



Post-Way-Forward Gathering of United Methodist Scholars

Livestreaming on www.llumc.org/umscholars

Wednesday, August 7, 2019

Breakfast on your own

8:30 AM Shipp Chapel Greetings, Opening Prayer, and Opening Business

9:00 Dudley Dancer Room **Anne Burkholder**
Associate Dean of Methodist Studies
Candler School of Theology, Emory University
Elder, Florida Annual Conference

Implications and Consequences of the Process and Results of the Delegate Counts for the 2020 General Conference

This presentation will explore the implications of US general conference delegate elections following the Special Session of the General Conference for a complex range of consequences that include but extend far beyond simply whether the traditionalist plan can be overturned.

Pastor's Beginnings Room **Kevin M. Carnahan**
Professor of Philosophy and Religion
Central Methodist University
Layperson, Missouri Annual Conference

Reading the Bible on Slavery and Homosexuality

There are similar patterns in the Christian use of scripture in the run up to the Civil War and in the current clash over sexuality; and there are good reasons to move beyond simple readings of scripture in each case.

9:30 Dudley Dancer Room **Robert Allan Hill**
Dean of Marsh Chapel, Professor of New Testament and Pastoral Theology
Boston University
Elder, Upper New York Annual Conference

No Male and Female

This presentation draws on the Wesley Quadrilateral to reflect on Galatians 3:26-28 in light of the United Methodist Church's conflict concerning inclusion of LGBTQIA+ persons.

Pastor's Beginnings Room **Maria A. Dixon Hall**
Senior Advisor to the Provost, Cultural Intelligence Initiatives
Southern Methodist University
Deacon, North Texas Annual Conference

Power, Resistance, and Organizational Politics: The Need to Disrupt the Orthodoxy of the Progressive Clerical Voice to Cultivate Sustainable Transformative Innovation

This presentation explores how traditional frames of power in UMC clerical structure undermine social justice progress.

10:00 BREAK

10:15	Dudley Dancer Room	<p>Jodie L. Lyon Senior Lecturer in Religion University of Georgia Layperson, North Georgia Annual Conference</p> <p><i>Changing Minds by Changing Ethical Frameworks: Thinking Teleologically About Sex</i> Most Christians are taught to view the Bible as a sexual rulebook, but I argue that reorienting our ethical framework from a rule-based to a goal-oriented system can move us beyond the "clobber passages," creating LGBTQIA+-inclusive Christian communities.</p>
	Pastor's Beginnings Room	<p>O. Wesley Allen, Jr. Lois Craddock Perkins Professor of Homiletics Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University Indiana Annual Conference</p> <p><i>Methodaltry</i> This presentation contextualizes concerns about the United Methodist Church splitting over the just inclusion of LGBTQIA+ persons within a wider theology of the unity of the universal church.</p>
10:45	Dudley Dancer Room	<p>Sam Persons Parkes Senior Pastor Mary Esther UMC Elder, Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference</p> <p><i>Am I My Sibling's Keeper?: A Practical Guide to Preserving LGBTQIA+ Life</i> This presentation will examine risk factors for the health of LGBTQIA+ youth/young adults; explain how an affirming stance increases basic health factors; and outline actions individuals and churches can take to provide sanctuary and support to queer youth and young adults as disciples of Christ.</p>
	Pastor's Beginnings Room	<p>Amy Oden Visiting Professor of Early Church History and Spirituality Saint Paul School of Theology at Oklahoma City University Layperson, Oklahoma Annual Conference</p> <p><i>Welcoming the Stranger</i> We will explore the rich tradition of Christian teachings and practices on hospitality that we can draw on as we engage each other across our differences of all kinds.</p>
11:15	Dudley Dancer Room	<p>Michael G. Cartwright Vice President for University Mission University of Indianapolis Elder, Indiana Annual Conference</p> <p><i>Lessons from the Heartland after General Conference 2019</i> UM laity and clergy are rightly perplexed in the wake of GC 2019, but we should not set scripture and tradition aside. The way forward is to dare to "bring forth treasures old and new" from the storehouse (Matt. 13:52).</p>
	Pastor's Beginnings Room	<p>Cristian De La Rosa Assistant Professor of Contextual Theology and Practice Boston University Elder, New England Annual Conference</p> <p><i>Considerations of Nēpantla for Latinx United Methodists</i> This presentation notes the <i>Nēpantla</i> experience for Latinx young people that inhabit the traditional religious cultures of our Hispanic congregations and manage within the diverse positioning of our academic and church communities affirming the inclusion of LGBTQIA+ communities.</p>

11:45	Wesley Chapel	BREAK & LUNCH PROVIDED AT THE CHURCH
12:45	Dudley Dancer Room	<p>Scott Moore Director of Missional Excellence, Texas Annual Conference Ph.D. Student, Our Lady of the Lake University Elder, Texas Annual Conference</p> <p><i>Individual Consideration and Transformational Leadership in a Post-Way-Forward Era</i> Scientific research and meta-analytic data show that leaders must defy previous leadership practices and engage the Queer Community on an individual level if they are to effectively lead and transform the United Methodist Church.</p>
	Pastor's Beginnings Room	<p>Ashley Boggan Dreff Assistant Professor of Religion High Point University Layperson, Arkansas Annual Conference</p> <p><i>The New Morality: An Exploration of a Methodist Sexual Ethic</i> In 1963, Methodist agencies embraced the "new morality" as their sexual ethic; in 1968, Good News Magazine began a campaign against this ethic; and thus, in order to understand our current division we have to look at events in the 1960s and not just those after 1972.</p>
1:15	Dudley Dancer Room	<p>Jennifer Quigley Assistant Professor of New Testament and Early Christian Studies, Louisville Postdoctoral Fellow Drew University Elder, West Ohio Annual Conference</p> <p><i>Teaching about Gender and Sexuality in the Bible: Reflections from a Seminary Classroom for Congregations</i> This session shares lesson plans, bibliography, and pedagogical reflections and invites conversation around the question, "What pedagogy and theology inform how we might teach the Bible in diverse ministry contexts?"</p>
	Pastor's Beginnings Room	<p>Jonathan LeMaster-Smith Affiliate Faculty, Sioux Falls Seminary Adjunct Faculty, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary Layperson, Western North Carolina Annual Conference</p> <p><i>The Rural Church in Connection after General Conference 2019</i> As rural churches are often left out of the conversation or assumed monolithic in their opinion, this presentation suggests a focus on connecting rural communities with the greater church through education, economics, and holy conferencing.</p>
1:45	BREAK	
2:00	Assigned Group Discussions concerning Public Statement	

- 3:00** **Dudley Dancer Room** **William B. Lawrence**
 Professor Emeritus of American Church History, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University
 Research Fellow, Duke Center for Studies in the Wesleyan Tradition
 Elder, North Texas Annual Conference
- FOUR, THREE, TWO, ONE:*
Four Words, Three Rules, Two Standards, One Grace
 In five decades of an obsession with homosexuality, The United Methodist Church has neglected its theological foundations, beginning with four words, which threatened three General Rules, violated two Doctrinal Standards, and overlooked the one indivisible grace of Jesus Christ.
- Pastor's Beginnings Room** **Sarah Heaner Lancaster**
 Professor in the Werner Chair of Theology
 Methodist Theological School of Ohio
 Elder, North Texas Annual Conference
- Not Giving Up on the Authority of Scripture*
 Too often issues are framed by traditionalists to cast progressives as not recognizing the authority of scripture; this presentation will argue for a progressive approach to the authority of scripture in relation to LGBTQIA+ issues.
- 3:30** **Dudley Dancer Room** **Robert Foster**
 Lecturer in Religion and New Testament
 University of Georgia
 Layperson, North Georgia
- Faithful to Our Holy God:*
Leviticus, Holiness, and Violating Scripture's Commands
 This presentation discusses how to address the explicit commands against gay sex in Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13 as we also ground our support of our LGBTQIA+ members and pursuit of Wesleyan holiness on the foundation of the Old Testament and Christian Scripture.
- Pastor's Beginnings Room** **Darryl W. Stephens**
 Director, United Methodist Studies
 Lancaster Theological Seminary
 Deacon, Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference
- United Methodism at the End of White Christian America*
 Striving to be a "worldwide" church presents systemic challenges to UMC polity and unity revealed through demographic shifts that frame the battle over LGBTQIA+ rights within a larger narrative of increased internationalization in the UMC.
- 4:00** **BREAK**
- 4:15** **Dudley Dancer Room** **Alyce M. McKenzie**
 Le Van Professor of Preaching and Worship;
 Director, The Perkins Center for Preaching Excellence
 Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University
 Elder, North Texas Annual Conference
- Preaching to a Split Church:*
Homiletical Strategies that Promote Inclusion in a Polarized Context
 This presentation will explore the question: What strategic homiletical choices guide a preacher who favors full inclusion, but who preaches in the context of a split congregation? This includes choices of texts and themes, imagery and story, and sermonic form for specific sermons, as well as delivery style.

**Pastor's Beginnings
Room**

Jason Byasse
Butler Professor of Homiletics & Biblical Hermeneutics
Vancouver School of Theology
Western North Carolina Annual Conference

All the Wrong People

Mainline churches often talk about inclusion, and yet become more homogenous. What if, instead, we talk about Jesus, and see what sort of unexpected people Jesus draws to himself?

4:45

Dudley Dancer Room

Jane Ellen Nickell
Chaplain and Religious Studies Faculty Member
Allegheny College
West Virginia Annual Conference

Defining Moments: Resistance to Changing Social Structures

Using the theory of Pierre Bourdieu and looking also at race and gender, this presentation links resistance to LGBTQ inclusion to the underlying sense of threat that traditionalists experience when social structures that define us undergo significant change.

**Pastor's Beginnings
Room**

Alex Tracy
Elder, South Georgia Annual Conference

Preaching Outside the Lines for LGBTQ+ Equality

Clergy are trained and conditioned in the UMC to preach starting with the text and running through the Quadrilateral; but when preaching for LGBTQ+ equality, a theology of the reign of God is a better driver of the sermon process.

5:15 AM

Shipp Chapel

Closing Business and Closing Prayer

Dinner on your own

Thursday, August 8, 2019

8:15 AM

Shipp Chapel

Opening Prayer and Opening Business

8:30

Dudley Dancer Room

Mark A. Chancey
Professor of Religious Studies
Southern Methodist University
Layperson, North Texas Annual Conference

Romans 1:26-31

This presentation examines the function of Romans 1:26-31 in the larger context of Romans, different understandings and types of same-sex sexual activity and relationships in the Greco-Roman world, and the exegetical and hermeneutical difficulties posed by the passage.

**Pastor's Beginnings
Room**

Rolf Nolasco
Professor of Pastoral Theology
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
Layperson, Northern Illinois Annual Conference

*Resisting Sacred Violence through Contemplative Practice
and Positive Mimesis*

The presentation asks the question: What psycho-spiritual practices (of body, mind, and spirit) might facilitate resistance against the deployment of sacred violence against the LGBTQ+ community?

- 9:00** **Dudley Dancer Room** **Kendall Soulen**
 Professor of Systematic Theology
 Candler School of Theology, Emory University
 Elder, Virginia Annual Conference
- Christian Marriage is a School of Holiness:
 A Scriptural and Theological Case for Same-Sex Marriage*
 A succinct statement of the theological case in favor of same-sex marriage and a reply to
 some common objections.
- Pastor's Beginnings
 Room** **Natalya Cherry**
 Assistant Professor in Methodist Studies and Theology
 Brite Divinity School
 Elder, Susquehanna Annual Conference
- Bend it Like Buttigieg: Reclaiming United Methodist "Values"*
 Reclaiming rather than reinventing UM values moving forward, as witnesses, scholars, and
 DCAs reveal that it was fear-mongering, not biblical/Wesleyan family values, that
 motivated the GC1972 homophobic response to the General Rules-rooted, carefully
 prepared Social Principles as originally proposed.
- 9:30** **BREAK**
- 9:45** **Group Discussions Divided by Disciplines concerning Possible Continuing Work**
- 10:45** **Dudley Dancer Room** **Hilde Marie Movafagh**
 Rector
 The United Methodist Theological Seminary, Oslo, Norway;
 The Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society, Oslo, Norway
 Elder, Norway Annual Conference
- The Iron Curtain is Back:
 UMC in Europe in the Aftermath of General Conference 2019*
 An oversight over the divided situation and possible ways to proceed in Europe concerning
 human sexuality, where the division follows the same line as the old iron curtain, and
 where cultural differences are huge.
- Pastor's Beginnings
 Room** **Robin W. Lovin**
 University Professor of Ethics Emeritus
 Southern Methodist University
 Elder, North Texas Annual Conference
- What Do We Say When Nobody Is Listening?*
 The church must respond to changes in media, culture, and politics that have blunted the
 Christian message and sharpened the divisions in society.
- 11:15** **Dudley Dancer Room** **Ted A. Campbell**
 Professor of Church History
 Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University
 Elder, Texas Annual Conference
- My Grandmothers' (United) Methodist Church*
 Before 1972 the United Methodist Church had no explicit statements or restrictions
 concerning homosexuality. This presentation proposes that when a denomination makes
 no statements or condemnations on an issue, local congregations and annual conferences
 are free to make their own decisions about issues like marriages or ordinations of gay and
 lesbian people.

	Pastor's Beginnings Room	<p>Michelle Morris Lead Equipper Center for Vitality, Arkansas Annual Conference Elder, Arkansas Annual Conference</p> <p><i>Holy Train Wreck: Divine Purpose in Inconsistent Scripture</i> Using contradictions, translation issues, and poor grammar examples from the Bible, Michelle Morris will make the case that the mess in the Bible reveals God's divine purpose of driving us to need God and to need each other.</p>
11:45	Wesley Chapel	BREAK & LUNCH PROVIDED AT THE CHURCH
12:45	Dudley Dancer Room	<p>Cheryl Anderson Professor of Old Testament Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary Elder, Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference</p> <p><i>More Than Meets the Eye: Why How We Read the Bible Deserves More Attention</i> This presentation will explain how the Bible itself can and should be read inclusively, and that such readings are consistent with the biblical witness and the loving nature of God.</p>
	Pastor's Beginnings Room	<p>Lovett Weems Distinguished Professor Church Leadership Emeritus Wesley Theological Seminary Missouria Annual Conference</p> <p><i>Methodism's History of Rejection of General Conference Actions</i> This presentation identifies historical examples having nothing to do with homosexuality where clergy, laity, bishops, and annual conferences disobeyed General Conference legislation, showing that "rejection through actions" is a well-established response to divisive legislation in American Methodism.</p>
1:15	Dudley Dancer Room	<p>Adam Ployd Assistant Professor of Church History and Historical Theology Eden Theological Seminary Deacon, West Virginia Annual Conference</p> <p><i>What is Love? Augustine, the Church, and a New Approach to Sexual Ethics</i> Augustine (354-430AD) is often blamed as the source of everything bad in Christianity, but in this presentation we will explore how he might help us think about love in ways that enrich the progressive movement for justice and inclusion.</p>
	Pastor's Beginnings Room	<p>Michelle Whitlock PhD Candidate Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary Elder, Susquehanna Annual Conference</p> <p><i>Breaking the Baptismal Covenant</i> What are the consequences when the community of faith refuses to marry and ordain the children (or adults) they promised to nurture in the faith as part of the baptismal covenant?</p>
1:45	Shipp Chapel	Respondent
2:15	Shipp Chapel	Closing Business and Closing Prayer