



## United Methodist Confirmation Contributors and Advisors

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**Kevin Alton** is a full-time youth ministry creative, particularly interested in the spiritual development of youth. Among other projects, he's the co-creator of Youthworker Circuit and is excited to be part of the grant team for Science for Youth Ministry. Kevin lives with his family near Chattanooga, Tennessee.

**Alisha Gordon**, M.Div. is the Executive for Spiritual Growth, United Methodist Women. She is a well sought-after writer, teacher, scholar activist, and public theologian with an interest in sharing the stories of the marginalized as a prophetic voice in the world. A native of Decatur, Georgia, Alisha holds a Bachelor of English from Spelman College and a Masters of Divinity from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. Her unique blend of social commentary, religious engagement, and popular culture creates opportunities to use her faith and her social interests to engage in deeply meaningful conversations about race, difference, and social justice.

**Nicholas VanHorn** has been a youth minister for nearly 15 years in both the United Methodist and Episcopal traditions. He graduated from Pfeiffer University with degrees in Youth Ministry and Christian Education and from Duke Divinity with a Masters in Divinity. Nick currently resides in Winston Salem, North Carolina, with his family, where he is the Director of Youth Ministries at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

**Audrey Wilder**, Director of Christian Education & Young People's Ministries, Susquehanna Conference UMC. Audrey is a graduate of High Point University with a degree in Religion and Duke Divinity School (M.Div with a certificate in Christian Education). Prior to her appointment as Director of Christian Education and Young People's Ministries, she served as the Director of Youth Ministries at First UMC, in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

**Michael Novelli** creates learner-centered resources and experiences for youth, children and adults that explore the intersection of spiritual formation and experiential learning. Michael works as a content designer, church youth leader, and community advocate. He has an M.Ed. in Integrated Learning and is an adjunct instructor at North Park University, in Chicago. Michael and his family live in Elgin, Illinois.

**Ben Howard**, Editor, Youth Ministry Partners. Ben graduated from Oklahoma Christian University with a degree in History and holds a Masters in Theological Studies from Lipscomb University. Prior to his work as an editor at Youth Ministry Partners, he served as a Christian Education Consultant with Cokesbury. He currently lives in Nashville, Tennessee.

**Dara Bell** has been engaged in youth ministry for the past 42 years and holds a degree in Religion with an emphasis in Youth Ministry. She has worked in small, medium, and large churches. Dara also served as Youth and Safe Sanctuaries Coordinator for the New Mexico Conference. Currently she is semi-retired, doing interim work, teaching at Perkins School of Youth Ministry - SMU, SPARK, and occasionally consulting. She and her husband Ray share four children, eight grandchildren, a puppy, and a love of travel.

**Helene Foust** is an experienced youth worker, working with United Methodist-related campus ministry programs and Wesley Foundation ministries. She is currently responsible for resourcing and networking ministry with youth in congregations across the state of Indiana. Previously, she was the Minister to Youth and Young Adults at Old Bethel United Methodist Church in Indianapolis. She has also developed youth ministry programs at Milltown United Methodist Church, and has had extensive experience as the Director of Christian Education in Terryville, Connecticut.

**Brian Hull** is the associate professor of youth ministry at Asbury University and has been involved in local church youth ministry for over 20 years serving in churches in Illinois, Maryland and Missouri. An ordained elder in the Church of the Nazarene, Brian most recently served at the Church of the Nazarene Headquarters working for USA/Canada Nazarene Youth Ministries. He has been involved on the district, regional and national levels as well helping to coordinate youth ministry training and youth ministry networks. Brian is also a frequent guest speaker at camps, retreats, special services and training events for youth, youth leaders and churches

**David Johnson** comes from a hard working family who demonstrated compassion and the need for loving beyond boundaries as core characteristics of a leader. David is a native Houstonian and started in ministry as an intern at Westbury UMC on the west side of Houston. His alma mater is the University of Houston, where he earned a degree in Sociology with a minor in Mathematics, and is a recent Perkins graduate and new pastor. He currently serves as an associate pastor in charge of evangelism and missions at Trinity United Methodist Church, Beaumont.

**Cindy Klick** is coordinator of youth ministries at St. Andrew United Methodist Church in Highlands Ranch, Colorado. She holds a degree in journalism and recently completed coursework for certification in youth ministry. Before joining the St. Andrew youth staff in 1998, she worked for newspapers in Idaho and Wisconsin, for the U.S. Postal Service and in an elementary school gifted and talented program. Her two sons grew up in the St. Andrew youth program and are now students and Colorado State University. Cindy and her husband, Don, live in Highlands Ranch.

**Jim Kast-Keat** is the Associate Minister for Education at Middle Collegiate Church in the East Village of New York City. He is a divergent thinker, an ideation specialist, and an aspiring minimalist. Prior to working at Middle he helped lead ikon NYC, a radical theology collective in New York, NY, worked as a Product Designer with Sparkhouse in Minneapolis, MN and was a pastor at Mars Hill Bible Church in Grand Rapids, MI. He is the co-host of That'll Preach, a weekly sermon prep podcast and the creator and curator of Thirty Seconds or Less, a project that shares ideas and amplifies voices every day.

**Rev. DJ del Rosario** is the pastor of Bothell United Methodist Church in Bothell, Washington. An ordained elder in the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference, DJ has served previously as associate pastor at Faith United Methodist Church and pastor of Lynden Faith United Methodist Church. He has also served as the Director of Young Adult Ministries, Discernment, and Enlistment at the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and as the Executive Director of Spark12.org. DJ continues to serve on the Board of Directors for the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, relates to other regional and national boards and agencies, and chairs Strategic Recruitment for Pacific Northwest Annual Conference through the Board of Ordained Ministry. He has spoken, led, and preached at multiple events at the annual, jurisdictional, and General Conference levels. DJ met his best friend and wife in seminary, and they have three amazing daughters.

**Jack Radcliffe**, DMin is the Lead Editor of Youth Ministry Partners. Jack has served the church, young people, their families and youth workers for more than 30 years in a number of roles including Youth Pastor, Associate Pastor, Lead Pastor, coach, trainer, writer, speaker and adjunct instructor at Martin Methodist College in Pulaski, TN. He has an MDiv from Ashland Theological Seminary in Ohio and a DMin in Practical Theology, Adolescent Development and Culture from Fuller Theological Seminary.

**Rev. Tonya Lawrence** is an ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church having served several United Methodist churches in Georgia. She currently is the Associate Director for Vocational Discernment for the North Georgia Annual Conference, serves on the Board of Directors for the North Georgia Camping and Retreat Ministries, and is the Co-Chair for the North Georgia Bridge to East Africa, and the Chairperson for Youth Ministry for the North Georgia Annual Conference. In addition, Rev. Lawrence is an adjunct professor at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA. She received dual Master's degrees in Divinity and Youth Ministry from Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, NJ. Rev. Lawrence is currently working towards a Doctorate in Educational Ministry at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA.

**Teri Chalker** holds a social work degree from the University of Kansas and a Master in social work from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. She worked in the medical field until she began serving on staff at Church of the Resurrection's Leawood Campus in 2003. Beginning as the elementary program director, Teri transitioned to her current role as the director of WILD1's (a 5th grade youth group) and Confirmation. Teri has been the director of Confirmation for the past 9 years. She also serves as a coach for the Youth Ministry Institute.

**Rev. Lisa Beth White** is a Ph.D. candidate in Practical Theology at the School of Theology, with a concentration in mission. She has a BS in Education from Sam Houston State University and a Master of Divinity from Perkins School of Theology. Her work in the church is focused on United Methodist Women and adult Christian education. Lisa Beth has over 15 years' experience teaching and leading short term mission projects with people of all ages, from elementary school students to groups of retirees.

**Kate Unruh** is a Kansas native and forever a Jayhawk at heart. She has ten years of experience in youth ministry in various roles, including serving as Assistant Minister at The American Church in London following the completion of an M.Div/M.A. in youth ministry. Kate lives with her architect husband Kyle and their daughter Piper in Princeton, where Kate is a doctoral candidate in Education and Formation at Princeton Theological Seminary.

**Rev. Justin Coleman** is the Chief Ministry Officer of the United Methodist Publishing House in Nashville, TN. A native of Houston and a member of the Texas Annual Conference, he is a graduate of Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX, and Duke Divinity School in Durham, North Carolina. His responsibilities at the Publishing House include culture, customer empathy through design thinking, and alignment as well as oversight for the strategic direction, recruitment and employment, new staff orientation, performance goals planning/review and ongoing training and support functions of UMPH's human resources department. He and his wife, Chaka, have three wonderful sons and live in Nashville, TN

**Rev. Wendy Mohler-Seib** is the Director of Faith Formation for Youth and Young Adults for the Institute for Discipleship. Wendy is an ordained elder in the Great Plains Annual Conference. She is a 2001 graduate of Southwestern College with a B.A. in Religion and Philosophy and a 2012 graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary with a M.Div. and a M.A. in Youth Ministry. Wendy has served in youth ministry in churches in Kansas, Florida and New Jersey. Wendy has also served an associate pastor and senior pastor in Wichita, Kansas. Wendy loves preaching, teaching, and engaging in theological discussions.