

REV. DR. PAMELA LIGHTSEY



Workshop Title

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The Rev. Dr. Pamela Lightsey serves as Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, and Associate Professor of Constructive Theology at Meadville Lombard Theological School. Throughout her vocational life, she has been a leading social justice activist, working with local, national and international organizations focusing primarily on the causes of peacemaking, racial justice and LGBTQ rights. Pamela's is the author of the book. Our Lives Matter: A Womanist Queer Theology (Wipf and Stock).

REV. DR. DIETRA WISE BAKER



The Justice Buffet

Do you love the mission work of the church but want to have a deeper impact? Are you looking to find your place in the justice movement of this generation? Are you part of the movement, but have found yourself overwhelmed or confused or by all the media, issues, options, and organizations? The Justice Buffet workshop is a great place for reflection and rejuvenation. The workshop will explore a framework for understanding movement work along with the graces and challenges of each space. In addition, participants explore living out the buffet in different contexts and justice passions.

Rev. Dr. Dietra Wise Baker is the Assistant Professor of Community Engagement and Contextual Education at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, MO Dr. Baker is the lead organizer of MCU's "Break the Pipeline" campaign aiming to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline in Missouri. In August 2014, she became the clergy caucus co-leader of the Gamaliel Networks' (47 affiliates in 17 states) Metropolitan Congregations United (MCU), an organization that resourced clergy and congregations in the early stages of the Ferguson movement. Dr. Baker is certified anti-racism trainer, and a trainer of faith-based community organizing in the Gamaliel network.

DR. JOSHUA BARTHOLOMEW



Race, Economics, and Social Justice

Blending cutting edge academic work with community organizing frameworks, Dr. Bartholomew will help us understand the intersections between race, economics, and our call to serve and love our neighbor.

Dr. Bartholomew brings a breadth of knowledge and experience, most recently serving as Adjunct Professor of Religious and Theological Studies at Iliff School of Theology and Research Project Coordinator

for Institute for the Study of the Black Christian Experience. He is an experienced community organizer who has authored several papers on economic justice, youth empowerment, and violence prevention in communities.

REV. DR. F WILLIS JOHNSON



What is your Why?

There are a lot of questions for us to consider when planning ministry: What are we going to do? Who is going to come? When will we get started? How will people know what we're doing? Too often we jump to these externally-focused questions before figuring out our answer to WHY? "Why" is the purpose, cause or belief that drives every one of us. In this workshop, Willis to help answer us find the headspace to discover our why and learn about ways to create ministries grounded in our why?

F. Willis Johnson currently leads Living Tree Church in Columbus, OH. Prior to starting Living Tree, he was senior minister of Wellspring Church in Ferguson, MO, where thousands have been influenced by his prophetic, faith-filled reflections and strategies on social justice and racial understanding. He counsels bishops, general board agencies, conferences, and local churches across the country. Johnson's writing and lecturing credits range from TIME Magazine, National Public Radio, universities, and seminaries to the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History Culture and his book, "Holding Up Your Corner: Guided Conversations on Race."

REV. EMANUEL CLEAVER III



Faith and Activism

In this workshop “Faith and Activism,” Rev. Emanuel Cleaver III, will focus on the intersection between our faith and our response to injustice in our world.

Emanuel Cleaver III is the dynamic senior pastor of St. James United Methodist Church in Kansas City, Missouri. His expertise is rooted in his experience and the knowledge he acquired while working toward a Master’s of Divinity, which he received in 1999 from the Methodist Theological School in Ohio. Following that, he completed his Doctor of Ministry at Saint Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, MO. He is the author of two books: “Pastor On Track: Reclaiming Our True Role”, and “What Is The Bible and Who Is It For: A Book for Beginners, Skeptics, and Seekers?”

REV. ANDY BRYAN



Pastoring in a Polarized Congregation

Most United Methodist congregations are composed of people who identify as “social justice warriors” right alongside people who wish their congregation wouldn’t even use the term “social justice,” let alone do it. And, of course, there is a whole spectrum of people in between. It can be tricky for a pastor to navigate the increasingly polarized landscape in between members who invite you to come out to the protest with them and members who caution you not to “get political” in the pulpit.

This session, geared toward pastors but open to all, will name the tensions that the present political climate has revealed in our congregations and discuss strategies for serving in the midst of those tensions.

Rev. Andy Bryan is the Lead Pastor of Manchester UMC in St. Louis County, Missouri. Manchester UMC has made strides in social justice under the supervision of Rev. Andy Bryan. He has 19 years of pastoral experience, plus seven years in music ministry. He is a foster parent and vocal coconspirator for the queer community. He studied at Saint Paul School of Theology. He also studied vocal music and choral conducting at Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri. Rev. Andy is a recognized leader in the Missouri Annual Conference, having been elected Lead Delegate to the 2020 General Conference. He is a gifted preacher, talented musician, and caring pastor.

REV. STEPHANIE LEONARD



Lessons from Unity UMC: Microlending

Often, we look at economic disparity or financial strife in our community and feel helpless to respond. In this workshop, Rev. Leonard will share how her church found their calling to respond to economic injustice through the creation of a church-led microlending program! Come hear Stephanie's story and build skills to take back to your home congregation.

Rev Stephanie Leonard serves as Senior Pastor at Unity United Methodist Church in Webster Groves, MO. Before completing her seminary studies at Eden, Stephanie had careers in business and military. She is a veteran of the Iraq war. She has been awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service in the combat zone. With 20 years of military service, she has recently been commissioned Chief Warrant Officer in the MO National Guard, the first woman in Missouri to achieve that rank.

REV. WINTER HAMILTON



Application of the Scriptural Basis for Social Holiness in Christian Education

For our churches to distinguish the difference between charity work and advocacy work, mission and justice, we need to have a solid biblical framework for defining these terms, and a means of application to educate our congregations. Joined by Dan Richter of LifeWise STL, Rev. Winter Hamilton will walk through processes on how to do that. LifeWise STL is offering assistance to churches around the county that are looking to begin/continue/revisit advocacy and justice work in their ministry contexts. This work shop will address Biblical concepts that can be used in Christian education settings, introduce free curricula, and work to address where application of these concepts can begin to take place in other ministry areas.

Rev. Winter Hamilton is an STL native and a life-long United Methodist currently serving at Manchester UMC as the Pastor of Adult Faith Formation. She graduated with her Master of Divinity from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. Winter is just as exhausted by as she is exuberant for the Church. She has been a Christian educator for almost 20 years, has produced countless curricula, and is passionate about making space for the marginalized. She has worked on creating programs for long-term relational mission in multiple ministry settings, most recently at her current appointment. She is proud to be an out, queer pastor. She loves punk rock, hip-hop, postmodern theology, and resistance culture.

REV. BRAD BRYAN



FEARLESS COMMUNITY: What I Wish I Knew When I Started

Five years as Pastor of Wilkes and Executive Director of Turning Point has had its fair share of unexpected challenges. From neighborhood relations and local government policies to becoming the outlet for all of a person's lifetime of trauma, these are the things I wish I had known before coming to Wilkes Blvd UMC. If you are interested in or are currently involved with ministry for the unhoused community, this workshop is for you.

Rev. Bryan is an Elder in the United Methodist Church and has served as pastor of Wilkes Blvd UMC and Executive Director of Turning Point Day Center for five years. Education at Saint Paul School of Theology fostered a practical ecclesiology in Rev Bryan and reinforced the centrality of local church missions, service, and justice work in his ministry. Rooted in relationships, Turning Point Day Center seeks to provide dignity and hope to unsheltered people through the provisions of daily basic needs and referral services.

REV. DAVID BENNETT



"Lessening the Distance" Restorative Conversations...

In his workshop, "Lessening the Distance" Restorative Conversations, Rev. David will examine 6 conversations that move communities toward a new redemptive future. Using the book, *Community: The Structure of Belonging*, by Peter Block, Rev. David Bennett has recently convened a weekly book study for 10 months with the core leadership of his church's local government involving the Mayor, Chief of Police, City Administrator, Deputy Chief of Police, and a Board of Alderman member. In addition, David recently led three 4-hour training seminars for 32 of the local police officers and staff on the subject of "Lessening the Distance... Creating a Restorative Community."

A United Methodist Clergy for 47 years, having served as lead Pastor of Kirkwood UMC, lead pastor of a multicultural congregation, start-up pastor for a new church start, campus minister, and District Superintendent. A recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award of St. Paul School of Theology in 2009, the Missouri Annual Conference Social Justice Award in 2009, the Unity Award in 2010, and the Kirkwood Human Rights Commission Service Award in 2013. A founding organizer of the Community For Understanding and Healing (CFUH), former leader of the U.S. Department of Justice Mediation Team in Kirkwood, MO following the City Hall shooting in 2008 and former Police Chaplain of Kirkwood Police Department, experienced coach and community relations developer.

NICK REINHARDT-SWIERK



Starting Your Own Social Justice Ministry

Many of us long for justice, but we have no idea how to get started! The reality of injustice can feel overwhelming. Sometimes we know we have the right heart, but not enough information. Other times, we have a vision, but we don't know how to get other folks to join us in the journey. This workshop will serve as a learning lab to help you make a plan to incorporate social justice into your personal faith life as well as our religious communities.

Nick Reinhardt-Swierk serves as Manchester UMC's Social Justice Coordinator. They received their Master of Theological Studies with a concentration in Religion, Ethics, and Politics from Harvard University. Nick was the Associate Director of the Center for Social Empowerment in Ferguson, MO. They've been involved in ecumenical work and activism for over a decade. They are a contributing author to the Holding Up Your Corner Curriculum and author of the accompanying youth resource. As a former educator with Teach for America, they have extensive experience in curriculum development, piloting justice initiatives, and facilitating social justice trainings. They have trained over 2,500 individuals across the nation in a variety of social justice ministries.

KAREN SHEARER



**"Tell me again - what's the best way to do this?!"
Community outreach for small-membership, rural churches**

This workshop will focus on the critical role that small-membership, rural churches hold within their communities. Oftentimes, the local church is a symbol of hope while also serving as a reminder of the rich faith tradition of bygone days. How do we face the serious challenges of today's rural communities and use scarce resources of people and dollars effectively to truly walk as disciples of Jesus Christ? This workshop will include discussion and also interaction with attendees so please bring questions and ideas!

Karen Shearer is a second-career licensed local pastor in the MO Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and serves as pastor of a small-membership church in Madison, MO. As a bi-vocational pastor, she also serves as a hospice chaplain for Compassus Hospice and Palliative Care of Columbia and Macon, MO. She is passionate about the positive difference that small-membership churches, primarily those in rural areas, can make in their local communities.

MARI ANN MOYERS



Bold Change: The Unexpected Ways God is bringing Unity to a Racially Divided City

What if the ways you have sought to reach the marginalized are not working in your community? Learn how God is upending the traditional model of missions in one city and how you can bring this model to your own church.

Mari Ann is a Southeast Missouri native residing in Sikeston, Missouri. She has served as a ministry leader through the local church for the past 35 years. Currently, she is the Director and co-founder of the faith-based non-profit Spread Hope Now, which strives to unite churches and mobilize volunteers to meet the needs of those in crisis in the community. She also recently served on a team with the DOJ-backed program "Strengthening Police and Community Partnerships" that seeks to improve local police/citizen relations. Mari Ann and her husband Michael have three grown children.