

# **SECTION I**

## **NOMINATIONS**

BALLOT

1-3 BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF NOMINEES

**BALLOT**  
**61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting**  
Northwest Ohio Association, UCC  
April 27, 2024

**Cabinet/Executive Position**

NWOA Secretary

(1 to be elected – 2 year term)

\_\_\_\_ Rev. Darla Metz 26

NWOA At-Large Members

Rev. Dawn Balduf 25

Pastor Tom Kagy 26

Rev. Ed Heilman 27

**Church and Ministry Team**

\_\_\_\_ Bob Rine 27

\_\_\_\_ Sandra Powell 27

\_\_\_\_ Rev. Joel Fetter 27

\_\_\_\_ Rev. Darla Metz 27

**Witness and Proclamation Team**

\_\_\_\_ Rev. Jeffrey McCarn 27

\_\_\_\_ Mark Vaughn 27

\_\_\_\_ Rev. Chris Buckingham-Taylor 27

\_\_\_\_ Susan Rainey 26

\_\_\_\_ Kathy Geisler 26

\_\_\_\_ Diane Gayer 25

**Faith Formation Team**

\_\_\_\_ Pastor Ron Jesse 27

\_\_\_\_ Ted Clark 27

\_\_\_\_ Pastor Barb Osborn 27

**Nominating Committee**

\_\_\_\_ Susan Bishop 27

\_\_\_\_ Rev. Wayne Chasney 27

**Stewardship and Generosity Team**

\_\_\_\_ Bob Rettig 27

\_\_\_\_ Rev. Jeremy Mann 27

\_\_\_\_ Rev. Jerald Fenske 27

# **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF 2024 NOMINEES**

NORTHWEST OHIO ASSOCIATION

## **NWOA CABINET**

### **NWOA SECRETARY**

**Rev. Darla Metz** – Pastor at Republic UCC and St. Jacob’s UCC, Republic. Rev. Metz is also the Chaplain for Community Engagement with United Church Homes.

### **NWOA AT – LARGE MEMBERS**

**Rev. Dawn Balduf** – has been an active member of St. Johns UCC in Genoa for over 45 years and has served the church as pastor in a variety of roles. She continues to support St. John’s through preaching/teaching and pastoral care as the congregation seeks a settled pastor. Pastor Dawn is a graduate of Winebrenner Theological Seminary with a master’s degree in Family Ministry and was ordained October 2021 through the Northwest Ohio Association of the UCC. She has been a chaplain at Mercy St. Charles Hospital for almost eight years. Pastor Dawn has been married to her high school sweetheart, Dan, for nearly 50 years, and they have a son and a daughter, two daughters-in-law, an 18-yr-old granddaughter and angel twin granddaughters. Traveling throughout God’s amazing creation is one of Pastor Dawn’s favorite past times along with scrapbooking and attending the theater. She and her husband have served numerous times at Back Bay Mission; they will be serving there for the month of May as long-term volunteers for the first time.

**Pastor Tom Kagy** – was called to the pulpit of the Bloomville United Church of Christ in October of 2014 and has served there ever since. He has served on the Lay School Board, and on the NWOA cabinet as secretary, vice-moderator, and moderator. He came to authorized ministry after having spent 20 years as a high school English teacher at Norwalk High School and 15 years as high school guidance counselor at Willard High School. He received his Bachelor of Arts from Heidelberg College in 1978 and his Master of Arts from Heidelberg in 1990.

**Rev. Ed Heilman** – Pennsylvania born, baptized Presbyterian, Eastern Mennonite Seminary, Church of the Brethren Ordained in 1987. Came across to the United Church of Christ in 2002. Married to Rev. Hafidha Saadiqah, five children between us. Apparently only permitted one child per state, Missouri, Tennessee, Indiana, Oregon, and Ohio! Serving Park church since 2007. Open and Affirming, Spiritual Director, seeking to pray and do good in the way of Jesus Christ, and friend of a marmalade cat named Martin.

### **CHURCH AND MINISTRY TEAM**

**Rev. Joel Fetter** – Pastor at Peace Community UCC, Waldo

**Bob Rine** – member at Zion UCC-Fireside, Bellevue

**Sandra Powell** – member at First UCC, Galion

**Rev. Darla Metz** – Pastor at Republic UCC and St. Jacob’s UCC, Republic. Rev. Metz is also the Chaplain for Community Engagement with United Church Homes.

## **FAITH FORMATION TEAM**

**Pastor Ron Jesse** - I am currently serving as a Licensed Lay Minister of the Northwest Ohio Association of the United Church of Christ in Steuben, Ohio. I began my call in Steuben, December of 2016. I then became licensed in 2021. Prior to my call to serve the church in Steuben, I was a Sunday School teacher for over 10 years. I taught both youth and adult classes at my home church, St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Bellevue, Ohio. I am also a trained teacher of the Bethel Bible Series, a comprehensive study of the whole Bible. I spent over 30 years in sales as my first career. I have also served as a member of the church council at St. Paul's for over twenty years, both as a deacon and an elder. I have been married to my wife Lee for over 40 years and have two grown children. I enjoy working with wood and painting in acrylics. I spend my spare time reading and looking up service ideas for worship.

**Pastor Barb Osborn** - Pastor at Union UCC, Bascom and Supply Pastor at Zion UCC, Bettsville

**Ted Clark** – member at Congregational UCC, Castalia

## **STEWARDSHIP AND CARING MINISTRY TEAM**

**Bob Rettig** – member at St. John's UCC, Holgate

**Rev. Jeremy Mann** – I was called to be the Pastor and Teacher of Emmanuel United Church of Christ Bluffton in September 2014. In 2022 St. Johns United Church of Christ Bluffton agreed with Emmanuel to have me serve both congregations in a joint effort of ministry. I graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary in May 2014 and moved with my wife to Bluffton from Manheim, Pennsylvania. I have served as chair of the Bluffton Area Ministerial Association for the past several years and previously served on the Church and Ministry Team of NWOA. I look forward to continuing my participation and service with the Association alongside my colleagues in ministry.

**Rev. Jerald Fenske** – Pastor at St. Stephen UCC, Sandusky

## **WITNESS AND PROCLAMATION TEAM**

**Rev. Jeffrey McCarn** – Pastor at St. John's UCC, Holgate

**Mark Vaughn** – I am a former Council President of St. Paul United Church of Christ, Wapakoneta, where I served as president for three years, and one year as vice-president. During my tenure on Council, I served as not only as president, but assumed many of the pastoral duties for approximately 6 months as we searched for an interim pastor to lead us when our settled pastor answered a new calling. I currently serve on our Association's Cabinet since I am our Association's representative to the Heartland Conference Board of Directors, which I also serve. I am a widower with two grown children, a married son who resides in Toledo and a daughter who is pursuing her college education at OSU-Lima. I have also become a grandfather for the first time in February. Finally, I apologize that I am not physically present at this important Association Meeting, but I am currently at Temple Hills serving as their head cook. I have become passionate about camp and enjoy the rewards of preparing good meals for all guests who come to enjoy the beauty of God's work in this special place.

**Rev. Chris Buckingham-Taylor** – Pastor at First UCC, Galion

**Susan Rainey** - I am a member at St. John's UCC of Fostoria, Ohio. I help with the Sunday School Program, the Women's Guild and we are working on a new outreach program. As for community projects, I am active with the Seneca County Fair and the 4-H program. I belong to Loudon Center Grange which is a farm organization. I also own and manage Rainey Crop Insurance.

**Kathy Geisler** – member at Trinity UCC, Elliston

**Diane Gayer** – I have been a lifetime member St Paul's UCC in St. Marys. Over the years, I have been a Sunday School teacher. I have been Deacon. Currently, I am an Elder and serve on the Personnel Committee. I have been part of Bible School, and served on other committees. I am from and live in St. Marys. I work at the hospital in town. I have, soon to be 22 year old daughter, who attends Ohio University majoring in nursing.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**Susan Bishop** - member at Zion UCC – Fireside, Bellevue

I am a member of Zion United Church of Christ, Fireside Bellevue. Retired from teaching, I have been active in both my local church and in the Association. My time seems to revolve around my family.

**Rev. Wayne Chasney** – Pastor at Congregational Community UCC, Monroeville

Rev. Dr. Wayne Chasney has served the Congregational Community UCC, Monroeville, for almost 31 years. While this time has been spent in one location, the way the church has evolved over the years it has felt like serving several different congregations. Wayne is married to the Rev. Wendy Schindler-Chasney, pastor at St. John's UCC, Milan, and together they have two adult daughters, Isabel and Brenna. Wayne enjoys running, cycling, and history, particularly Presidential history.