

2026 Nominating Committee Biographies

Treasurer Nominee:

David Hooks is retired after farming for 50 years. He spent 35 years working for Farm Business Farm Management preparing farm records for comparative analysis and tax preparation. He has been conference treasurer for six years. He has served as treasurer at Cowden Free Methodist Church for 12 years.

Board of Administration Nominees-Laypeople

Andy Davis has been a member of Foundation Church for 22 years and worked in youth ministry for 15 of those. Has served on the local BOA for most of his time at Foundation Church. Andy is married to Holly and has 1 son Grant. He serves on the Durley Camp Planning Committee and the Durley Camp Finance Committee. He also helped with the transition and merger of Salem FMC and Centralia FMC into Foundation Church. Andy was a member of the Superintendent Search Committee for Gateway Conference. Outside of Church work, Andy works for SSM Health Illinois as a Health Care Administrator where he oversees the Neurology and Sleep Services program. He enjoys spending time outdoors and watching Grant play soccer and tennis.

Jamie Mannigel is a lifelong member of Mt. Olivet Church in Taylor, MO. He and his wife, Darcy, have been married for 18 years and have two children: Cooper is 12, and Abby is 10. Jamie has served as Mt. Olivet's BOA chairman from 2020-25 as well as the delegate to Gateway. In 2024, he served on Gateway's Superintendent search committee. Along with teaching Sunday school, Jamie helps share the Gospel through regular lay speaking opportunities in his local community. Jamie works full time at Missouri Rural Electric Cooperative in Palmyra, MO. He started in 2003 as a lineman and in 2019 moved into the engineering department. His current position is Engineering and Safety Coordinator. He is a 2001 graduate of Palmyra High School and holds a bachelor's degree in Business Management from Western Governor's University.

Katie Myette lives in Brighton with her husband Ben and six children. She is currently a third grade teacher in the Alton School District. Before that, she founded and led The Restore Network, a nonprofit that recruits and supports foster parents. With her family, she has attended Emmanuel Free Methodist Church in Alton for many years. She has served in several capacities including

the worship team, children's ministry, teaching adult Sunday School, and serving on staff at the church for a season.

Board of Administration Nominees-Clergy:

Tatiana 'Tati' Camargo is originally from Brazil but currently lives in Hillsboro, Illinois. Tati is married to Paulo Camargo, Associate Pastor of Hillsboro FMC. They have two children, Ryan, 15 years old, and Phillip, 11 years old. Since 2011, Paulo and Tati have helped many churches in Brazil and the United States. Currently, Tati helps ministerially at the Hillsboro Free Methodist Church in women's ministries, music, prayer, and in pastoral ministry as a volunteer. She was ordained an elder in the Acts Conference in 2021. Tati also works for the World Ministry Center - ICCM, where she is the Sponsorship Transitions Coordinator.

Justin Mulholland is currently serving as the Pastor of Local and Global Missions at the Greenville Free Methodist Church. He got his start in ministry running an indoor Ferris Wheel and has spent the last 10 years in ministry around the Gateway Conference. Justin loves to see people experience wholeness in Christ. In his free time, he enjoys sports, reading, video games with his brothers, and spending time with family and friends.

Gloelma Quintana

Pastor Chris Smith came to Emmanuel in July of 2017 to serve as the Pastor of Family Life and became lead pastor in 2021. Prior to coming to Emmanuel, Chris served 16 years in student development at Free Methodist educational institutions, Greenville University (5) and Central Christian College of Kansas (16) as a residence director, campus pastor and chief student affairs and admissions officer. Pastor Chris has a B.S. in Youth Ministry from Greenville University and an M.Ed. in College Student Affairs from Azusa Pacific University. Pastor Chris currently serves as the St. Louis Region district leader and the conference realignment team. He has previously served on the MEGA board. Chris has also served as the president of the Cowden Camp Association board and the chairperson of The Restore Network board. He has also served as pastor of Mountainview Community Church in White Haven, PA, and Coffeen FM Church. Pastor Chris, and his wife Leah, have three children (Sawyer, Lucy and Madelyn).

Ministerial Education and Guidance Board Nominees-Laypeople:

Barb Sands is currently working as a Gap Sourcing Specialist for CFO Colleague. She attends the Hillsboro Free Methodist Church where she has served in various roles. Barb previously served on the MEGA Board from 2000-2008 and 2021-2026; on the BOA from 2009-2018; as a General Conference delegate for Gateway Conference in 2007, 2011, and 2015; and was also General Conference secretary for FMC-USA from 2011-2019.

Donna Smith

Leah Smith serves at Emmanuel Free Methodist Church in Alton as the Director of Children's Ministry and recently expanded her role by assuming leadership over spiritual formation at Emmanuel. She provides leadership over our discipleship programs, including Sunday School, Connect Groups and Volunteer as Ministry programs. Leah previously worked in Christian Higher Education, including two Free Methodist colleges (Greenville and Central) and served for three years as the Director of Early Childhood Ministry at the McPherson Free Methodist Church, in McPherson, KS.

Ministerial Education and Guidance Board Nominees-Clergy:

C.J. Dyas serves as the Senior Pastor at Hillsboro Free Methodist Church, where he has been in this role for the past two years after previously serving as the Associate Pastor. He has a deep love for HFMC and finds great joy in serving the Lord alongside this church family. C.J. is married to his wife, Steph, and together they have three children: Addie, Graham, and Nolan. He also served as the Gateway Conference Secretary from 2019 to 2023.

Brian T. Hartley is a retired minister who attends Greenville Free Methodist Church. He previously served as pastor at The American Church in London (UK), Stillwater (OK) Free Methodist Church, and Wesley Chapel Free Methodist Church (Toronto, Canada), before spending the majority of his career at Greenville University as Professor, Dean, and Vice President for Academic Affairs. He continues to serve the university as writer and teacher in his role as Professor and Dean Emeritus, the local church as teacher and small group leader, and, most recently, Gateway Conference as clergy member on both the MEGA and MAC committees. Brian and wife, Darlene, have been married for 48 years and have two daughters and five grandchildren.

Keli Pennington was ordained as an Elder in 2022 and currently serves at St. Paul's FMC as the Pastor of Community Connection & Witness as well as at Greenville University as the Chaplain and Director of Spiritual Formation. She completed her B.A. in Theology and Communication from Greenville College in 2016 and her M.Div from Duke Divinity in 2021. Keli is an endorsed chaplain

within the denomination and served on the coordinating council for the FM Liturgical Network from 2021-2023. In her work, she is passionate about equipping people, especially young people, to live into their God-given calling, developing creative spiritual formation exercises and expressions of worship, and helping people get excited about studying Scripture. Keli and her husband, Willem, welcomed their first child, Laurence, last summer. The three live in Greenville with their beloved cat, Toulouse. The Pennington family enjoys watching movies, spending time outside, listening to music, reading, and eating together (yep, even the cat!).

Javier Quintana

Mark Scandrett served in the Gateway Conference for 40 years as pastor of Emmanuel Free Methodist Church in Alton, before retiring in July 2025. Since retirement, he continues to stay busy in ministry - teaching Sunday school, leading small groups, visiting the hospitalized and shut-ins, and preaching on occasion. He has served on various Conference boards and committees during his years in ministry. Mark and Kathy will celebrate their 44th anniversary in May!

Nominating Committee Nominees-Lay

Charles Coates is a member of Knox Knolls Free Methodist Church. For the past two years, he and his wife, Christy, have served as Conference Lay Representatives, visiting local churches and encouraging pastors and their families. He has served on the Gateway Conference MEGA and MAC boards, BOA, and Nominating Committee. At the local level, he has served as a church treasurer, quiz coach, worship leader and Sunday school teacher. In 2020, Chuck retired as Director of Quality Assurance of Akorn Pharmaceuticals after 46 years of service. In retirement, he enjoys travel, spending time with family and friends, and babysitting his first grandson.

Melissa Hummel is a member of MAPS Church, Pontoon Beach, IL. She currently serves on the Board of Administration as secretary and has been in this position since 2023. Melissa started her journey at this church in 1975 when it was known as Central Free Methodist Church. As life would have it, she married, had children, and moved away, but came back to the church in 2021. She was part of the committee when the church changed its name to Solid Rock Free Methodist and served as a youth leader for the "God Squad." She is blessed to be a grandmother to 6 beautiful grandchildren. Melissa works full time at Washington University in St. Louis. Exodus 14:14 is her favorite scripture.

Lisa Shipman joined the staff of Hillsboro Free Methodist Church in April 2024 and is passionate about serving the church in a variety of ways. She currently serves as the Children's Discipleship Director and Church Administrative Assistant, finding great joy in working with children and building meaningful connections with families in the congregation. Lisa and her husband, Robbie, have two daughters, Macy and Marisa, who are the joy of their lives. Macy will graduate from Greenville University this May, and Marisa is in eighth grade.

Kristen Schindler

Donna Smith

Todd Stendeback is a member of Emmanuel Free Methodist Church in Alton, Illinois, and has attended Emmanuel since 1991. Todd is currently serving in his third term as Secretary for the Board of Administration and has also served as a Trustee for the church. Todd volunteers with the youth, serving as one of the small group leaders. He is the coach of the church's Bible Quiz Team as well as serving as the Conference Director of Bible Quizzing for the Gateway Conference. Todd has been married to Lisa for 29 years and they have three grown children. He enjoys sports and fishing with his family.