

2014 WNCA Annual Meeting Nominee Biographies

Nominations Committee

Davidson/Forsyth District:

Ramona Michael (2nd term, 2016)

Ramona is a retired high school English teacher who attends Heidelberg UCC in Thomasville, N.C. She teaches a Sunday School Class and is a member of several committees. She has served on the Board of Directors of WNCA, Board of Directors of SOC, Church and Ministry Commission, and several committees in WNCA and SOC.

Guildford/Randolph District:

Rev. Gary Owens (2nd term, 2016)

Rev. Gary Owens: Pastor, Monticello UCC, served on SOC Board of Directors and Self-Study Commission, served on WNCA Board of Directors, Church and Ministry Commission and Nominating Committee, Board of Directors of Black Lake Retreat Center/Chairperson and Johns River Valley Camp/Chairperson, Program Director at JRVC, Guilford-Randolph District convener, Greater Greensboro CROP Hunger Walk Steering Committee/Chairperson.

Rowan District:

Ann Teague (2nd term, 2016)

Ann is a member of Ursinus UCC, in Rockwell, NC. She is married to Shearin Teague and has two children and four grandchildren. She works as the Administrative Assistant at Christiana Lutheran Church.

Catawba District:

Rev. Anne Abernethy Wepner (1st term 2016)

Anne is the Pastor of Bethel Evangelical & Reformed UCC in Hickory since 2004. Previously, she served as supply pastor of Salem UCC in Lincolnton beginning in 1999. She holds D. Min. in pastoral counseling from Chicago Theological Seminary. Anne has previously served two terms on the WNCA Church and Ministry Commission and has been a delegate to General Synod. She is married to Rev. Tim Wepner and is the mother of 12 children, and three grandchildren.

WNCA Board of Directors

Davidson/Forsyth District:

Rev. William Sowers (2nd term, 2016)

Guilford/Randolph District:

Rev. Lloyd Spencer (2nd term, 2016)

I transferred my ordination to the United Church of Christ in 1989. Since then I've served churches in Louisville, KY, Lexington, NC, and am presently pastor of Mt. Hope UCC in Whitsett. I served on the Indiana Kentucky Conference Committee on Social Ministry as well as serving on the Association Board. I was also President of the Board of Directors of South Louisville Community Ministries. After returning to North Carolina I served two terms on the Western Association Board of Directors. I also served on two Association Committees. I have been very active in the Ministerium of every District I've served in and have been very active in interdenominational and interfaith groups.

Ms. Jennette Robinson (2nd term, 2016)

Rowan District:

Rev. Diane Tugel (1st term, 2016)

Diane moved to the Southern Conference, WNCA from the Wisconsin Conference, North East Association with her family last July. She joined Holy Covenant UCC and worships at the Harris campus. Diane serves in an extension ministry as an ACPE Supervisor at Carolinas HealthCare, CMC-Pineville. She and her family recently moved to Waxhaw. Her husband is employed by Duke Power, her son is in high school and her daughter attends UNC-Wilmington.

Mr. Clark Corriher (1st term, 2016)

I am a life long member of Mt. Zion UCC in China Grove NC. I grew up on a small dairy farm in Rowan county. After high school I attended Wingate College and North Carolina State University. In 1983, I married a wonderful Rowan County girl (Anne Helms Corriher) who is Director of Main Street Mission in our home town. Together Anne and I have raised our two fabulous children, Mindy and James. In August of this year, Anne and I welcomed Miguel Valdez, a 15 year old high school student into our home. Anne and I managed and owned a small clothing store for 17 years until the local economy changed. Today I work in equipment sales with RS Braswell in Kannapolis NC. I love God, my family, church, friends and enjoy golf and racing. My past involvement in Mt. Zion include 8 years as Deacon and 4 years as an Elder. In 2008 I was elected as president of Mt. Zion's consistory and served for 3 years in that role. My church duties today include leading our men's faith fellowship and assistant chairman of the Property committee. My favorite scripture is from James where it states "faith without works is dead". I am 56 and have somewhat conservative beliefs in business and religion. I love my church and share my views openly and honestly.

Catawba District:

Rev. Patrick Campbell (1st term, 2016)

Patrick is from Butler, Pennsylvania and a graduate of Mercyhurst College, Erie, PA with a BS in Marriage and Family Studies and Wake Forest University School of Divinity, Winston Salem, NC with a M-Div. While attending WFUSD, Patrick held an internship at Parkway United Church of Christ, Winston Salem, NC, working on Ageing and Spirituality. He also served as an intern and then Interim Youth Director at United Church of Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC working with youth, families, and young adults. Patrick and his wife, Laura, currently live in Morganton. They enjoy hiking, cooking, camping, and running together. Patrick enjoys reading and listening to music in his free time.

Dawn Wilson (1st term, 2016)

Dawn is a member of Trinity Reformed United Church of Christ, in Conover, where she currently serves as President of the Consistory. She works at Catawba County Social Services as a Program Manager of Prevention and Child Wellbeing Services. She and her husband, Marty Wilson, are parents to a 16 year old son, Matthew, and a 21 year old daughter, Elise.

Rev. Ed Neff (1st term, 2016)

Church and Ministry Commission

Rev. David Crook (1st term 2015)

Rev. David L. Crook (Ret.) is currently serving as Interim Minister, First United Church of Christ, Winston-Salem, NC. David's previous pastorates were Bayview UCC, Norfolk, VA; First Congregational Church, Asheville, NC; Hedrick's Grove UCC, Lexington, NC; and First UCC, Salisbury, NC. David has also served on the WNCA Nominating Committee, as well as the Southern Conference Nominating Committee. During the time of Rev. Edwin Alcorn as Associate Conference Minister of the WNCA, David served two terms on the Commission of Church and Ministry.

Rev. Peggy Matthews (1st term 2015)

Peggy is an ordained minister in the UCC and earned an undergraduate degree from Salem College, 1975; a Master of Social Work from UNC-Chapel Hill, 1980, and her Masters of Divinity from Wake Forest University School of Divinity in 2002. She served as a chaplain intern in the Clinical Pastoral Education Program at Moses Cone Hospital from 2002 to 2004. In 2004, she became Chaplain and Director of Pastoral Care at First Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, NC and worked there through May, 2013. Currently, she works part time providing pastoral care and visitation at Home Moravian Church in Winston-Salem, NC. While working at First Presbyterian the church widened its scope of traditional pastoral care to practical and hands on pastoral care ministry. Some examples are a Quiet Room for prayer and meditation; mental health ministry; she helped design and develop the Pastoral Care Communicator which is a computer program designed to document pastoral care visits; and led monthly Wholeness and Healing services. Peggy is a member of Parkway UCC where she sings in the choir. In the community she serves on the Inter-faith Winston-Salem Board of Guidance. Each Thursday, as a Healing Touch Provider, she serves as a volunteer chaplain at Greensboro Urban Ministry and provides healing touch to guests, volunteers and staff. Peggy lives with her husband, Sam Matthews, who is executive director of The Shepherd's Center of Greater Winston-Salem, NC. They have two grown daughters, three granddaughters and one great grandson.

Glenyce Fulton (2nd term 2016)

Glenyce grew up in Lexington as a member of Second Reformed UCC. She is currently a member of First Reformed UCC in Lexington, N.C. She has been a long standing member of the church choir in her previous and present church. As a Deacon, she served on the Consistory at First Reformed UCC. She is also commissioned as a Stephen Minister. and is active with the Women's Life Fellowship and helps with other church functions. Her first term as a lay member on the WNCA Church and Ministry Commission expires this year. Her willingness to serve a second term reflects as she stated "the time I spent with this committee has been a true learning experience. She is a graduate of UNC-G with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. After 43 years in nursing she retired in January of 2011.

Tyler Williams (2nd term 2016)

Tyler is a lay member of Trinity Reformed UCC in Concord, North Carolina. He is currently a member of the WNCA Church and Ministry Commission. At age 24, he is the owner of Bowtie Bakery.

Rev. Angela Roach Roberson (1st term, 2016)

Angela received her Master of Theology from Duke University, Durham, NC, in 2011 and her Master's of Divinity from Hood Theological Seminary, Salisbury, NC in 2010. She served a Supervised Ministry Parish Internship at Holy Covenant United Church of Christ and a Supervised Ministry Social Justice Internship with the North Carolina Council of Churches, and an Evelyn Mattern Endowment Fund Internship in the spring of 2009. She also has a Master of Science in Criminal Justice from Chaminade University, Honolulu, HI and a Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice from East Carolina University, Greenville, NC. She has worked with Social Worker Protective Services of the Guilford County Department of Social Services, High Point and also with Pitt County and Greene County Department of Social Services. At Hood Theological Seminary she received the President's Award (2010), the Hood Alumni Association Honor (2009) and the History of Christianity Award (2006). She currently serves as Chaplain of the Forsyth Jail and Prison Ministries in Winston-Salem, NC and is the pastor of Congregational United Church of Christ, High Point, NC. She and her husband, Clinton, have one child, Janoa.

Moses Taylor (1st term, 2016)

Moses Taylor, known to most as Moe, is a native of Holly Hill, South Carolina. It is not only his place of birth, but it was there at Galilee Christian Church, where his great grandfather was a founding member that he was introduced to Christ. Going to church and worshiping the Lord were then a major part of the everyday culture in Holly Hill and the Taylor family was no exception. Having been born into a rather large and loving Christian family Moe was baptized at a young age. However it wasn't until his older years that he began to seek and find a true faith based relationship with God. He received his primary education in Holly Hill, but in the early 1960's left the South to complete his studies in Boston, Massachusetts. While being up North God allowed Moe to meet his lovely wife, Anita. To whom he has been married to for 32 years. He has one son and three granddaughters that live in Boston. Although he thoroughly enjoyed the historic city of Boston he and Anita decided to leave the harsh winters behind and relocated to Charlotte, North Carolina in 1987. Upon their arrival to Charlotte (the unofficial city of churches) they visited many places of worship trying to find the best fit for them, which finally led them to settle at Holy Covenant. They have been members for 15 years and Moe believes Holy Covenant to be the place where God has developed and nurtured his spiritual gifts: hospitality and leadership to name a couple. He has been a deacon, an usher, a reader and continues to work with Room at the Inn and the Crop Walk. Moses Taylor says attending service at the Nest is a very uplifting experience that keeps he and his wife encouraged to usher souls into the fold, worship and bring Glory to God.

General Synod Nominees for the WNCA / Southern Conference (SOC)

Clergy:

Rev. Patrick Campbell (1st term, 2016)

Patrick is from Butler, PA and a graduate of Mercyhurst College, Erie, PA with a B.S. in Marriage and Family Studies and an M.Div. from Wake Forest University School of Divinity, in Winston Salem. While attending WFUSD, Patrick interned with Parkway UCC, Winston Salem, working on Ageing and Spirituality. He also served as intern and then Interim Youth Director at United Church of Chapel Hill, working with youth, families, and young adults. Patrick and his wife, Laura, live in Morganton. They enjoy hiking, cooking, camping, and running together. Patrick enjoys reading and listening to music in his free time.

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss

Amanda is a founding Co-Pastor of Land of the Sky UCC in Asheville, which recently celebrated its 5th birthday. She leads the Justice, Hospitality, and the Children's Ministry Teams and shares responsibility for worship planning and pastoral care. In the past year, she facilitated the launch of a new Prison Ministry that provides a day-long retreat for incarcerated mothers and their youth. Amanda earned her M.Div from Candler School of Theology at Emory Univ., graduating with certificates in Black Church Studies and Church and Community programs. Amanda's ministry includes a particular focus on dismantling racism, and she embraces her work, which, in the words of poet Mary Oliver, is mostly loving the world, standing still and learning to be astonished. She lives in Canton with husband, Seth, and sons, Myles (7) and Simon (2).

Rev. Darrell Sluder

Darrell is a Davidson County native and attended E. Davidson H.S. and Davidson County Community College prior to serving in the U. S. Navy. After completing his service in 1998, he and his family returned to Thomasville and he worked in the chemical industry. He joined Hedrick's Grove UCC and served as Youth Dir. while attending John Wesley College. In 2006, he graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Pastoral Ministry B.A. Then he and his family moved to Lancaster, PA and he attended Lancaster Theological Seminary. He earned his M.Div in 2009, serving as Pastor of Emmanuel UCC, Penns Creek, PA. In 2009, he accepted a call as Pastor of Mount Tabor UCC, Lexington, where he is currently. He was the Davidson-Forsyth Ministerial District President in 2013, and currently is the Advisory Council Chairperson at Piedmont Crossing, and a member of the UCH&S and SOC Board of Directors. He and wife Christy have 2 sons, Drake and Dylan.

Lay:

Sherry Lassiter-McCullers

Ms. Sherry Lassiter-McCullers is the wife of Rev. Darek McCullers and works with him as the First Lady at Dry Creek UCC. She has helped enhance the worship life as the Liturgist for each service. In addition, she organized a new annual Mother-Daughter day observance aimed at honoring women, inclusive of all mother figures, and all women who are influenced by them. She is an experienced Business Education teacher in an urban context and has a B.S. degree in Organizational Management, an MBA, and is currently completing her School Administration certification with Gardner-Webb University. She has been active in the SOC, and recently served as a delegate for the 2014 SOC Annual Gathering in VA. She is also an animal enthusiast who works part-time at the University Animal Medical and Dental Clinic and is a proud owner of Ago, a poodle-terrier mix, and a cat named Dora.

Ernestine Purnell

Ernestine is a member of St. Stephens UCC, in Greensboro, and is on the Board of Trustee at St. Stephens. She has served as the SOC Treasurer and on the Board of Directors. She is currently the Guilford-Randolph District representative of the WNCA Church Women. She has attended General Synod as a visitor for a number of years.

Tyler Williams

Tyler is a lay member of Trinity Reformed UCC in Concord, North Carolina. He is currently a member of the WNCA Church and Ministry Commission. At age 24, he is the owner of Bowtie Bakery.