

2023 Nominee Biographies

Jason Argo

District Board of Administration, Clergy

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. Jason has served on the district ministry retreat team and two years on the District Board of Administration.



Crystal Bisker

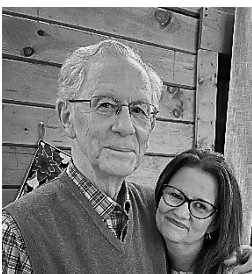
District Board of Administration, Lay

Crystal attends First Wesleyan Church of Bradford, PA where she has served on the board for almost 2 decades, including the current Vice Chair and Spiritual Formation Director. She helps lead youth group, teaches children's church, has led VBS for the past 5 years, facilitates new classes and monthly Family Nights, along with various other "odd jobs" around the church. She loves being in church and going to the beach as a close second. She reluctantly began attending with her parents at age 14 and accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior at youth camp Li-Lo-Li the summer of 1995. She and her husband, Corey will be married for 24 years this August and together they have two adult children, Keagan and Emily, and a slew of pets, including 3 grand-kitties. Crystal is a licensed insurance agent by day, but her passion is disciples who make disciples and believes everyone needs a small group! She loves music, reading, Mexican food, warm weather, spending time with her family and Penguins hockey. (Go Pens!)

Cable Carr

Action Committee, Clergy

Caleb "Cable" Carr is, Assistant Pastor at Revive Wesleyan in Hamburg, NY. He is an Ordained Minister and has served in full-time ministry for five years, mainly in youth ministry. Educationally, Cable holds a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry, and a Masters of Practical theology, both from Indiana Wesleyan University. He is married to Allison, and they have a toddler named Arthur. Cable enjoys reading, running, soccer, and a good cup of coffee.



Bob Danner

Action Committee, Lay

Bob Danner, small town Southern Ohio boy, grew up in a Christian home and accepted the claim of Jesus Christ early. Twenty years in the U. S. Army followed college with Officer's Christian Fellowship as a primary ministry involvement. Two assignments at West Point prepared Bob for another 20-year position as VP for Student Life (Dean of Students) at Houghton University, from which he retired in 2001. A member of Houghton Wesleyan Church since 1981, Bob has served in several capacities including six years as Vice Chair of the Board of Elders during nine years on the Board. He has four children (including Maribeth Jennings), thirteen grandchildren, and thirteen great-grandchildren. Bob has been married to Kathy Reitnour for three years which joyfully adds many more loved ones to his clan.

Mike Dwyer

Action Committee, Clergy

Mike Dwyer has served Christ for 24 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 and as Church Multiplication Director.



Patti Ellis

Nominating Committee, Clergy

Patti is originally from the Philadelphia area. She was active in the United Church of Christ until she moved into a foster home at the age of 15. She then attended the Olivet Wesleyan Church in Glassboro, NJ. There she made a solid commitment to Christ and accepted God's call into ministry. Patti graduated from United Wesleyan College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Youth Ministry and Music. She has been married to Bruce Ellis since 1987. They served on staff at the Weedville Wesleyan Church for four years. She was ordained in 1992 in this district and has been serving as Assistant Pastor at the Forestville Wesleyan Church (with Bruce) for 32 years. She has worked as a substitute teacher and is currently working part time as a dental assistant in a pediatric practice. The Ellises have 3 children and 7 grandchildren. Areas in which she has served in the district include Director of Social Concerns, Nominating Committee, District Board of Administration, Teens and Talent Director, Youth Camp Counselor, and Pastor and Spouse Retreat Committee.

Rick Fohl

District Secretary

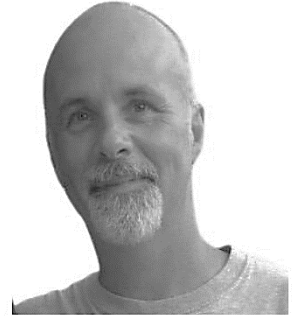
Rick would be honored to serve as District Secretary. Rick is currently serving on the DBA as well as the DBA executive committee. Rick was privileged to serve as a delegate to General Conference in St Louis this past year. He has enjoyed working on DBA projects such as assisting in finance and investment strategies, selling off land as needed and even managing a timber project. Rick, now retired, formerly worked 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. Rick and his wife Karen are working regularly with a nonprofit called *Sleep in Heavenly Peace* who build, deliver, and install beds for any child in the city of Buffalo who doesn't have a bed. Their motto is: "No Kid in Our Town Sleeps on the Floor." Rick has worked for many years with Congolese refugees at Mission of Christ Church. He has enjoyed teaching English, as well as leading teams providing clothes, socks, blankets, winter apparel, bikes and now beds. 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 EHCW and has developed a traveling Worship Team which fills in and substitutes at other churches in the district as needed.



Todd Glendenning

Nominating Committee, Clergy

Todd is a graduate of Houghton University and has been a Wesleyan Minister since 1990. In 1999 he became the Senior Pastor of The Wesleyan Church of Orchard Park where he served for 17 years. He has also served in various roles in the District including District Youth President, District Board of Administration, Chair of the District Board of Ministerial Development, and as Assistant District Superintendent. He is currently serving as Chair of the Developing Churches Board. Todd is married to Wendy, and they have four children and two grandchildren.



Justin Jones

Nominating Committee, Clergy



Justin Jones is the Executive Pastor of Spiritual Formation and Strategic Development at Eastern Hills Church. He has served as a pastor at Eastern Hills in various capacities since 2010. He has been married to his wife, Janelle, since 2011 and they have two boys: Judah (9) and Josiah (4). His ministry calling is a passion for intellectual justice or freeing people from lies. Towards that endeavor he has written several books including “Engage: How to Know God,” “Reboot: Becoming a Passionate Follower of Jesus Christ” and “Seed-

Life: Engaging Every Person with a Kingdom Mindset.” He and his family also have a passion for permaculture-focused homesteading and teach courses on sustainable living.

Shannon Kedge

Nominating Committee, Lay

Shannon was born and raised in WNY where she attended Iroquois Central School before earning her degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance from SUNY Geneseo in 1991. She was married in 1997 to her husband Marty and they have two sons, Zach, and Noah. After working for several years in the insurance and financial planning industry, she quit her job to stay at home with their boys. About two years after their son Zach was born, she attended an Easter cantata at Fellowship Wesleyan with her mom and shortly thereafter, she accepted Jesus as her Savior. In 2008, when their youngest son was 5 and attending preschool at Fellowship, she was offered a position as a part-time assistant treasurer which she gladly accepted. As the years passed, she was trusted with additional responsibilities and was eventually offered the full-time position of Church Administrator in January 2013. Shannon has worked extensively with the budgeting process and handled much of the financial responsibility of the church in addition to the day-to-day operation of the office. For a short time, she was also the accounts payable contact for the WNY District. She continues to hold her Church Admin position at Fellowship where she and her family are members, and she also volunteers in different ministries.





Tim McGarvey

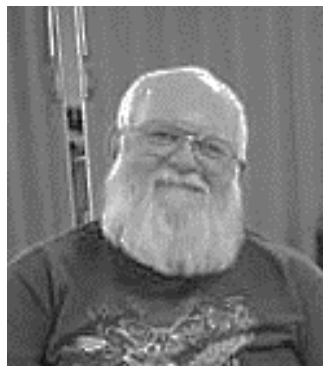
Action Committee, Lay

Tim McGarvey is a member of the Houghton Wesleyan Church. He and his wife, Sharon, have been a part of that congregation for almost six years. at Houghton Wesleyan Tim serves as an elder and is involved in the worship ministry. Professionally, Tim is a Professor of Music at Houghton University where he teaches conducting, music education and conducts the Houghton Wind Ensemble. Prior to moving to the Houghton area, Tim and Sharon lived and served in northwest Iowa where Tim was a professor of music at Northwestern College, a Christian college, for 28 years. They were members and served a local body of believers at Dover Church. At Dover Tim served as a member of the elder board for many years and was involved heavily in the worship ministry of the church. Tim has served in leadership and administrative positions not only at churches, but in every teaching position he has held. Tim would be honored to serve, if called, to the Action Committee of the Western New York District of the Wesleyan Church.

Al Meyers

District Board of Administration, Clergy

Al graduated from Houghton University in 1994 and served with the Salvation Army, Hamburg (Revive) Wesleyan, and teaching at a Christian School in Orlando Florida before joining the staff at Gates Wesleyan in the Central NY District as Youth Pastor for 9 years. In 2007 he moved to the Falconer area and became Family Pastor at Levant Wesleyan Church for 7 years before moving into the role of Lead Pastor for the last 10 years. With his wife of 30 years, 11 kids of their own, 2 foster children, 2 grandchildren (and 2 more coming in July). Al enjoys coaching, mentoring and counseling those interested in experiencing the fullness of life through healthy relationships and discipling them into the love of Christ and compassion for their neighbors. Al has enjoyed serving on the team for District Refresh Camp for roughly 15 years teaching in the 4th-6th grade program area.



Don Miller

Action Committee, Lay

Don Miller has attended the Ashwood Wesleyan Church since 2011. He has served in a wide variety of official roles including treasurer, children's teacher, and building maintenance. In addition, Don can be counted on to provide support and encouragement regardless of the ministry someone in the church is attempting to do.



J. L. Miller

District Board of Administration, Clergy

J. L. Miller currently serves as Chair of Religion, Associate Dean of the Chapel, and teaches in the Bible/Theology department at Houghton University. After pursuing his master's degree from Asbury Theological Seminary he served for eleven years as Youth Pastor in the local church, spending seven of those years in the south towns of Buffalo. J. L. has been a part of the WNY District since 2010, becoming ordained in 2015. Making good use of his time at home during the pandemic, J. L. finished his Doctoral degree in Spiritual Formation from Tyndale Seminary in Toronto. J. L. cares deeply about connecting the local church and the academy, along with investing in young adults pursuing their call to ministry. J. L. and his wife, Heidi, have four children ranging in age from 7-16. They love to take long road trips, explore new places, and cheer for the next Super Bowl Champions: The Buffalo Bills! On the weekends you can find J. L. pretending to be a barista at his wife's coffee shoppe and worshipping with his church family at Anchor Church in Buffalo.

Jason Mucher

District Board of Administration, Lay

Jason Mucher is a member of Houghton Wesleyan Church in Houghton, NY. A native of Perry, NY (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 University. He and his wife, Alicia, were married in 2001 and are the proud parents of Jadyn (18), Campbell (14) and Emalyn (12). Jadyn is currently a student at Indiana Wesleyan University. The family is active in the life of the church. Alicia recently finished a term as an elder and serves on the church Stewardship Committee, while Jason is a member of the Communications Committee, has taught both youth and adult Sunday School classes, and currently volunteers with youth group. 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.



Kim Pecora

District Board of Administration, Lay



Kim is a member at Angola Wesleyan Church where she is currently serving as Treasurer, enjoys leading a ladies Bible study and having fun getting ready for VBS in a few weeks. She is married to Bryan, and together they have 4 beautiful children and 5 wonderful grandchildren, with another on the way. Kim has had the privilege of serving as the previous District Treasurer and is thankful to be nominated to serve on the District Board. She enjoys taking ministry courses and plans to continue for personal enrichment. Kim has recently fulfilled the requirements to become a Lay Minister and will be recognized at her church this summer alongside her husband who is being licensed at this year's conference. For the last few years, Kim served on the board for *Pure For God Ministries*, which is a youth ministry in the South Towns. God continues to inspire her desire to grow closer to Him and share His love with others.

Steve Priola

District Board of Administration, Lay

Steve Priola has been walking with The Lord since 1989. He has been married to his wonderful wife Ginny for 40 years. They have been blessed with 4 adult children and 8 grandchildren. He retired from The Sherwin Williams Company two years ago. He served in various roles of district management for the last 27 years of his employment. He has worshipped at The Vine Wesleyan Church since its inception. He serves at The Vine in various roles, among them greeter, host, helping with membership classes, as an LBA member and as the men's ministry director. He is a volunteer, board member and director at the *Tri-Community Food Pantry* in Depew. The pantry serves over 300 families per month. In retirement he has also volunteered at *716 Ministries*, helping with their work readiness program. He loves the Lord, serving others, spending time with family and friends, listening to music, playing golf and watching the Buffalo Bills and Sabres.



Georgia Schutte

District Board of Administration, Lay

Georgia Schutte is new to the WNY District coming most recently from Southwest Florida and has been a member of Fellowship Wesleyan Church since 2020. Although she supports wherever she can, whether it be running the slides on a Sunday morning or supporting the annual *Rise Against Hunger* event, she is passionate about serving the church through her perspective of marketing. Currently Georgia works for 1Password leading the planning and program management team within the marketing department. She enjoys gardening, home design, sourdough bread making, and spending time exploring WNY and all it has to offer with her husband David. David Schutte (lead pastor at Fellowship Wesleyan) and Georgia have been married for almost 3 years and have two fur kids, Winnie and Ron.

Andrew Sherman

Action Committee, Clergy

Andrew Sherman is the assistant pastor of Orchard Park Wesleyan Church, where he oversees the youth ministry and assists in multiple other areas in the life of the church. Andrew grew up in the town of North East, PA. The proximity to Lake Erie and the changing of the seasons cultivated a deep and enduring love of nature from an early age. In the spring of 2013, he encountered Christ in a powerful way at an adult Bible study and committed his life to following Jesus. He graduated from Houghton University in 2019 with his BS in theology and began his ministry at OPWC that Summer. In his time at Orchard Park, Andrew has loved the unique challenges and joys of translating his experiences at Houghton into the context of the local church. Andrew was recently ordained in The Wesleyan Church in October 2022. Looking forward, Andrew's greatest hope for his ministry is that God would use him to plant deep roots for the Kingdom in one community. Whether he's hiking, running, biking, camping, canoeing, skiing, or birding, Andrew still just enjoys spending time outdoors. He is also an avid musician and concert goer. He loves singing and playing (or trying to play) any instrument he can get his hands on and also writes his own music.



Marie Trippett

Nominating Committee, Lay

In 2013, after much prayer and discernment, Marie and her family moved to Western New York in obedience to the call which the Lord had placed on her husband Mike to pastor the congregation of Angola Wesleyan Church. Marie will tell you that it has been an amazing journey the Lord has led her and her family on, as she has walked step by step with Mike in ministering to the people of Angola. Marie and Mike have celebrated 33 years of marriage together, and they have been blessed with two children, both of whom they are very proud. Their son Brett is 32 years old and lives in New Jersey where he is employed as an automotive insurance claims adjuster with Modern Auto Body of South Orange New Jersey. Their daughter Blaire, a 2020 Houghton University graduate, is 25 years old and lives in WNY. She is employed as a Victim Advocate with the Buffalo Children's Advocacy Center and has most recently been promoted to Team Leader of Victim Advocates. Marie has the honor and privilege of being the Children's Ministry Director at Angola Wesleyan Church for the past 9 years. She feels truly blessed to work alongside several other children's ministry volunteers who share the love of Jesus with the children every week. Marie has worked as a Teacher's Aide in the Special Education Department at Silver Creek Central School District for the last 9 years. She has a heart for children and loves to watch and help children learn and grow. In her free-time, Marie enjoys spending time with her husband as they hike the beautiful trails of WNY, camp, and walk the beaches in search of beach glass. Marie feels truly grateful for how God has worked in her life, and she looks forward to seeing what the Lord has in store in the years to come.



Karen Tucker

District Board of Administration, Clergy

Karen Tucker has served as a solo pastor since 1984 except for four years while she attended Asbury Seminary. Currently she is the pastor at Ashwood Wesley Church where she has served since 2011. For the past eleven years she has also taught online through our Wesleyan universities. In addition, Karen currently serves on the District Board of Ministerial Development, was the Thrive

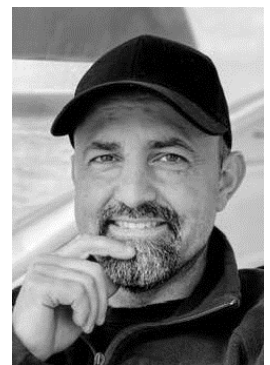
Financial Initiative Director until the program was discontinued at the end of 2022 and is working with others to build a WNY District ministry for women pastors.

Jonathan Ward

District Secretary

Pastor Jon Ward has been a Christian for 44 years and has been pastoring for 26 of those years. He has served as an Assistant Pastor of Youth at Marion First Church of the Nazarene while attending Indiana Wesleyan University, assisted Rev. Mike Hilson in restarting New Life Wesleyan Church in La Plata, MD, and been the solo Pastor of Paint Lick UMC while attending Asbury Seminary. Since graduating from seminary in 2004, Jon has served as the Senior Pastor of North Park Wesleyan Church in Cuba, NY. He has previously served our district as the Men's Ministry Director for 6 years as well as two terms on the District Action Committee and a stint on the District Board of Ministerial Development this year. He is married to Mrs.

Ashley Ward (former WNY District Women's Ministry Director), has four children ages 13 - 21, and one son-in-law. His hobbies include: Woodworking, Hunting, Fishing, Gardening, and Backpacking. Jon has been nominated for District Secretary and would be an honored to serve in such a useful capacity.



Ron Wright

Action Committee, Lay

Ron Wright attends Orchard Park Wesleyan Church where he serves as a Sunday School teacher and is currently a Ministerial Student. He has been married to his wife, Debra, for 25 years, and they have four children, ages 12-21. Ron came to faith as a child while attending summer camp in his hometown of Franklinville, NY and has been serving Jesus ever since. Ron has multiple degrees including a B. S. in Ceramic Engineering from Alfred University, a J. D. from the University at Buffalo, an M. Div. from Asbury Theological Seminary and a Ph. D. in Christian Ethics from Loyola University Chicago. Ron currently works full-time in Buffalo as an attorney in the Law Office of Francis M. Letro, Esq. On a personal level, he is deeply interested in the problem of suffering as a lifelong Bills and Sabres fan.



Suk May Yei

Nominating Committee, Clergy



Suk May was born in Asia, raised in Chinese and British culture, and received Christian education at a young age. By work assignment she arrived in America thirty-four years ago as a banker. Seven years later she became a Christian. As a new convert, she was immediately disciplined by her multi-ethnic home church under a scriptural-based pathway, building her a rhythm of life to love Christ, live/lead like Christ, evangelize/disciple people like Christ, and be the “under-cover minister” wherever she is, including the marketplace. And when spiritually mature enough, she was invited to serve in the church as lay leader working closely with the pastoral team. After serving in the financial world for twenty-eight years (and fourteen and a half years in church), the Lord called

her to vocational ministry, put her in seminary for full-time study first, and then in 2014, moved her from New York City to Buffalo to serve Eastern Hills Church and the Wesleyan family until now. As the first Christian of her family, Suk May senses a call to minister to her families in different parts of the world since the very beginning. And since 2021, she further senses a call to pour extra into the “making disciple-maker” process. These include soul care, deliverance, marketplace, different cultures in addition to Chinese and English – India, Jewish, Muslim; to address the increasing needs and the demographic changes in the Buffalo area. Suk May thanks the Lord for the chance to serve the Wesleyan family in cross-cultural, cross-generational, cross-socio-economical, men and women, lay and clergy context from everywhere to everywhere. “Thank you, Lord, for all!”