little Valley Wesleyan Church
3. Dominique M. Clements – Assistant, The Vine Wesleyan Church (Depew)
4. Cameron N. Duncan – Assistant, Anchor Church (Buffalo)
5. Barbara J. Farrow – Grace Community Wesleyan Church (Buffalo)
6. Trevor J. Kaufman – Assistant, Watermark Wesleyan Church (Hamburg)
7. Shawn F. King – Assistant, Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church (Williamsville)
8. Nathan J. Marone – Assistant, Hess Road Wesleyan Church (Appleton)
9. Joshua J. Mason – Assistant, Big Tree Wesleyan Church (Blasdell)
10. Andrea C. Merrill – Assistant, Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church (Williamsville)
11. Pierre P. Michel – Assistant, ZionQuest Christian Fellowship (Cheektowaga)
12. Joshua W. Rutherford – Assistant, Watermark Wesleyan Church (Hamburg)
13. Elijah D. Shamenda – Resurgence City (Buffalo)
14. David E. Schutte – Fellowship Wesleyan Church (West Seneca)
15. Andrew T. Sherman – Assistant, Wesleyan Church of Orchard Park

B. OTHER APPOINTMENTS:

Licensed ministers appointed to service in a local church Christian education program (3310:2) or in a ministerial capacity to district, denominational or interchurch service (3250; 3300; 3320; 3335): None

C. IN PROCESS OF DISTRICT TRANSFER

1. PENDING COMPLETION OF DISTRICT TRANSFER: None
2. APPLIED FOR DISTRICT TRANSFER: None

D. IN PROCESS OF DENOMINATIONAL TRANSFER

Licensed ministers or their equivalent from other denominations who have been granted recognition as licensed ministers in process of transfer (3104).

IV. MINISTERIAL STUDENTS**A. MINISTERIAL STUDENTS**

Those approved by the district conference to be licensed as ministerial students as set forth in 3015:1.

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Becky L. Beers | 11. Tori E. Jordan |
| 2. Melissa Bell | 12. Hannah G. Lindo |
| 3. Keith J. Clark | 13. James McLean |
| 4. Joseph A. Cook | 14. Shirley A. Mullen |
| 5. Mathew A. Dawson | 15. Bryan M. Pecora |
| 6. Mary I. Duvall | 16. Michael H. Prutsman |
| 7. Olivia R. Flint | 17. Edward M. Reiller |
| 8. Adam G. Funch | 18. Bethany E. Tolleson |
| 9. Dylan Hawkins | 19. Brian D. Wheeler |
| 10. Julia Hotchkiss | |

B. MINISTERIAL STUDENTS IN PROCESS OF DISTRICT TRANSFER

1. PENDING COMPLETION OF DISTRICT TRANSFER: None
2. APPLIED FOR DISTRICT TRANSFER: None

V. LAY WORKERS**A. COMMISSIONED SPECIAL WORKERS (3450; 3470):** None**B. COMMISSIONED SPECIAL WORKERS IN PROCESS OF TRANSFER (3450; 3470):** None**C. LICENSED SPECIAL WORKERS (3450; 3460):** None**D. COMMISSIONED LAY MISSIONARIES (3490):** None**E. SUPPLY PASTORS (3260):**

1. Elaine Brooks – Cattaraugus Wesleyan Indian Chapel
2. Kevin Brooks – Cattaraugus Wesleyan Indian Chapel

F. DENOMINATIONAL OFFICERS: None

Respectfully submitted, District Board of Administration
Western New York District, Robin W. George, District Secretary

2021 Nominee Biographies

Jason Argo

District Board of Administration Ministerial Member & Nominating Committee

Jason serves as the Lead Pastor at the Vine Wesleyan Church in Depew. Though he is originally from Western New York, Jason has ministered in Wesleyan churches in Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Virginia. His faith journey began as a teenager at Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church where he discovered his call to pastoral ministry. Jason is a graduate of Houghton College (2002) and Wesley Seminary (2011). His passion is to see God's people fall more in love with Jesus, find deep unity within the local church, and serve the community God has placed them in.



Melissa Cahill

General Conference Lay Delegate

Melissa Cahill was raised in a Wesleyan parsonage and accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior at the age of four. She is a member of the Brookside Wesleyan Church in Wellsville, New York. Melissa taught in a local, Christian, elementary school for eleven years and is currently a special education teacher for BOCES. Each summer, she looks forward to the District Refresh Retreat where she has served as the Nursery Director for the past twenty years.



Steve Dunmire

General Conference Ministerial Delegate

Steve is a born-and-raised Western New Yorker who serves as Teaching Pastor at Watermark Wesleyan Church (Hamburg, NY), and as Assistant District Superintendent of the WNY District. He previously spent 7 years serving at Houghton College, 11 years as a lead pastor, and 1 year as a youth pastor. He is a graduate of Houghton College (B.S.), Northeastern Seminary (M.Div.), Asbury Theological Seminary (D.Min.), and was ordained in 2007. Steve is married to Tammy Dunmire, and they have four children.



Rob Engler

Nominating Committee Ministerial Member

Rob has served the local church in several capacities over the past two decades. At Big Tree Wesleyan Church, he took on the roles of youth pastor and assistant pastor from 2005-2015. During those years, the Lord impressed upon him the prompting to serve the church and its people as a senior pastor in the Rochester area. The Engler family has been serving at Fillmore Wesleyan Church for the last 2 years and 9 months, where Rob is the Senior Pastor. They continue to be excited about this ministry and the opportunities in this coming year and beyond. Rob is an alum of Houghton College and possesses a master's degree in Transformational Leadership from Northeastern Seminary. Rob is married to Amy and has six children, ranging in ages from 20 to 8. He enjoys being outdoors and more specific, fishing and hunting in his spare time.



Rick Fohl

District Secretary & General Conference Lay Delegate

Rick is currently serving on the DBA and would be honored to be elected to the post of Secretary and GC Delegate. Serving alongside such an extraordinary group of believers has been an enriching and rewarding experience. For many years Rick, now retired, spent most of his career at Lucent Technologies (now Alcatel-Lucent) starting as a Systems Engineer and worked his way into Global positions of Global Business Development Manager and Product Line Manager traveling extensively throughout the world. This experience cemented his faith and highlighted the critical void and importance of actively evangelizing the message of Jesus Christ to the entire world. A few years back Rick felt the call to support, and work with Mission of Christ, a developing church within our district, on the west side of Buffalo which attracts Congolese refugees. Along with teaching English lessons, Rick with the help of his wife Karen has provided bikes through bike drives, heavy socks and jackets for the winter, clothing of all sorts, and even helped members of the congregation find jobs. Rick was raised in a Christian family in Clarence, NY. He served on the LBA and as the Vice Chair at The Vine for many years prior to moving back to Clarence Center. Rick currently serves on the Worship Team and Security team at EHWC and is always willing to fill in as a bass player at other churches in the district as needed.



Kimberly Gladden

Action Committee Ministerial Member & General Conference Ministerial Delegate

Rev. Kimberly Gladden serves as the director of discipleship for CMAD (Church Multiplication and Discipleship) for the Wesleyan Church. Throughout 30+ years in ministry, it has always been her desire to see the people of God grow and serve God passionately. With an M.Div. from Colgate Rochester Divinity School and an undergraduate degree in Business Management from Florida A & M University, Rev. Gladden has been at home in church congregations as well as teaching and leading in university settings. Previously serving on staff at Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church as Discipleship Pastor and Missions Pastor, (with connections to over 40 countries) she simultaneously planted and pastored an urban congregation, ZionQuest Christian Fellowship. Founder of the VisionQuest Christian Orchestra and VisionQuest Ministries (a mission service organization) she has eclectic interests that include the use of the arts as witness, outreach, and ministry tools.



Barb Hauck

Action Committee & District Board of Administration Lay Member

Barb Hauck lives in Dunkirk with her husband, Ray. They have four grown children, many grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren. She accepted Jesus as her Savior 20 years ago. For the last six years, she has been the Administrative Assistant at Christ Chapel Wesleyan Church in Silver Creek. Before that, she was a real estate paralegal for 25 years.



Steve Johnson

Action Committee & General Conference Ministerial Delegate

Rev. Steve Johnson is the pastor of Anchor Church in North Buffalo. He is married to Lindsey, and they have two children, Ava (9) and Charlie (7). Steve was born and raised in Indiana and is a graduate of Indiana Wesleyan University. He moved to Western New York in 2006 to serve as youth pastor at Fellowship Wesleyan Church and was ordained in 2007. From 2010-2014, Steve was an assistant pastor at the Wesleyan Church of Hamburg. Steve and Lindsey left that ministry role as they felt a burden for the people living in the city of Buffalo. In 2015, Anchor Church began in the Johnson's home as they started forming a small group of people who had a similar heart for the neighborhood and city. Anchor Church launched in January of 2016 and became an established church in 2020. Steve continues to have a passion for the city, for the lost, and for seeing more churches planted in WNY.



Dan Jones

Action Committee Ministerial Member & General Conference Ministerial Delegate

Dan Jones is the Lead Pastor of the Orchard Park Wesleyan Church. Before Dan came to the Western New York District he was the pastor at the Avon Wesleyan Church in the Central New York District for 9 years. Dan also chaired the District Board of Ministerial Development (DBMD) in Central NY District for 5 years and was a member of the Discipleship Committee. Dan grew up on a dairy farm and came to Christ as a child at the small rural church where he grew up, met his wife Karen and served as an assistant pastor. After sensing God's call to pastoral ministry Dan left the farm to attend Houghton College and then earned an M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary. During his seminary training Dan pastored a small suburban Wesleyan Church in the midst of transition helping them regain established church status. Dan is passionate about helping churches reach their communities with the Gospel. While pastoring at Avon, he attended Fuller Theological Seminary earning a Doctor of Ministry studying discipleship and evangelism. Dan has led the Wesleyan Church of Orchard Park in planting Resurgence City – a church plant in downtown Buffalo. He currently serves as the Chair of the District Board of Ministerial Development (DBMD) in the WNY District and is an adjunct professor at Wesley Seminary and Equipping for Ministry at Houghton.



Jeff Klau

District Board of Administration Lay Member

Jeff has been a Christian since 1974, and after shopping around, became a Wesleyan in 1978, and has been a member of Levant Wesleyan Church for almost thirty years. As a church member he has been on the LBA, head trustee, visitation, and nursery, among other things. He has also served a term recently on the DBA. He currently serves in Kidventure with K through fourth graders. In his personal life he will be retiring from a sales job he has had for twenty-five years in December. He has two adult sons and one grandson. He has been on a short-term mission trip to Lebanon to visit Youth for Christ and is praying for an opportunity to return. Finally, as a relatively recent divorcee, and being of Jewish origin, God is working with him daily to become more like Jesus and more sensitive to the needs of the culture around him; both in and out of the church. It is a struggle, but God helps him every day.



Leigh Meyers

Nominating Committee Lay Member

Leigh had the privilege of growing up in a Christian home, and gave her life to the Lord as a young girl. She has been married to her pastor husband, Al, for almost 28 years. They have 11 biological children ages 8-26, plus 2 preschool foster children they are in the process of adopting. Over the years, she has served in different ministry areas, including youth, worship, children's, and women's ministries. Currently, she homeschools 6 of their kids (which she thinks of as discipleship), teaches a ladies' Bible study at her church, Levant Wesleyan, serves in the nursery, and occasionally sings with the worship team. In her free time, she enjoys reading, gardening, writing, thrifting & antiquing, and spending time with family. Each day brings new challenges, but she is a firm believer that life doesn't have to be perfect to be wonderful. One of her favorite verses is 1 John 1:5—"This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all." Her hope is that her life will point people to the God of Light!



Jason Mucher

District Board of Administration Lay Member

Jason Mucher is a member of Houghton Wesleyan Church in Houghton, N.Y. A native of Perry, N.Y. (Wyoming County), Jason is a communications professional who has worked in athletics and higher education public relations since graduating from Taylor University in 1994. The majority of his career has been spent serving in the athletics department at Houghton College. He and his wife, Alicia, were married in 2001 and are the proud parents of Jady (16), Campbell (12) and Emalyn (10). The family is active in the life of the church. Alicia serves on the church Stewardship Committee, while Jason is a member of the Communications Committee and has taught an adult Sunday School class since 2017. The kids are active in the church's children and youth activities. Jason is also part of a small group of men who meet weekly to walk through life together as husbands, fathers, and followers of Christ. Jason holds a bachelor's degree in Mass Communication from Taylor and a Master's in Sport Administration from Canisius College.



Terri Niver

District Board of Administration Ministerial Member

Terri Niver has been the Pastor of the First Wesleyan Church of Bradford for the last 5 years. She accepted Jesus as her Savior when she was thirteen years old. She was raised by her grandmother who prayed for her every single day, which she believes prepared her heart for the Lord. The Lord called her into Pastoral Ministry in 2009, and in obedience she became a ministerial student. Proverbs 3:5-6 states, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." This verse has helped her to know that God opens and closes the doors in which He desires us to go through or turn away from. The Lord has led her on this amazing journey, and she looks forward to His continued plans for her life. Terri has been married to her high school sweetheart, Kevin, for 37 years. He is her rock, and they serve the Lord together. They have two adult children:



Kammie who is married to Aaron, and Chad who lives at home. They also have three cattle dogs that are our fur babies Max, Diesel, and Mika. Terri is currently serving on the board of the local pregnancy center, Bright Alternatives, as the Vice President. In the past she has served as the vice chair and secretary of the Local Board of Administration, Children's Ministry Director, and Spiritual Formation Director.

Wes Oden

General Conference Ministerial Delegate

Wes has been a follower of Christ all of his life and has been a pastor for 36 years. He was ordained in 1986 and serves full-time as Senior Pastor of Houghton Wesleyan Church. He has served in that capacity for 25 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 has served 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 and a six-year-old granddaughter and three-year-old grandson.



Julie Palmer

General Conference Lay Delegate

Julie Palmer is a member of Watermark Wesleyan and has been involved with the Wesleyan Church for over 30 years. She has served on 2 overseas mission trips, worship teams, led a small group with her husband, led a women's Bible Study, served on a prayer deliverance team and has been a member of the Outreach Committee at Watermark. She is married to Jeff who is a teacher in the Amherst School District, and he is currently serving on the worship team. They have 4 children 2 of which have been adopted into their home. God placed a deep burden for women and children who are victims of exploitation on Julie's heart and called her into ministry in 2012 as the Executive Director of PATH Inc. (People Against Trafficking Humans). The PATH Enrichment Center in Buffalo provides support services to women and children who are at risk or have been affected by human trafficking in WNY offering restoration and healing. She has a master's from the University of Buffalo Counseling and Educational Psychology Department and a bachelor's in music therapy. She has worked in the field of mental health for over 20 years and has been an instructor for the BOCES Teacher Center on multiple topics. She completed a Trauma-Informed Care Champion Learning Collaborative as a Health Fellows Program through UB and completed a Harvard Business School Not-for-Profit Management Program Course. She was a speaker for TedxBuffalo on the topic of Human Trafficking.



Kim Pecora

General Conference Lay Delegate

Kim is a member at Angola Wesleyan Church where she is currently serving as Treasurer, leading ladies' Bible study. She is married to Bryan with 4 beautiful children and 5 grandchildren. Kim is very thankful God has provided this opportunity to serve as District Treasurer and get to know many of our church Treasurers better. It has been an honor to serve on the District Board and be a part of such a great team.



Daryl Stevenson

Action Committee Lay Member

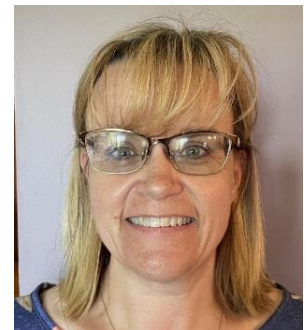
Daryl Stevenson has lived in Houghton for nearly 40 years and has held membership and leadership roles in the Houghton Wesleyan Church for most of that time. A fifth generation Wesleyan, he retired from the college in 2013 following a 31-year career as faculty member and staff administrator. He has been married to Gudy for 51 years, and together they raised three now-married sons who have eight of their own children, ranging in age from 17 to 6. Daryl's other interests include woodworking and carpentry, male quartet music, English Premier League soccer, and boating and water sports.



Lisa Schmidt

Nominating Committee Lay Member

Hello! My name is Lisa Schmidt and I live in Holland NY and have been married for 27 years to my wonderful husband George. I am the mother of 4 great kids: Abby, who is married to Brandon Camacho, Olivia, Karolyn and Donald. I accepted Jesus into my heart when a child and it was the best thing I ever did. I grew up in Girard PA and after high school went on to get my degree in elementary education at Houghton College. I was a stay-at-home mom for 20 years and I have been a full-time teacher's aide at Holland Middle School for the last 4 years. I have attended Orchard Park Wesleyan Church for the past 20 years and have been active in teaching Sunday school, helping with youth group and playing the piano on the worship team. I would love to serve on the Wesleyan district nominating committee and would faithfully pray and serve to the best of my ability.



Ruth Strand

District Board of Administration Ministerial Member

Ruth's childhood roots are in Sierra Leone, W. Africa, where her parents served as Wesleyan missionaries. Later, her family moved to Houghton, NY, where she made a choice for Jesus when she was 7 years old at Christian Life Emphasis Week. Ruth graduated from Houghton College and Asbury Theological Seminary, and has served on pastoral staff at West Locke Wesleyan Church (W. MI), and Houghton Wesleyan Church. In addition, for 11 years she and her husband Stephen co-pastored Peace Wesleyan Church, in Falconer, NY. From 1996-2003, her family served with Global Partners in Costa Rica and Honduras. In 2014, Ruth and her husband Steve moved to the diverse West Side of Buffalo to work with Urban Advocacy. Through Urban Advocacy, a ministry initiative of the WNY District, they seek to work collaboratively with local ministry partners, as well as identify areas of need and service in Buffalo. Currently, she is the director of Spiritual Care at Jericho Road Community Health Center.



Dan Todd

Action Committee Ministerial Member

Dan was raised on a farm near Ashland, NE. His undergraduate degree was done in Lincoln, NE at Nebraska Wesleyan University. He served as a Youth Director in the United Methodist Church for a number of years. He received his Master of Christian Education at Asbury Seminary in 2002. Dan and Becky were married in 2003. In 2009, they moved to Mitchell, SD where he served as Assistant Pastor at Mitchell Wesleyan Church. Becky and Dan were both ordained in the Wesleyan Church in 2016. In 2017, he accepted a call to serve as Lead Pastor in the Western New York District at Hillside Wesleyan in Olean, NY. They have two children that continue to enrich their lives, Lily and Josiah. His hobbies include Star Wars, Superhero movies, and basketball. He is a big fan of the NBA (Go Celtics!). "I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them: I will remove their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh". Ezekiel 11:19



Mike Trippett

District Board of Administration Ministerial Member

Mike joined the Western New York District in August of 2013, in the role of solo pastor at Angola Wesleyan Church, where he still serves today. Mike is a second career pastor who previously worked in the state of New Jersey as a licensed environmental technician. Under the pastoral care of Rev. Fred Moore, Mike gave his heart to the Lord in the summer of 1997 while attending Bethany Wesleyan Church in the Penn-Jersey District (now the Northeast District) of the Wesleyan Church. In 2007 while attending The Gospel Chapel Wesleyan Church in Northampton PA, Mike began to sense a call to ministry. In 2009 he joined the staff at The Gospel Chapel Wesleyan Church as Pastor of Youth Ministries. In 2013 Mike began to sense the Lord leading him to pursue full-time ministry as a lead pastor. It did not take long for an opportunity to present itself and Mike and Marie accepted the call to pastor the Angola Wesleyan Church in Western NY. Mike was ordained on October 8, 2017. Mike and his wife Marie were married in December of 1989 and have been blessed with two children. Brett, 28 has been employed as an automotive damage adjuster for the last 7 years. Blaire, 23, graduated from Houghton College in May of 2020 with a major in psychology, and is now employed by Best Self Health as a child advocate for the Buffalo Child Advocacy Center in Buffalo. Mike's hobbies and interests include hunting, fishing, gardening, reading and woodworking. Mike finds special pleasure in spending time with Marie, while walking the beach and searching for beach glass.



Jonathan Ward

District Board of Administration Ministerial Member

Jonathan Ward was saved at the young age of 4 in his father's lap. He grew in the church, sometimes rebelling, sometimes excelling...but growing. It was at Youth Camp in Colfax, NC where he completely dedicated his life to the Lord at the age of 18. In his dorm room at NC State during his devotions, the Lord called him into full-time Christian Ministry. He transferred to Indiana Wesleyan University where he double-majored in Christian Ministries and Biblical Literature. It was here that he met and married his bride, Ashley (Seely) Ward. He has worked as a Youth



Pastor (Marion 1st Church of the Nazarene), Assistant Pastor of Discipleship (New Life Wesleyan Church), Pastor (Paint Lick United Methodist Church while attending Asbury Seminary for his Masters) and for the past 17 years as Pastor of North Park Wesleyan Church here in the WNY District. He has previously served on the District Action Committee and as the District Men's Director. He is an avid outdoorsman, gardener, woodworker and reader. The father of four (Rebekah, Joshua, Caleb and Elizabeth).

Paul Young

General Conference Lay Delegate

Paul grew up in the Atlantic district, attended Bethany Bible College, and graduated from Houghton College in 1976. In 1980 he joined the faculty of Houghton College, where he now serves as Dean of the Faculty. Paul teaches an adult Sunday School class and sings in the choir at the Houghton Wesleyan Church, and has served for many years on the District Board of Ministerial Development. Paul and Debbie have three daughters, all involved in music ministry.



Jun Zhuang

General Conference Lay Delegate

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 M.S. 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 where he is currently a Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in Industrial and Systems Engineering. Since August 2008 Jun and his family have been attending and serving at Eastern Hills Church -- Chinese Church. Jun's father and mother visited Buffalo from China, got to know Jesus Christ, and were baptized at the EHWC in March 2010. Jun has served on the District Board of Administration (DBA) of the WNY District of the Wesleyan Church since June 2014, on the DBA Executive Committee (2015 to 2020), and as an Assistant District Treasurer (2017 to 2020). Jun is starting to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees of Houghton College in Fall 2021. Jun is passionate about being a disciple by spreading the Gospel as well as building up the Church.



Statistical Summary
 WNY District of The Wesleyan Church
 2019 - 2021

	2019	2020	2021	Change	%
Membership					
Student Members	97	108	75	-33	-30.6%
Members (<i>Adults</i>)	2,978	2,934	2,879	-55	-1.9%
Total All Members	3,075	3,042	2,954	-88	-2.9%
Ministries					
Average Worship Attendance	6,891	6,119	5,519	-600	-9.8%
<i>In Person</i>			3,289		
<i>Live Online</i>			2,230		
Persons Saved	436	255	131	-124	-48.6%
Number of Disciple Makers	900	968	856	-112	-11.6%
Persons Sanctified	77	84	152	68	81.0%
Persons Baptized	267	214	79	-135	-63.1%
Discipleship Responsibility List					
Children	2,542	1,343	2,244	901	67.1%
Youth	1,110	1,212	1,450	238	19.6%
Adults	8,786	3,649	6,466	2,817	77.2%
Total Responsibility List	12,438	6,204	10,160	3,956	63.8%
Property					
Value of Church Buildings	\$69,382,922	\$79,613,038	\$80,229,467	616,429	0.8%
Value of Parsonages	\$5,041,100	\$5,077,800	\$4,240,700	-837,100	-16.5%
Total Indebtedness	\$5,979,160	\$5,286,464	\$3,818,771	-1,467,693	-27.8%
Income					
Tithes and Offerings	\$12,584,592	\$12,848,108	\$13,381,005	\$263,516	2.3%
Total of All Revenue	\$13,726,338	\$14,491,100	\$15,244,020	\$764,762	5.8%
Disbursements					
Salary to Pastors	\$1,129,817	\$1,084,297	\$1,043,062	-41,235	-3.8%
Other Benefits to Pastors	\$746,697	\$705,505	\$715,673	10,168	1.4%
Salary to Assistant Pastors	\$715,813	\$581,469	\$646,868	65,399	11.2%
Other Benefits to Assistant Pastors	\$657,481	\$600,539	\$667,497	66,958	11.1%
Global Partners Missionaries	\$299,221	\$254,026	\$222,702	-31,324	-12.3%
World Hope International	\$86,061	\$67,394	\$39,508	-27,886	-41.4%
All Other Missions	\$1,145,225	\$1,210,472	\$579,079	-631,393	-52.2%
Benevolent Ministries	\$275,096	\$322,014	\$215,562	-106,452	-33.1%
Total of all Disbursements	\$13,253,008	\$13,254,172	\$12,392,091	-862,081	-6.5%

