

PANEL/WORSHIP LEADER



James E. Dorff, Resident Bishop, San Antonio Episcopal Area

James (Jim) E. Dorff was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He graduated from Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University with a Masters degree in Theology. He received a B.A. degree from Oklahoma City University.

Prior to his election as a Bishop, he served for 36 years as a pastor in the North Texas Conference. He was ordained elder by W. McFerrin Stowe. His appointments and leadership roles included: Area Provost, superintendent - Dallas-Denton District, First UMC McKinney, and First UMC Gainesville, executive director - DFW Airport Chaplaincy, associate pastor/director - Pastoral Care & Counseling Ministry at Highland Park UMC, chair - Committee on Episcopacy & Executive Committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry, Division on Conference Relations, Division on Evangelism, Conference Nominating Committee, Council on Finance & Administration, and Clergy Effectiveness Team. He was elected to General and/or Jurisdictional Conference from 1996 - 2008. For the general church, Bishop Dorff served on the General Commission on Christian Unity & Interreligious Concerns and was a member of the Connectional Ministry Funding Patterns Task Force, 2004—2008.

Bishop Dorff was elected to the episcopacy in July 2008 and began his assignment in San Antonio on September 1. Since his election to the episcopacy, Bishop Dorff serves on the Board of Trustees of Southwestern University, Huston-Tillotson University, the Methodist Mission Home of San Antonio, Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso, Texas, the Texas Methodist Foundation and the General Assembly of the National Council of Churches. Bishop Dorff also serves the Council of Bishops as a member of the Executive Committee of the Global Health Initiative. In addition, he serves his alma mater as a member of the Executive Board of Perkins School of Theology, (SMU) and the Board of Trustees of Southern Methodist University.

Bishop Dorff married Barbara Langley Dorff in 1975. They have two grown sons, John Edward and Michael Langley and two grandchildren.



The Reverend Lorenza Andrade Smith

In June, the Rev. Lorenza Andrade Smith began her new appointment as an advocate for the poor and marginalized by selling her car, her house and most of her possessions, taking a leave of absence and a self-imposed vow of poverty and beginning life on the streets. Her goal: to learn the plight of the homeless by living among them. Read more of her thoughts at www.interpretermagazine.org.

WHAT IS HOPE?

Hope is interlaced between two other words: I Corinthians 13: 13 says, "Faith, hope and love." Faith in Christ and his Resurrection gives me hope; the belief that God is with me. God is with us. God is with you. God is faithful, even though we are unfaithful. That's my hope in my life, in the nation's life, in the world's life.

HOW DO YOU SPEAK TO PEOPLE DAY-TO-DAY ABOUT HOPE?

In certain pastoral instances, I go back to the miracles. Jesus rejected the idea that people had to be sick, that women had to be on the margins Society (saying), "That's just the way life is." There was always transformation. Jesus rejected the oppression, rejected the loneliness, rejected all those things that keep people from hoping. That's what I offer.

HOW IS ADVENT A SEASON OF HOPE?

We are waiting for this Messiah, this Prince of Peace. The Hebrew word for peace is shalom, and the connotation is more of welfare, wholeness, completeness. (It is) this holistic concept of somebody caring for not only the person, but (also) for a nation, for that universe in a way that says, "Peace be with you," meaning, "Are you well? Are you whole?" That's so important, especially for people on the margins.

HOW DOES HOPE EMPOWER?

Romans 5:13: "... (and) hope does not disappoint." It's this empowerment that we find in hope that allows us to move forward in strength and in endurance and to live day by day. For many of us out in the streets, it's not only a day-by-day thing, and not even hour by-hour, but sometimes step-by-step. I always have to remember that hope, and every step that I take, does not disappoint. There's just a faith and a love that permeates from hope.

WORSHIP LEADER

The Reverend Claus Rohlf, Sr. Pastor of Travis Park United Methodist Church

Claus W. Rohlf, Jr. is in his fourth year as Sr. Pastor of Travis Park United Methodist Church. His family for four generations has called Travis Park their spiritual home. In fact, the Rev. Dr. Claus Rohlf, Sr. met his wife, Doris, at Travis Park. In addition, his wife is a clergy member, his sister pastors a local church, and his brother serves as a district superintendent.

For more than 40 years, Rev. Claus Rohlf, Jr. has served congregations in Central Texas and Southwest Texas Conferences. Claus has built churches, merged churches, and has a heart for youth and camping ministries. In every place, persons of every kind of margin in their community gravitate toward Claus. One of his greatest joys is helping them find a place within the United Methodist Church.

Rev. Rohlf met Ruth E. Huber when they were both students at Perkins School of Theology at SMU in Dallas, Texas. They married in 1974. Together they share two children and three grandchildren.



Karen Corbitt, Executive Secretary to Bishop Bruce Ough, Ohio West Episcopal Area

I was born in Akron, Ohio -- the only child of older parents. My mother's parents lived with us so I didn't get away with very much. But I was a tom boy and my dad's 'go-for' and I wasn't allowed to get my driver's license until I could change a tire, change the oil and grease the car. (That was a long time ago!) My journey to be with you has been an interesting one! I've moved 21 times in 42 years. I'm blessed with two beautiful daughters, one engaged and one married with my two wonderful grandchildren. I've been a Crisis Hotline volunteer, piano teacher, veterinary technician/receptionist, clergy spouse, church secretary, church pianist for over 35 years, accompanist for local theater groups, PAUMCS Chapter President, choir pianist, secretary to the Dean and then the Registrar at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio. I've been the Executive Secretary to the Bishop of the Ohio West Area since 1996. And I count it my privilege to be part of this fellowship of episcopal secretaries.

Joell Stanislaus, Executive Assistant to Bishop Earl Bledsoe, Dallas Episcopal Area



Background in the UMC:

- 11 years of ministry in the Dallas Area Episcopal Office
- Originally hired as part-time bookkeeper for Bishop Oden
- Served with four bishops to date (Oden, Moncure, Norris, and

Bledsoe)

- Helped with planning and hosting of the 2003 Council of Bishops meeting held in Dallas

- Assisted with the 2008 South Central Jurisdictional Conference held

in Dallas

- Worked as a recorder at the 2004 and 2008 General Conferences

Transition of bishops:

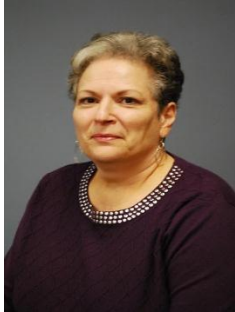
- Bishop Oden retired in 2004
- Bishop Moncure was assigned to Dallas in 2004 and died in 2006
- Bishop Norris came out of retirement in 2006 to complete Bishop Moncure's quadrennial term
- Bishop Bledsoe was elected and assigned to Dallas in 2008

Some personal info:

- Mother to almost 15-year-old daughter
- Was a technical recruiter and corporate/software trainer in a previous life
- Texas Business Hall of Fame Scholarship Award recipient
- Graduated from the University of Texas at Dallas, Summa Cum Laude

Hobbies:

- DIY/home improvement projects
- Visiting with friends and family
- Very active with Girl Scout troop
- Pretty good at Words with Friends
- Nearly addicted to Pinterest



Jo Ann McClain, Administrative Assistant to the COB Executive Secretary

Jo Ann McClain has served as the Administrative Assistant to the Executive Secretary of the Council of Bishops since that office was established in 2004. A Boston native, Jo Ann attended Salve Regina College in Newport, RI, and the University of Wisconsin in Madison. Upon graduation, she moved back to Boston and took a position in what was then The Methodist Building in downtown Boston as assistant editor at *The Methodist Churchman*, a monthly magazine that was previously and subsequently named *Zion's Herald*, and is now *The Progressive Christian*. Raised Roman Catholic, this was Jo Ann's introduction to United Methodism, and she later joined the UMC at Old West Church in Boston.

Pursuing a master's degree in child psychology at Suffolk University in Boston, Jo Ann left her position at *The Methodist Churchman* after two years to work in her field at the Framingham Youth Guidance Center outside of Boston, doing individual and group therapy with children, adolescents and adults. Who knew that such training would come in handy later in her life!

Jo Ann married the Rev. Dr. William Bobby McClain in Marsh Chapel at Boston University and shortly thereafter they moved to Madison, NJ, where Bobby served as the founding Executive Director of the NEJ Multi-Ethnic Center for Ministry. After 2 years, one month and five days, they left NJ and headed to Washington, DC! Bobby had taken a position at Wesley Theological Seminary, and Jo Ann abandoned her doctoral studies and took a "real" job with the Bell System, since seminaries did not pay all that much in those days – or these days, either! She was an Account Executive and sold to commercial and government customers in DC, and did diversity training as part of her job.

Jo Ann and Bobby have two sons, one surrogate daughter, 6 granddaughters and one grandson. They live in Fort Washington, MD, with Callie and Snowball, their two cats.

PRESENTER



L. Dale Patterson, Ph.D., Archivist-Records Administrator, General Commission on Archives and History, The United Methodist Church

Dale has worked on the staff of the General Commission on Archives and History of The United Methodist church since 1994. The Commission is the archival depository and historical agency for The United Methodist Church. It is housed on the Drew University campus (Madison, NJ), along with Drew University's Methodist collection, in the United Methodist Archives and History Center. His tasks at the GCAH include preserving and making accessible the records of the general conference, the general agencies, episcopal offices and annual conference journals. He also advises the general agencies, the episcopal offices and annual conference archives on preservation and retention of records issues.

Prior to his time with the Commission he was Associate Archivist and Co-Director of the Oral History Center at the University of Louisville.

He has conducted workshops for local churches and annual conferences on archival basics, electronic records and oral history around the U.S. and in Africa, Europe and the Philippines.

Dale and his wife, Dawn, live in New Jersey and have achieved that coveted goal in life of being "empty-nesters! Or as they like to say it – 'We are a 3G family – the kids are grown, graduated and gone!!" They enjoy reading, hiking and relaxing with friends.

Certified Archivist - 1989

Ph. D. Drew University - 1984



Lori Sluder, Executive Secretary to Bishop James Swanson, Holston Episcopal Area

My name is Lori Sluder, and I serve as the Executive Secretary to the Bishop of Holston Conference, SEJ, and have served in this office for a year. I have been with Holston Conference for 7 years. Before coming to Holston Conference I have served as an Administrative Assistant in several local churches in Holston since 1989. I am very active with the Hope for the Children of Southern Sudan project in Holston and active with the UMW. I am married to the Reverend Michael Sluder and we have two children, Josh, 24, who attends Pellissippi State College and Katie, 21, attends Tennessee Wesleyan College. Michael serves as the pastor Bearden UMC, Knoxville District. I love to read and scrapbook.

Sheila Vancura, Executive Assistant to Bishop Charles Crutchfield, Arkansas Episcopal Area



I was born and raised in Little Rock. After studying for a Master's Degree at the University of Northern Colorado in educating the physically handicapped child and spending several years in education I settled on a position in a local church here in Little Rock. After 10 years there, I was asked to come over to the Bishop's Office by Bishop Janice Huie. This year after 2 years with her and 8 years with Bishop Crutchfield, I will retire.

My husband John and I have raised two children to adulthood...a boy David and a girl, Jenny. They are lovely young adults and dear friends to us both. We enjoy our home on Lake Hamilton in Hot Springs, cooking, reading, and whenever possible boating and kayaking. I look forward to time for activities like gardening, long walks with our dog, Winston, and bird-watching.



Dalia Treviño, Administrative Assistant to Bishop James Dorff, San Antonio Episcopal Area

Dalia Treviño began working as the Rio Grande Conference bilingual administrative assistant in November 2008 and transferred in February 2009 to work as the administrative assistant to Bishop Jim Dorff, who serves the Rio Grande and Southwest Texas Conferences in the San Antonio Area.

Dalia has worked in the administrative field for over 27 years from small businesses to Fortune 500 companies to non-profit organizations.

Dalia enjoys singing, walking, reading, and teaching her Tweens Sunday School class. Dalia is married and has a son who is planning a December wedding.

PANEL MODERATOR & PLAN TEAM

Ed Metzler, Secretary to Bishop Michael J. Coyner, Indiana Episcopal Area



Ed Metzler is the secretary to Bishop Mike Coyner in the Indianapolis Conference. He has worked for The United Methodist Church for 11 years and has been an Episcopal secretary since 2003, serving first with Bishop Woodie White, who retired, then Bishop Coyner. He has worked at two General Conferences as a legislative group recorder and has attended three jurisdictional conferences.

Ed is a Roman Catholic who was born in Erie, Pa., and retired to Indianapolis after 20 years in the Air Force. He and Erma, a communications specialist with the Indiana Conference, have been married for 39 years and have two children and three grandchildren.



Debbie Albrecht, Administrative Assistant for Bishop Schol, Baltimore/Washington Area

Originally from Tampa, Florida (so looking forward to General Conference), but now have been in the Baltimore/Washington area for 35 years. I am married to John and have three children and four grandchildren. I am into quilting, scrapbooking and reading. I spent 20 years as a paralegal/supervisor early in my career and then did license daycare with special needs children for 8 years. I then went to work part-time at my church and then in April 2004 began working with Bishop Schol in the Baltimore Washington Conference.

GCFA EPISCOPAL SERVICES STAFF/PLAN TEAM



Peggy I Sewell, Assistant General Secretary of Episcopal Services at GCFA, Nashville, TN

I have been with GCFA, as staff for seven years. I arrived in Evanston, IL just 9 months before GCFA moved from the Chicago area to Nashville, TN. Previously, I had served on the GCFA Council as a member of the Board of Directors for 8 years and served as the chair of the Episcopal Services Committee.

While I was serving in many volunteer positions in the church, I chaired the Western Jurisdiction's Committee on Episcopacy and on the Rocky Mountain Conference Committee on Episcopacy. The 2012 General Conference will be my sixth general conference to attend. I attended as a delegate four times and chaired the delegation for the 1996 General Conference. I was a four-time delegate to the Jurisdictional Conference. I love it all, whether serving as a delegate or working as staff to support the many experiences at General and Jurisdictional Conferences, which, of course, means that I love being involved at the Annual Conference, District, and local church levels of the church's ministries, also. Within the Rocky Mountain Conference, I served in a variety of leadership experiences with education, communications, finances, and youth ministries in particular.

I was employed as a certified Director of Christian Education at Christ Church in Denver, CO and as the Campus Ecumenical Ministry Facilitator at Eastern Wyoming College, in Torrington, WY. I spent three and a half years working with lots of young adults when I worked for Blizzard Internet Marketing in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, where we built websites and promoted bed and breakfast businesses on the internet. They were great experiences and great people where I learned so much from the people, as well as the experiences.

My husband, Bob, and I have two children with whom we have been greatly blessed. Sheri works in Occupational Therapy and as manager of a repro-habilitation unit in the Dallas, Texas area. She has two dogs, who add to her life, as she also is involved in photography and as a Premier Jewelry consultant. Andrew works in financial software development and testing in the Denver, CO area and is also a photographer and computer whiz. He is recently engaged and is planning a wedding for this coming summer. Bob is a retired United Methodist clergy enjoying being able to do more teaching as he elects to and playing golf and spending more time with family. He provided us many adventures and opportunities as a family, as we served in churches in Texas, Wyoming, Utah, and Colorado throughout our 45 years of marriage.

As I have opportunities, I spend time with photography, astronomy, travel, gardening, designing and making gifts and things for our home. We love being in our own home for the first time and hosting many experiences for family and friends. The Lord has blessed and enriched our lives in many ways. *Now I live in a world of episcopal secretaries and bishops. Who could ask for more?*

GCFA EPISCOPAL SERVICES STAFF/PLAN TEAM



Episcopal Services-Jurisdictional Specialists and Administrative Assistant

Fran is originally from Belleville, Illinois. Her family moved to TN when she was 10 years old. She has 2 brothers and one sister. Her younger brother and sister are twins. She has a son that is 27 years old. She worked at United Methodist Communications for 23 years and has been with GCFA for 4 years. She enjoys most types of music, roller skating, gardening, reading, and tries to exercise regularly.

Dana Joki, Episcopal Services-Central Conference Specialists and Budgets Assistant



The responsibility of keeping up with the reports, forms, and travels of the central conference bishops rests with Dana Joki in Episcopal Services. Dana has been with GCFA since 2007. In her role, she is studying French and is enjoying getting to know and relating to the bishops of the central conference.

Dana is originally from Michigan where most of her family still lives. Her husband Eric is originally from Wisconsin and some of his family has moved to Tennessee.

What you may or may not know about Dana is that she had a six year career with the Army before joining GCFA. This has caused her to do quite a bit of travel. Dana had basic training in Missouri at Ft. Leonardwood, had job training at Ft. Jackson in South Carolina, and from there spent 14 months in Korea at Camp Humphries.

She was eventually stationed at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky for four years, which is how she ended up in Nashville. She met her husband while at Ft. Campbell and they decided they liked the area and wanted to stay.

After September 11, 2001, Dana was slated to go to Afghanistan, but there was a delay in sending troops and she ended up not going. Her husband Eric, however, was there when the US first went into Afghanistan and then again when they first crossed the border of Iraq. Dana ended her service as a Sergeant.

Dana and Eric have been married for 9 years and have two adorable children. Ethan is 7 and Adalyn is 4. Ethan loves baseball and is in the PW7 league in Mt. Juliet this year and Adalyn will be starting tee-ball for the first time. Adalyn and Ethan both take gymnastics and love it!

Dana loves to read and enjoys scrapbooking memories of her children. But as you might imagine, a significant motivation is her family and she enjoys spending time with them.