



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
HARRISBURG AREA – SUSQUEHANNA CONFERENCE

303 Mulberry Drive, Suite 100 • Mechanicsburg, PA 17050-3198
Phone (717) 766-7871 • Fax (717) 766-3210 • Email: bishoppark@susumc.org

Bishop Jeremiah J. Park

Christy Mackey
Executive Admin. Asst.
cmackey@susumc.org

Rev. Gregory C. Myers
Clergy Assistant
gmyers@susumc.org

Rev. Dr. Thomas Salsgiver
Clergy Assistant
tsalsgiver@susumc.org

Sarah Filizzi
Admin. Assistant
sfilizzi@susumc.org

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TRANSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM BISHOP PARK

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Grace to you in the name of Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, Healer of our Brokenness, and Hope of the World!

I pray that your summer is going well and that you are finding some time for rest, relaxation, and time with your loved ones.

RETIREMENT OF REVEREND GARY SHOCKLEY:

It is with a sense of sadness, but joy for Gary that I am announcing that Rev. Gary Shockley, Director of Equipping Vital Congregations, has requested to retire. His effective retirement date will be December 31, 2021.

Gary came back home to the Susquehanna Conference to serve as the Director of Equipping Vital Congregations on July 1, 2019. Having been first ordained in the former Central Pennsylvania Conference, Gary returned with a wealth of knowledge and experience as a pastor, church planter, conference staff person and Associate General Secretary of Path1 at Discipleship Ministries.

As a member of the Cabinet, Gary has worked so well with each District Superintendent. In addition to working with the District Superintendents and the Full Cabinet, Gary has done consulting as well as coaching with many of our churches. He has also helped many of our congregations fully integrate the Simplified Accountable Structure into the administrative part of their total ministry.

As the Director of Equipping Vital Congregations, he has led the team in creating long-term processes for things such as grant applications and effective ways of developing and evaluating congregational vitality and congregational planting opportunities. These are just two of the things that have laid the foundation for a strong future of our church. Gary has also developed leadership connections with Fresh Expressions US as he supported and helped local churches launch Fresh Expressions of doing and being the church to create new places for new people. Gary's ministry is also abundantly flowing in and through his exceptional gifts in creating arts and publishing books.

Gary's wife Kim will continue to serve on staff in the Office of Developing Spiritual, Transformational Leaders of the Susquehanna Conference. I know you will join me in giving thanks for the ministry of Gary and wish him well in the next season of his life and ministry with Kim and their loved ones.

APPOINTMENT OF JAY LAYMAN AS INTERIM CHANCELLOR FOR SUSQUEHANNA CONFERENCE:

The role of Conference Chancellor is to serve as an advisor to the Resident Bishop and Cabinet. According to The Book of Discipline (§603.8), “The Chancellor is elected quadrennially by the annual conference. If a vacancy should occur during the quadrennium, the bishop shall fill the vacancy until the next session of the annual conference.”

In consultation with Bishops Moore-Koikoi and Steiner Ball I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Jay Layman as the Interim Chancellor for the Susquehanna Conference until he can be voted on during Annual Conference. Jay will begin his duties September 1, 2021.

Jay is a very active member of the Carlisle United Methodist Church. Jay has been and continues to be active not only in his local church but also in the Annual Conference. For many years Jay served on the Board of the Ordained Ministry as well as legal counsel advising church officials in several church trials. Jay also once was appointed as Co-Chancellor of the Susquehanna Conference during the transition of episcopal and chancellor leadership. Jay has been serving on the Conference Board of Trustees, as secretary. Jay also served as an at-large member of Annual Conference 2020 and an at-large member for the most recent 2021 Annual Conference.

Jay is a graduate of Dickinson College and Dickinson School of Law. He has been licensed to practice law since October 1975. His legal career included being in private practice for 22 years, and then he moved to a law firm where he was partner and managing partner. His specialty areas included not only general counsel, but he worked with charitable and nonprofit organizations. Jay was also a registered lobbyist where he worked in many areas including health care, services for individuals with disabilities, higher education, and nonprofit organization status.

Jay was married to the Rev. Karen Engle Layman, an elder in the former Central PA Conference, until her death in 2005. They have two children, a son Jason and a daughter, Anna Lyman Knox who is an Elder in the Susquehanna Conference. In 2008 Jay married Christiana Benson a life-long United Methodist.

Just as we were in good hands with Ray Hamill as our Chancellor, God has indeed provided Jay in this time of uncertainty and transition with our beloved denomination. Please join me in welcoming Jay.

God's Blessings,



Jeremiah J. Park