

## COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY

The Indiana Conference Committee on Episcopacy meets with Bishop Julius C. Trimble to provide him, along with his Executive Assistant, The Rev. Larry Whitehead, support and insight concerning the Indiana Area, among other duties (BOD 2016, Par. 637). This committee assists our Bishop in similar fashion as the local church Pastor-Parish Relations Committee assists the pastor.

The committee has benefitted from Bishop Trimble's perspective on the Indiana Area and its ministries and has shared insights with the Bishop about the needs of the conference. We also prayerfully support First Lady Racelder Grandberry-Trimble and her ministry in the Annual Conference.

First Lady Racelder Grandberry-Trimble has a heart for healing, spiritual development, personal growth, holiness, and wholeness. She is a committed volunteer and a civic organizer speaking to issues facing women, children, and families. Her personal call statement is: "I will serve God and humanity where I can be a positive influence on as many lives as possible."

The Committee on Episcopacy submitted our review and recommendation to the Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy prior to their meeting in Ft. Wayne November 2-5, 2022. We enthusiastically recommended Bishop Trimble's reassignment to the Indiana Area and celebrate his return as our episcopal leader.

Bishop Trimble has a vital spirit for mission, social justice, and making disciples of Jesus Christ. He leads us with a non-anxious presence and a heart at peace along with a generous understanding of grace. Bishop Trimble has led with these qualities along with profound wisdom in this time of discernment which has brought some congregations to the decision to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. He is also a member on the boards of DePauw University, University of Evansville, University of Indianapolis, and Indiana University Health System.

We invite you to join us in regularly praying for our Bishop and his family.

In addition to his tireless efforts in our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ, Bishop Trimble often reminds us of his long-time personal mission statement: "To encourage all people with the love of Jesus Christ to rise to their highest potential." That's why he often declares, "Be encouraged!"

Beyond the Indiana Area, Bishop Trimble's General Church leadership responsibilities include: Chair of the UMC HIV AIDS Committee, long-time member of the UMC Immigration Task Force, and board member and Chair of the Development Board and Advisory Development Board for Africa University.

Both Africa University and Bishop Trimble marked milestone anniversaries last year. Bishop Trimble and First Lady Racelder celebrated forty years of ordained ministry in the United Methodist Church. Africa University commemorated thirty years since its founding.

In honor of these occasions, the Indiana Committee on Episcopacy unanimously and enthusiastically supports Bishop Trimble's Missional Challenge to create a permanent endowment designated to provide two student scholarships to Africa University in perpetuity. The plan is to receive \$300,000 in gifts and pledges by the end of 2023 which will fully provide for the "Trimble AU Scholarship Fund." Visit [inumc.org/au-missional-challenge/](http://inumc.org/au-missional-challenge/) to learn more and make your gift. Thank you for supporting Africa University and honoring Bishop Trimble!

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We celebrate Bishop Trimble’s presence and leadership among us as a Glory Sighting.  
Glory to God!

The Rev. Larry Whitehead is an effective and helpful Executive Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Connectional Ministries.

Larry has been on the forefront of investigating options around the Conference Center location. He also supervises our Conference Church Development team and provides leadership to the Bishop’s Cabinet.

Larry has work tirelessly with the administration of churches exploring and deciding about disaffiliating from the United Methodist Church. He has provided counsel, coaching, and support to Superintendents and worked to provide clear and accurate information throughout the Annual Conference.

He is inspired by the prophetic word found in Isaiah 43:18-19, where God says, “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?”

We celebrate The Rev. Larry Whitehead’s ministry and leadership among us as a Glory Sighting.  
Glory to God!

Rev. Charlie Wilfong, Chairperson

- Members of the Indiana Conference Committee on Episcopacy
- Patricia Ballinger
- Cathy Burris
- Rev. Ben Cassidy
- Kathie Clemenz
- Jana Day
- Daniel Evans, Jr., Vice-Chairperson
- Rev. Dr. Aleze Fulbright, Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy
- Chris Gordin
- Chris Hancock, Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy
- David Johns, Conference Lay Leader
- Candace Landry
- Rev. Kent Lundy
- Rev. Dr. Marion Miller
- Seana Murphy
- Rev. Janelle Ohlemiller
- David Rushton
- Rev. Charlie Wilfong, Chairperson