

# Seminar Leaders and Bios



## Meaningful Worship

### The Reverend Junius B. Dotson ~ Opening Worship Preacher ~ **Make a Joyful Noise**

A recognized visionary leader in church revitalization, the Rev. Junius B. Dotson is the General Secretary (chief executive officer) of Discipleship Ministries, an international agency of The United Methodist Church. Formerly, Rev. Dotson was pastor of Saint Mark United Methodist Church in Wichita, Kansas, where he was instrumental in transforming the 3,500-member church into a multi-campus congregation.

Rev. Dotson received his undergraduate degree in political science, with a concentration in economics, at the University of Texas at Arlington. While attending UT-Arlington, he was president of the local chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha, the nation's oldest African-American fraternity. He began his graduate work at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, and earned his Master of Divinity degree from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California. He was ordained in June 1992.



A dynamic preacher and public speaker, Rev. Dotson is highly respected for his ability to establish networks that get things done in the faith and larger communities. He responds to challenges and opportunities in new and creative ways and believes that effective ministry is about training, developing, and empowering leaders to establish ministries that address the needs of the whole person—body, mind, and spirit.

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### The Reverend Jacob Armstrong ~ Closing Worship Preacher ~ **Then Sings My Soul**



Jacob is a native of Nashville, TN. In seminary, Jacob began dreaming of a church where people who feel disconnected from God and the church could find hope, healing, and wholeness in Jesus. In 2008, at the age of 27, Jacob and his wife, Rachel moved to Mt Juliet, TN to start Providence Church. Providence has grown into a thriving congregation with 1,700 in weekly attendance, with Mission partnerships in East Nashville, Clinton, Oklahoma and Los Cerritos, Nicaragua. Jacob is the author of eight books, including *The New Adapters* and *Renovate*. Jacob and Rachel have three daughters.

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# Seminar Leaders

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## The Reverend Dr. Diana DeWitt ~ **Spiritual Health**

### *Seminar 1*

In addition to pastoring Greenville United Methodist Church north of Nashville, the Reverend Dr. Diana DeWitt serves as the Chairperson of Spiritual Formation for the Tennessee Conference of the UMC and leads Aspen Tree Ministries. She leverages these latter roles to see pastors set free from the wounds and unhealthy demands of ministry, empowering them to more effectively live into their calling, which will, in her words, “make an eternal difference in the lives of people in the congregations and communities in which they serve.” Diana has two adult children and four amazing grandchildren, Camden, Kaia, Layna, and Henry.



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## Mr. Bob Christophel ~ **Beneficially Administrative**

### *Seminar 2*



**Bob Christophel** is a benefits educator who provides financial, retirement and other benefits education for clergy and lay employees in the United Methodist Church. Prior to joining Wespath in 2014, Bob worked for a not-for-profit multi-employer pension and 401(k) system in New York City, providing benefit communications and participant education for employees of New York museums, performing arts centers and other cultural institutions. Previously, he was a licensed investment representative in a corporate retirement services division, where he focused primarily on participant education for national corporate 401(k) plans.

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## The Reverend Stephen Handy ~ **Encouragement for the Encourager**

### *Seminar 3*

Stephen Handy is currently the lead pastor at McKendree UMC. He is visionary strategist and partnership collaborator of the gospel message of Jesus Christ. He is a passionate communicator that desires to speak God’s truth so people of different cultures, experiences, neighborhoods, and all of God’s unique diversity can be reconciled through the unity in Jesus Christ.

Stephen is a strong advocate of restorative justice, serving the poor and needy, and participating in life groups for spiritual formation and accountability. He is a firm believer in maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle by honoring God with our bodies through our thoughts, words, and actions. And ultimately Stephen loves spending time with God, family and friends by imitating JESUS CHRIST and making a lasting difference in our community and the world. Stephen and his wife, Shelley, have three children and live in the Greater Nashville area.



## Mission Focus, End Slavery Tennessee

Seminar 4



[endslaverytn.org](http://endslaverytn.org)

You may think slavery ended after the Civil War. Think again. There are more slaves now than at any time in history! Human trafficking is just a way of saying "the ways people are moved from freedom into slavery." Through violence. Lies. Manipulation. Threats.

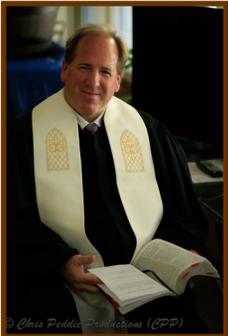
Today's slaves are forced into labor, service or sex slavery to make money for their exploiters. You see, the same people who traffick drugs and weapons realize that selling people is more profitable and less risky. People can be sold repeatedly. In the case of a sex slave, that might be 10, 20 or more times a day. In labor slavery, goods and services are continually produced without compensating the laborer.

**Slavery** is involuntary servitude. The legal definition defines **Human Trafficking, or Trafficking in Persons (TIP)**, as "an ACT or attempted act of recruiting, transporting, transferring, harboring or receiving a person by means of force, abduction, fraud, coercion, purchase, sale, threats, abuse of power for the purpose of exploitation." For an adult, force, fraud or coercion must be present. **ANY minor used in commercial sex is legally a human trafficking victim.**

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## The Reverend Scott Aleridge ~ Innovative Connectional Strategies

Seminar 5



Reverend Scott Aleridge currently serves as the Cumberland River District Superintendent in the Tennessee Conference.

Scott believes that God is using the United Methodist Church to help restore the world. Through combining a decade of business experiences with seventeen years of ministerial experiences, Scott has adapted techniques that have proven valuable, sustainable and measureable as the District Superintendent within the Tennessee Conference.

Scott currently leads a cross-section of United Methodist Churches (small, medium, and large) consisting of 108 churches, 109 pastors and over 34,000 members. Scott lives in Hendersonville TN with his wife Beth and their two children, James and Lindsey.

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## The Reverend Dr. Jacqui King ~ Partnerships

Seminar 7

Reverend Dr. Jacqui King is an Elder of The United Methodist Church, ordained in the Texas Annual Conference. Known as a pioneer for connecting technology and faith community building by launching an online experience in 2007. Currently, she service in Nashville, TN as the Director of Leadership for Congregational Vitality, equipping leaders to lead effectively. She develops leadership resources for local congregations, engages network groups in new processes to implement core strategies, teaches clergy and laity in community development, and designs and promotes online learning through webinar.

Jacqui believes that education can create avenues for all to become empowered to live into our callings from the Lord.



## Bishop William “Bill” T. McAlilly ~ **Compassionate Ministry**

### *Seminar 6*



William T. (Bill) McAlilly is the bishop of the Nashville Episcopal Area of the United Methodist Church. The Area includes the Memphis and Tennessee Conferences . He was elected to the episcopacy in 2012.

A native of Mississippi, Bishop McAlilly earned a Bachelor of Arts in Religion, Millsaps College, Jackson, MS (1978) and a Masters of Divinity, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA (1981). He was ordained deacon in the United Methodist Church in 1979 and ordained elder in 1982. In the spring of 2017, Bishop McAlilly received an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Rust College in Holly Springs, MS.

McAlilly has served in a wide variety of ministry settings in Georgia and Mississippi—a small membership church, a new congregation, a county seat church, a newly organized congregation, and a large membership congregation. Likewise, he has served in a variety of roles including youth minister, associate minister, and lead pastor.

For the 2017-2020 quadrennium, Bishop McAlilly currently serves on the Connectional Table as president on the Board of Directors for the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM). He also is Co-Chair of the Endorsing Committee. He also serves on the Council of Bishops’ Leadership Teams on Leadership Development and on Leadership Discernment. In addition, he will serve on the Just Peace Board of Directors for this quadrennium.

Bishop McAlilly currently serves on the Board of Trustees of Emory University, Atlanta, GA; the Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare Board, Memphis, TN; and the Board of Trustees of Martin College, Pulaski, TN.

Bishop McAlilly and his wife, Lynn, have two adult children and three grandchildren.

Compassion for the least and last has been at the heart of his emphasis on missions throughout his ministry—locally in the communities in which he has served and globally in Mexico, Nicaragua, and Democratic Republic of Congo.

Bishop McAlilly has a pastor’s heart with a vision for the reign of God.

