

The Rev. Kevin Lantz is a retired elder from the West Virginia Annual Conference, now residing in Huntington, WV.

Following graduation from Asbury Seminary in 1985 he served five local churches throughout his 37 years under appointment, including the Matoaka Charge, New Hope in Princeton, Central in Huntington, Mt. Pleasant in Mineral Wells, and Steele Memorial in Barboursville.



Along the way, he and his wife, Kim, made hundreds of new friends while serving the Lord among the hills and hollows in the United Methodist Church.

“The people we met in our communities changed our lives in so many positive ways! We are thankful to God for the privilege of serving His Church while being molded by His Spirit!”

Near to his heart are his three children, Steve, Ashlee, and Courtney, and six grandchildren. In retirement Kevin serves as a CASA volunteer (Court Appointed Special Advocate) for foster children.

About Our Speakers 2024-07

Bishop Sandra L. Steiner Ball is a graduate of Dickinson College (B.A. in Religion), Duke Divinity School (M.Div.), and Wesley Theological Seminary (D.Min.). Bishop Steiner Ball was ordained Deacon and Elder by Bishop Joseph H. Yeakel in



the Peninsula-Delaware Conference of The United Methodist Church. She has served as an associate pastor, lead pastor, District Superintendent, and Director of Connectional Ministries (DCM). She has also served as interim pastor of a new church start. She was elected to the episcopacy by the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference (NEJ) in 2012 and was assigned to the West Virginia Area. She also currently partners with Bishop Moore-Koikoi to provide episcopal coverage for the Susquehanna Conference in Pennsylvania.

Bishop Steiner Ball is the President of the Board of Directors of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) for the UMC and has responsibilities with GBHEM’s Executive/Personnel and Policies Committee, Global Education and Ministry Committee, and Audit and Review Subcommittee. She leads the denomination’s annual training for District Superintendents and Directors of connectional ministry.

She served as one of three moderators for the Commission on the Way Forward, is the current secretary for the NEJ College of Bishops, having previously served as NEJ College President, and serves as Chair of the NEJ Vision Table. She has served previously on the Interjurisdictional Episcopacy Committee, the United Methodist Endorsing Agency, and the Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy. She is the president of the West Virginia Council of Churches, and serves on the board of the United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia. Prior to her election as Bishop, she served as a General and Jurisdictional Conference clergy delegate.

Bishop Steiner Ball and her husband, the Rev. Dr. Barry Steiner Ball, have two daughters: Sarah Elizabeth and Sandra Rebekah. Born in Cambridge, MA, and raised in Milford, DE, she is the daughter of Edward J. and the late Marjorie W. Steiner. She enjoys visits with her granddaughter Sloane Shay, spending time at the beach, and golfing.



The Rev. Héctor A. Burgos Núñez was elected Bishop at the November 2022 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church held in College Park, Maryland. He is the first Hispanic-Latino bishop in the Northeastern Jurisdiction and the first Puerto Rican bishop in The United Methodist Church. Bishop Burgos was assigned to serve as the Episcopal leader of the Upper New York Area effective January 1, 2023.



Bishop Héctor A. Burgos Núñez holds an M.Div. from the School of Theology at Drew University in Madison, NJ, a bachelor's in business administration with a concentration in Management and Strategic Marketing from the University of Puerto Rico, and a graduate certificate in Information Systems Technology. At the time of his election to the episcopacy, Bishop Burgos was serving as District Superintendent of the Central District of the Greater New Jersey Conference.

Bishop Burgos previously served pastorates at West Creek United Methodist Church, First United Methodist Church, Iglesia Casa de Esperanza, and Oasis United Methodist Church. He has also served as Director of Worship and Urban Ministries, Executive Director of NextGen Ministries of GNJ, and Director of Connectional Ministries for the Greater New Jersey Conference.

Bishop Héctor A. Burgos, a Community Leadership Fellow from the Lewis Center for Church Leadership, a certified ICA coach, and an Outward Mindset facilitator, also served as Director of Communications for MARCHA, the National Hispanic/Latino caucus within the United Methodist Church, from 2010-2022.

Bishop Burgos' interests include racial and organizational equity, leadership development, contextual evangelism and worship, and strategic communications in a digital era. He finds joy in cooking for his family and friends and is known for his famous meat marinades and BBQ ribs. Bishop Burgos also enjoys blogging. His blog, Mensajes de Esperanza, has more than 150,000 followers throughout Latin America. He shares life with his wife, Jazelis Adorno, and their children, Fabián, Joel, Marcos, and Valeria.

The Rev. Michael Adam Beck is currently the Director of the Fresh Expressions House of Studies at United Theological Seminary. Director of Fresh Expressions Florida, and Director of Fresh Expressions for The United Methodist Church. He serves as the co-pastor of Wildwood UMC, St Marks UMC, and Compassion UMC with his wife, Jill, where they direct addiction recovery programs, a jail ministry, a food pantry, an interracial unity movement, and house a faith-based inpatient treatment center. Wildwood and St Marks are traditional congregations AND a network of thirteen fresh expressions that gather in tattoo parlors, dog parks, salons, running tracks, community centers, burrito joints, and digital spaces.



Michael guides leaders in an individual, regional, statewide, and national capacity. He also teaches as an adjunct professor at several educational institutions. He coaches entrepreneurs across the theological spectrum and has consulted with hundreds of churches, districts, denominations, networks, and dioceses. As an active ministry practitioner, he has started and developed businesses and planted missional communities most of his life. Michael has done this for over a decade while pastoring in the local church. His coaching and consulting work are not theoretical only, but experiential. He believes in maintaining a practitioner's ethos: "I eat my own cooking and share experimental recipes."

Beck earned a Master of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary and a Doctorate in Semiotics and Future Studies at Portland Seminary. He's the author of fourteen books, including *Deep Roots*, *Wild Branches: Revitalizing the Church in the Blended Ecology*; *Deep & Wild: Remissioning Your Church from the Outside In*, *A Field Guide to Methodist Fresh Expressions*; , and co-author of *Contextual Intelligence: Unlocking the Ancient Secret to Mission on the Front Lines* with Leonard Sweet, *Fresh Expressions in a Digital Age* with Rosario Picardo, as well as *The 21st Century Christian: Following Jesus Where Life Happens* with Michael Moynagh. His most recent books include *Painting With Ashes*, *Fresh Expressions of the Rural Church*, *The Five Congregational Personality Types*, and *Doing Justice Together*.