Post-Way-Forward Gathering of United Methodist Scholars
Livestreaming on [www.llumc.org/umscholars](http://www.llumc.org/umscholars)

**Wednesday, August 7, 2019**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Shipp Chapel</td>
<td>Breakfast on your own</td>
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<td>9:00</td>
<td>Dudley Dancer Room</td>
<td><strong>Greetings, Opening Prayer, and Opening Business</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Anne Burkholder</strong></td>
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<td>Associate Dean of Methodist Studies</td>
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<td>Candler School of Theology, Emory University</td>
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<td>Elder, Florida Annual Conference</td>
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<td><em>Implications and Consequences of the Process and Results of the Delegate Counts for the 2020 General Conference</em></td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>Pastor’s Beginnings Room</td>
<td><strong>Kevin M. Carnahan</strong></td>
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<td>Professor of Philosophy and Religion</td>
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<td>Central Methodist University</td>
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<td>Layperson, Missouri Annual Conference</td>
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<td><em>Reading the Bible on Slavery and Homosexuality</em></td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>9:30</td>
<td>Dudley Dancer Room</td>
<td><strong>Robert Allan Hill</strong></td>
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<td>Dean of Marsh Chapel, Professor of New Testament and Pastoral Theology</td>
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<td>Boston University</td>
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<td>Elder, Upper New York Annual Conference</td>
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<td><em>No Male and Female</em></td>
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<td>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.</td>
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10:15 Dudley Dancer Room

Jodie L. Lyon
Senior Lecturer in Religion
University of Georgia
Layperson, North Georgia Annual Conference

Changing Minds by Changing Ethical Frameworks: Thinking Teleologically About Sex

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.

Pastor’s Beginnings Room

O. Wesley Allen, Jr.
Lois Craddock Perkins Professor of Homiletics
Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University
Indiana Annual Conference

Methodistry

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.

10:45 Dudley Dancer Room

Sam Persons Parkes
Senior Pastor
Mary Esther UMC
Elder, Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference

Am I My Sibling’s Keeper?: A Practical Guide to Preserving LGBTQIA+ Life

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.

Pastor’s Beginnings Room

Amy Oden
Visiting Professor of Early Church History and Spirituality
Saint Paul School of Theology at Oklahoma City University
Layperson, Oklahoma Annual Conference

Welcoming the Stranger

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.

11:15 Dudley Dancer Room

Michael G. Cartwright
Vice President for University Mission
University of Indianapolis
Elder, Indiana Annual Conference

Lessons from the Heartland after General Conference 2019

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).

Pastor’s Beginnings Room

Cristian De La Rosa
Assistant Professor of Contextual Theology and Practice
Boston University
Elder, New England Annual Conference

Considerations of Nepantla for Latinx United Methodists

This presentation notes the Nepantla 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.
11:45 Wesley Chapel
 **BREAK & LUNCH PROVIDED AT THE CHURCH**

12:45 Dudley Dancer Room

**Scott Moore**
Director of Missional Excellence, Texas Annual Conference  
Ph.D. Student, Our Lady of the Lake University  
Elder, Texas Annual Conference

*Individual Consideration and Transformational Leadership in a Post-Way-Forward Era*

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.

Pastor’s Beginnings Room

**Ashley Boggan Dreff**
Assistant Professor of Religion  
High Point University  
Layperson, Arkansas Annual Conference

*The New Morality: An Exploration of a Methodist Sexual Ethic*

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.

1:15 Dudley Dancer Room

**Jennifer Quigley**
Assistant Professor of New Testament and Early Christian Studies,  
Louisville Postdoctoral Fellow  
Drew University  
Elder, West Ohio Annual Conference

*Teaching about Gender and Sexuality in the Bible: Reflections from a Seminary Classroom for Congregations*

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?”

Pastor’s Beginnings Room

**Jonathan LeMaster-Smith**
Affiliate Faculty, Sioux Falls Seminary  
Adjunct Faculty, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary  
Layperson, Western North Carolina Annual Conference

*The Rural Church in Connection after General Conference 2019*

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.

1:45 BREAK

2:00 Assigned Group Discussions concerning Public Statement
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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.
**Holy Train Wreck: Divine Purpose in Inconsistent Scripture**

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.

**More Than Meets the Eye:**

*Why How We Read the Bible Deserves More Attention*

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.

**Methodism’s History of Rejection of General Conference Actions**

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.

**What is Love? Augustine, the Church, and a New Approach to Sexual Ethics**

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.

**Breaking the Baptismal Covenant**

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?

**Closing Business and Closing Prayer**