

2024 PAUMCS Annual Conference Speakers



Dr. Ashley Boggan

Dr. Ashley Boggan D. is the General Secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History. In this role, she ensures that the UMC understands its past in order to envision a more equitable future for all Methodists. Boggan earned her PhD from Drew Theological School's Graduate Division of Religion, specializing in both Methodist/ Wesleyan Studies and Women's/Gender Studies.

She earned an M.A. from the University of Chicago's Divinity School, specializing in American Religious History. She has previously worked as staff at the General Commission on Archives and History (2012-2014) and the Connectional Table of The United

Methodist Church (2014-2016). She was the Director of United Methodist Studies and Assistant Professor of Christian History at Hood Theological Seminary (Salisbury, NC), an AME Zion Seminary, from 2017-2019 and was the Director of Women's and Gender Studies and Assistant Professor of Religion at High Point University (High Point, NC) from 2019-2020. Boggan is a lay member of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference and the daughter of two ordained United Methodist ministers. She is the author of *Nevertheless: American Methodists and Women's Rights* (2020); *Entangled: A History of American Methodism, Politics, and Sexuality* (2018); and added to the revised *American Methodism: A Compact History* (2022).

Todd Cox is a higher education professional and a Gallup-Certified Strengths Coach. Todd is currently a part of the student life leadership team at a large institution, where he directs the work of units that provide advocacy for students, create a meaningful family experience, and provide students with leadership opportunities amongst the institution's administration. Todd also holds certification with Gallup as a Strengths Coach, where he helps people achieve their goals by further leveraging what comes naturally.



Mr. Todd Cox

A life-long United Methodist, Todd grew up in Cook's United Methodist Church in Mount Juliet, Tennessee. During Todd's most formative years, he was a student leader with the Conference Council on Youth Ministry of the former Tennessee Conference. Todd went on to serve the United Methodist Church in a variety of roles, including as lay staff at the local church and conference level, conference delegate to the World Methodist Conference and Young People's Convocation, and member of the General Commission on Communications. Todd is presently a member of Central United Methodist Church in Knoxville, TN of the Holston Conference.

Clara J. Ester, a native of Memphis, TN, is a graduate of LeMoyne-Owen College in Memphis. She moved to Mobile, AL, in February 1970 to serve at Dumas Wesley Community Center as a neighborhood organizer. She later assumed the roles of Program Director, Associate Director and retired December 2006 as the Executive Director.



Ms. Clara J. Ester

She's a member of Toulminville-Warren Street United Methodist Church where she has held positions as Lay Leader, Class Leader, Servant Leader, chair of the Staff-Parish Relations committee, chair of the Mature Adult Ministries, Usher, and Altar Guild member. Currently, she serves as a member of the Mass choir and the United Methodist Women.

She served as the District Lay Leader, District Clergy/Laity Academy Team, UMW nomination committee and Vice President. On the conference level she served on the Board of Pensions and Health, chaired the Religion & Race committee, Social Action coordinator for UMW, conference committee on Episcopacy, conference C.O.R.E. team, elected as a jurisdictional delegate in 2012 and elected as a general conference delegate in 2016. Serves on the National UMW Charter for Racial Justice team, appointed to the UMW Program Advisory Committee 2012-2016 and elected as a Director to the Board 2016-2020 and served as National Vice President. In 1986, she was commissioned as a deaconess of the United Methodist Church. She currently serves as chair of the UMW Deaconess Home Missioner board and presently is chair of National Association of Deaconess and Home Missioners (NADHM). She has served on many boards and agencies in Mobile. She was one of the founding members of Habitat for Humanities of Mobile and People United to Advance the Dream. She served on the Quality Assurance Board for the Department of Human Resources, was a member of Mobile United, a graduate of Leadership Mobile and Leadership Alabama.

Clara's interest in social welfare and justice was fueled by her early relationship with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. She was very active in the Civil Rights struggle in Memphis, TN and worked with several other projects throughout the south. She was one of the youth organizers for the Second Poor People 's Campaign in Marks, MS.



Dr. Michael L. Bowie, Jr.

Dr. Michael L. Bowie, Jr. is the National Executive Director of the United Methodist Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century. Since July 1, 2020, Dr. Bowie has utilized more than 20 years of experience as a United Methodist Elder to offer strategic, transformative leadership to clergy and lay that will strengthen black congregations. Dr. Bowie has developed and launched "*The Black Church Matters*" initiative that endeavors to strengthen congregations and ultimately transform communities. He echoes the sentiments of Dr. King, "*the local church is still the Hope of the world.*"

Dr. Bowie holds a Doctor of Ministry from United Theological Seminary, specializing in church administration and congregational development; a Master of Divinity from Saint Paul School of Theology, graduating cum laude, and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Texas Southern University.



Dr. Cynthia A. Bond Hopson

Dr. Cynthia A. Bond Hopson became Philander Smith University's Interim President and CEO July 1, 2023, after serving almost 18 years as a trustee. Dr. Hopson's previous role was Chief Equity Officer and Assistant General Secretary at the United Methodist Church's General Board of Higher Education and Ministry's Black College Fund. In this role she was responsible for promotion and interpretation of the funding that supported the denomination's 11 Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

She received the B.A. in mass communications from Clark College, (now Clark Atlanta University), the M.S. in Journalism from Murray (KY) State University, and the Ph.D. in Journalism from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. She has received honors from Rust College, Bethune Cookman University, and was named a Woman of Excellence by Wiley College. A best-selling author, workshop leader, speaker, and podcast host, audiences say Dr. Hopson's joy and enthusiasm are infectious. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and the historic Centenary United Methodist Church in Memphis where her husband, the Rev. Roger A. Hopson, served as pastor until his death in October 2022.

2024 PAUMCS Annual Conference Preachers and Other Presenters



Bishop Bill McAlilly



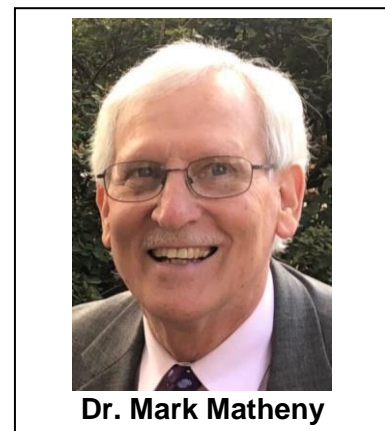
Rev. Keith Caldwell



Ms. Joyclyn Wilson



Dr. Cynthia Hopson



Dr. Mark Matheny