

## Interim Operations Team (IOT) Roster



**Neil M. Alexander** is the President and Publisher of The United Methodist Publishing House (UMPH) of The United Methodist Church.

Neil, a layman, has served with United Methodist agencies since 1969. His professional experience has included work in children's services in Pennsylvania, urban ministries in New Jersey, serving as an executive with the Southern New Jersey Annual Conference, and nine years of program and administrative leadership with the General Board of Discipleship (GBOD). At the General Board of Discipleship he served as Executive Editor and General Manager of the Discipleship Resources publishing unit and previously as the executive for the Section on Ministry of the Laity.

Neil was elected President and Publisher of UMPH in January 1996. Having joined the staff in 1988, he served as General Manager and Editor-in-Chief of the UMPH Abingdon Press division and prior to election as President and Publisher held the post of Vice President for Publishing and Book Editor of The United Methodist Church.

Neil holds a Master of Arts degree in administration from Antioch University, Philadelphia, PA and the Bachelor of Arts degree (Summa Cum Laude) from Glassboro State College in New Jersey (now Rowan University).

He and his wife Leslie, live in Nashville, Tennessee. They have one son, Sean, who is married with five children and lives in Springhill, Tennessee.

---



**Carolyn H. Byrd** is Chairman and CEO of GlobalTech Financial, LLC, a company she founded in 2000. Ms. Byrd is recognized for her expertise in developing and negotiating innovative financial strategies for corporations, government, nonprofit and civic organizations.

Ms. Byrd joined The Coca-Cola Company in 1977. During her 23 years of service, she held many positions of increasing responsibility. These included: Manager of Corporate and U.S. Treasury Services, Assistant Treasurer and Manager of Latin America Treasury Services, Vice President of The Coca-Cola Company and Chief of Internal Audits and Director of Corporate Auditing and President of Coca-Cola

Financial Corporation.

GlobalTech Financial, also headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, was established as the exclusive provider of loan and lease processing services for The Coca-Cola Company for loans and leases (approximating \$1,000,000,000) extended to its bottlers, customers and suppliers around the world. GlobalTech also provides other strategic services, specializing in consulting, internal and compliance auditing and information technology professional services.

Prior to joining The Coca-Cola Company, Ms. Byrd worked for Citibank, N.A. in New York. She started as a trainee and subsequently was promoted to Account Officer and then to Senior Account Officer. Ms. Byrd currently serves on the Boards of Directors of several corporations and has received numerous awards and honors. She is a member of Cascade UMC in Atlanta, GA.

---



**Rev. Adam Hamilton** is the founding pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. He grew up in the Kansas City area, attending Shawnee Mission schools before graduating from Blue Valley High School. He earned a B.A. degree in Pastoral Ministry from Oral Roberts University and a Master of Divinity Degree from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University.

Adam has received the B'nai B'rith award in Social Ethics, the Denman Award in Evangelism, and the Circuit Rider Award for excellence in church leadership. He was named Distinguished Evangelist of the United Methodist Church by the Foundation for Evangelism, and he was named one of the "Ten People to Watch in America's Spiritual Landscape" by Religion and Ethics Newsweekly. He has been awarded two honorary doctorates and numerous other awards. He currently serves as a Trustee at Saint Paul School of Theology and as a member of the Kansas East Board of Professional Ministry. He lectures on leadership, evangelism and preaching across the country.

The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection has grown from four people in 1990 to over 12,000 adult members with an average weekly worship attendance of over 7,500 in 2008. The church was listed as the most influential mainline church in America in a 2005 survey of American pastors. The Church of the Resurrection has a three-fold focus: 1. Reaching non-religious and nominally religious people and helping them become committed followers of Jesus Christ; 2. Equipping and inspiring members to live their faith in mission to the community and world; and 3. Acting as a catalyst for renewing the mainline church.

Adam has authored nine books and several small group studies published by Abingdon Press: Adam is married to LaVon Hamilton and has two daughters.

---



**Laura Nichol** works with Boards, CEOs and executive teams on mastering the basic building block of every successful organization – the powerful conversation. Clients find her approach creates value for their organizations by increasing clarity of vision, roles and expectations. Working one-on-one or with teams, Laura guides executives to create a strategic focus for their leadership, equips them with the powerful tools and techniques for leading, and provides ongoing support through facilitation, coaching dialogue, inquiry, advice, and connection to resources.

Laura's clients include leaders across the world in a wide range of industries including consumer-packaged goods, telecommunications, energy, and professional services. Clients are executives and Boards of Directors in publicly and privately held companies and non-profits.

Laura has an extensive background in business leadership. Prior to forming the firm, she spent almost 20 years in corporate roles. On the senior leadership team at American General Financial Group and as senior human resources executive at Chase Bank of Texas she successfully guided the efforts to redefine corporate culture and implement strategic business initiatives. Her background includes experience as a banker, working with middle market companies and wealthy individuals, giving her a strong financial perspective on business issues. She continually supplements this experience through intense study with masters in the field of facilitation, communications, emotions and economics.

Laura is currently on the Board of Visitors at Duke Divinity School, the Board of Casa de Esperanza, and is Past Chair of the Board of Stewards at St. Luke's United Methodist Church. She is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin.

---



**Gregory Palmer** was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He received his undergraduate degree from George Washington University, and later earned his Master of Divinity degree from Duke University. In 1999 received an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from Baldwin-Wallace College. He was ordained deacon by Bishop James M. Ault in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and ordained elder by Bishop James S. Thomas in the East Ohio Conference.

Greg served as Senior Pastor of the United Methodist Church of Berea, Ohio, for seven years. Prior to that he had been a district superintendent, and had served churches in both Ohio and North Carolina. He was the organizing pastor of the James S. Thomas United Methodist Church of Canton, Ohio.

Gregory Vaughn Palmer was elected to the episcopacy on July 13, 2000, by the North Central Jurisdictional Conference and was appointed to the Iowa Area, which he began serving on September 1, 2000. In 2008 he was assigned to the Illinois Area.

He and his wife, Cynthia, have two children: Monica and Aaron.

---



Since October 2001, **Gary Shorb** has served as president & CEO of Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare. Gary joined Methodist in 1990 as executive vice president. Before his tenure with Methodist, he served as president of the Regional Medical Center in Memphis for four years. His community service is extensive, serving on the boards of Memphis Tomorrow, the National Civil Rights Museum, the Memphis Regional Chamber of Commerce – where he served as 2005 Board Chairman – the Memphis Bioworks Foundation, Foundation for Evangelism and the University of Memphis Board of Visitors.

As a current board member and former chairman of Memphis Tomorrow, Shorb is the current chairman for an initiative called Memphis Fast Forward, advocating the commonsense premise that economic growth and prosperity of life will follow once Memphis-Shelby County successfully addresses the basics – good jobs, quality education, safe streets, and efficient government. In November 2004, he received the Corporate Leadership Award from Volunteer Memphis' Corporate Volunteer Council, and in 2005, received the Alexis de Tocqueville leadership award from United Way of the Mid-South.

He received a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from Clemson University and a Master of Business Administration from Memphis State University (now the University of Memphis).

---



**Carol Tuthill** recently retired from Procter & Gamble after more than 31 years. Most of her work involved leading Human Resources for several key business units focusing on strategy development/deployment, organization assessment/design, change management, Executive Coaching and Leadership Team effectiveness. Her last position was Chief Global Diversity and Organization Capability Officer. She has lived and worked in Caracas, Venezuela and Brussels, Belgium for 5 years each and the rest of the time was based in Ohio. Carol and her husband Lyle, also a P&G retiree, have been married 31 years and they now split their time between Florida and New York. They have 4 children.

Carol has been actively involved in Youth Ministry for more than 40 years, in several churches in Cincinnati and in the International churches in Caracas and Belgium. She has been a member of Armstrong Chapel United Methodist church since the mid 1990's and had a leadership role in their recent development of a Long Range Plan and major Capital Campaign. She has also served as a board member for the International School of Brussels, the United Fund of Brussels, the Cincinnati Speech & Hearing Center, the Down Syndrome Association of Greater Cincinnati and Services United for Mothers and Adolescents. In her corporate and community roles, she has focused on a vision of having everyone valued, included and performing at their peak.

---



**Rosemarie Wenner** was born in and grew up in Eppingen, nurtured by a small UMC congregation in southern Germany. She studied at the United Methodist Theological Seminary in Reutlingen and served as pastor of congregations in Karlsruhe-Durlach, Hockenheim and Darmstadt-Sprendlingen before her appointment as superintendent of the Frankfurt District in 1996.

In February 2005, she was elected bishop at the Germany Central Conference in Wuppertal — the first woman elected to the United Methodist episcopacy outside of the United States. She is currently the president-elect of the United Methodist Council of Bishops, slated to serve as president for the 2012-2014 term.

Bishop Wenner is married to Tobias Wenner and they live in Nussloch, Germany.

---

#### **Ex-Officio Members for liaison with the Council of Bishops and the Connectional Table**



**Larry Goodpaster** was born in Memphis, Tennessee. He spent his early childhood in Crenshaw, Mississippi, before moving with his family to northern Indiana. Larry attended his grade school and junior high school years in Star City, Indiana, and then moved back to Mississippi for high school. A graduate of Senatobia, Mississippi, City High School, Larry then earned his B. A. degree from Millsaps College, then attended Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, where he earned an M. Div. degree. Larry was ordained a deacon in the former North Mississippi Conference by Bishop Edward J. Pendergrass. He was ordained an elder by Bishop Mack B. Stokes. He earned his D. Min. degree from Candler School of Theology.

Upon receiving his M. Div. degree, Larry served a variety of appointments in

Mississippi, including an appointment as a District Superintendent of the Tupelo District. At the time of his election to the episcopacy, he was Senior Pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Tupelo, Mississippi. He was also a member of the Task Force that brought about the 1988 merger of the former North Mississippi Conference, and the Mississippi Conference, resulting in the current Mississippi Conference.

He has published a book and several articles in preaching journals, and was an instructor in the Course of Study for Local Pastors for 9 years.

Larry M. Goodpaster was elected to the episcopacy at the 2000 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference and assigned to the Alabama-West Florida Area where he served for eight years. In 2008, he was assigned to the Western North Carolina Conference.

Deborah Phoebe Cox and Larry M. Goodpaster were married on September 26, 1971, while he was attending Candler School of Theology. They have two daughters and one son-in-law. Their older daughter is Amy, who is married to Eric Bradley. Their younger daughter is Lucy.



**John Hopkins** was born in Montgomery, Alabama, and his childhood was spent in Montgomery, Houston, Atlanta and Ft. Wayne. After marrying Elaine M. Smithson in 1964, he attended Indiana University, receiving a B.A. with Honors in Psychology. He graduated from Yale Divinity School and was selected for the two-year Wheelock Residency at the Church of Christ at Dartmouth College where he practiced hospital, campus and parish ministry. During this residency, he served as the Protestant Chaplain at Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital. He was ordained deacon and elder in the North Indiana Conference.

He was elected to the episcopacy in July 1996 at the North Central Jurisdictional Conference and assigned to the Minnesota Area for eight years. In September 2004, Bishop Hopkins was assigned to the Ohio East Area, which has over 800 churches.

Bishop Hopkins has been appointed by the Council of Bishops to serve as Chair of the Connectional Table which provides a forum for the understanding and implementation of the vision, mission, and ministries of the global church.

Elaine and John have three sons, Nathan, Zachary and Benjamin.