



## Conference- Endorsed Candidates

Western Jurisdictional Conference – July 13-16, 2016



## Dottie Escobedo-Frank

Eligible Quadrennium according to 2012 Discipline ¶ 408.1:

Three: 2016-2020  
2020-2024  
2024-2028

Probationary Membership: 7/1/1996  
Full Membership: 7/1/2000  
Ethnic Background: Hispanic/Latina  
Annual Conference: Desert Southwest Conference

### Education:

- Undergraduate: Oral Roberts University, Double major in Theology & Sociology, BA, 1979
- Seminary: Claremont School of Theology, MDiv, 1996
- Arizona State University, Master of Social Work, 1987
- George Fox Seminary, DMin. in Semiotics & Future Studies, 2012

### Professional Service Record:

- South District Superintendent, Desert Southwest Conference of the UMC, July 2014 - present
- Pastor, CrossRoads UMC, Phoenix, AZ., 2005-2014
- Associate Pastor, Community Church of Joy, (an ELCA church), Glendale, AZ. 2002-2005
- Pastor, Mission Bell UMC, Glendale, AZ. 1996-2002
- Pastor, Liberty UMC, Buckeye, AZ. 1995-1996

### Other Relevant Experience:

- Social Worker (in Pediatric ICU & Home Health), St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, Phoenix, AZ. 1987-1993
- Case Management (early release program), Prison Fellowship, Phoenix, AZ. 1985-1987
- Chair, Hispanic Committee, Desert Southwest Conference, apps. 2003-2004
- Percept Advisor to Local Churches, Desert Southwest Conference, appx. 2000-2003

### General & Jurisdictional Leadership Roles:

- School of Congregational Development Conferences, The General Board of Discipleship, speaker on variety of topics, 2004-2015
- School of Mission, Speaker, Poverty, The United Methodist Women, around 2005
- Hispanic Ministry Event, Speaker, Ohio Conference, UMC, around 2014
- Detroit Annual Conference, Speaker, around 2014
- Soul Fiesta, The General Board of Discipleship, Speaker, around 2010

- Pastors School, North Alabama Conference, speaker, around 2004
- School of Congregational Development, Nordic & Baltic Conference, in Copenhagen, Denmark, & Oslo, Norway, speaker, around 2009 & 2011
- and many other speaking events throughout the US...

#### Community and Ecumenical Involvement:

- Board Member: Arizona Center for Theological Studies, an interfaith theological study program for laity; Downtown Urban Community Kids, an after-school program for at-risk children, centered in a downtown Presbyterian church; Faith Counseling Center, an interfaith counseling center; Project Hope Floats, provides safety drop off locations for babies who would be abandoned; Hacienda de Los Niños Hospital, a hospital and rehabilitative center for children with disabilities; Ethics Committee, St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, advised on controversial ethical events; Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Review Committee – first review on complaints against social workers; AND:President, MLS, a mission that works with Mexico, India, and in Nursing Homes in the U.S.; Local RMN, member.

#### Organizational Endorsements:

- Annual Conference Endorsement: Yes.
- Hispanic Latino Committee of the Desert Southwest Conference
- Commission on the Status & Role of Women of the Desert Southwest Conference
- Welcome & Reconciling Committee of the Desert Southwest Conference
- Conference Commission on Religion & Race (DSC)
- United Methodist Women of the Desert Southwest Conference

#### Why have you responded to this call?

- Occasionally in my ministry people would ask me if I was going to be a bishop. I heard those comments and tucked them away, but never took that call seriously. However, when Bishop Hoshibata asked our conference to put forth names for an Episcopal candidate, I wondered if I needed to respond. In prayer, I asked God to let me know by calling me out as I did not want to nominate myself. Immediately I received a call from a mentor colleague, asking if I would consider being an Episcopal candidate. Her call was the answer to my request, so out of faithfulness to God, I am in this process of discernment and availability. I know there are many qualified candidates before us, and I simply add my name as a person to be considered.

#### Tell about a time when your leadership made a difference.

- When serving at CrossRoads UMC, we worked with a local group that was hosting a worship & breakfast for the homeless community. With about 200 attendees, there was an obvious visible presence. Some neighbors complained. The City of Phoenix gave us a "cease and desist" order, as we were "acting like a charity dining hall and not like a church." We filed a federal lawsuit with the City for our right to engage the homeless community in worship and breakfast. The story went viral, and we heard from people all over the world. As a church, we made a difference in sharing the gospel that everyone matters to God. We settled the lawsuit,

and in some sense we "lost." However we gained in standing for & with a group of "outsiders." And the beloved souls on the streets know one church loves them.

What are your strongest spiritual gifts for ministry and how will they apply to the episcopacy?

- As a creative who loves visioning and thinking "outside the box," I would lead us in finding new ways to be the church in the world. "Creatives" think and work to provide a safe place for risky ventures, and value both failure and new ideas. For this is a time period where, ignored to be the church that lives into the future, we must encourage the risk-takers and edge-dwellers among us. I am also a person of great passion for the church. I communicate and encourage with a passion of one whose heart has been "strangely warmed." My passion leads me to invite us to be a church for all people; to meet people wherever they are in the world; and to not only "make disciples" but to also help us "be disciples" as we live our lives in a way that centers on love, justice, and mercy.

General Statement:

- Living in a time of great culture shift requires that the church find sacred ways to die in order to be reborn. It is time for "sacred heretics," defined as those who are outside-thinkers, to lead the church forward. Now is the time to push these new leaders to the forefront of church restarts and new birth. Worship, preaching, justice, mercy, and creating space for revolutionary change are at the center of my work and passion. I stand for inclusion of all, and look for the day when we live by our motto: Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors. I am full of hope that the Holy Spirit is leading the church in the present and into the future. I believe we can do the work to develop communities of disciples of Jesus Christ who participate in this transformation.

## Recommendations for: Dottie Escobedo-Frank

Javier Olivares • Rev. • Desert Southwest Conference

Rev. Escobedo-Frank is a compassionate person who can see the gifts in someone who other don not discern. She has empowered the minority and has helped them gain the trust in the church again. I succeeded Dottie as a pastor at CrossRoads and some of the things she did were very bold like ministering to the homeless which brought a lot of resistance from the neighborhood and attention from the nation. She stood her ground and having compassion for those on the margins. She believes in people and believes there's still goodness in the hearts. Her life is full with hope and sees that hope in others. I'm proud to endorse Rev.Dottie Escobedo- Frank as an episcopal candidate.

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Marjie Hrabe • Deaconess • Desert Southwest Conference

She is patient, kind, steadfast, thought provoking, spiritual, and leads by example. Her vision of loving all of God's children guides her actions. She leads with grace and power.

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Rev. Sharon Ragland • Senior Pastor, St. Mark's UMC, Tucson • Desert Southwest Conference

As we consider an Episcopal leader, I believe that person needs to possess the qualities of courage, vision, humility, and ability to build a team to lead others. I am honored to endorse Rev. Dottie Escobedo Frank for the episcopacy, as I have seen these qualities in her. When I served as her DS from 2004-2010, she showed courage in implementing a homeless ministry at her church, even in the face of neighborhood opposition. Then, and in her work as my DS (since 2014), she has led with a visionary spirit, helping us see the ministry potential. She has a passion for new faith communities, and possesses the wisdom to build a team to make things happen. Dottie focuses her life on prayer, humbly taking courageous stands on vital issues. She has been encouraging to pastors in her District, insisting that we care for ourselves in order to care for our churches. In these times of division in our church and society, Dottie is a Christ-like presence, bringing hope to our world.



## Karen Oliveto

Eligible Quadrennium according to 2012 Discipline ¶ 408.1:

Three:	2016-2020
	2020-2024
	2024-2028
Probationary Membership:	6/13/1982
Full Membership:	6/9/1985
Ethnic Background:	Caucasian or White
Annual Conference:	California-Nevada Conference

### Education:

- Undergraduate: Drew University, BA (cum laude) Psychology, 1980
- Seminary: Pacific School of Religion, MDiv, 1983
- Drew University, MPhil, 1991
- Drew University, PhD, 2002

### Professional Service Record:

- Bloomville UMC, Bloomville, NY, Pastor, 1983-1986
- At school (Drew University), 1986-1989
- Ecumenical House Campus Ministry, San Francisco State, Campus Minister, 1989-1992
- Bethany UMC, San Francisco, 1992-2004
- Pacific School of Religion, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs/Director of Contextual Education, Berkeley, 2004-2008
- Glide Memorial Church, San Francisco, Senior Pastor, 2008-Present

### Other Relevant Experience:

- Adjunct Professor of United Methodist Studies, Pacific School of Religion, 2005-Present
- Adjunct Professor, DMin program at Drew University, teaching "Prophetic Leadership in Congregation and Community" 2012
- Adjunct Professor of Practical Theology, Brite Divinity School (TX), "Evangelism in Methodist History and Practice", 2015
- Member, Oxford Institute on Methodist Theological Studies, 2013-Present
- Advisory Board, The Forum for Theological Exploration (GA), 2012-Present
- Board Member, California Faith for Equality (LA), 2010-2013
- Member, Committee on Investigations, CNAC, 1998-2008
- Board Member, Reconciling Ministries Network, 1992-1999, 2005-2011 (chair, 95-99)
- Clergy Advisory Board Member, Delaware-Otsego (NY) Planned Parenthood, 1983-1986

#### General & Jurisdictional Leadership Roles:

- General Conference Delegate, 2004, 2016
- Jurisdictional Delegate, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016
- Board Member, General Council of Finance and Administration, 2016-present
- Member, Western Jurisdiction Council of Finance and Administration, 2012-Present
- Trained coach for the Lead Women Pastor Project (GBHEM), 2010-Present
- Member, Lead Women Pastor Project, (GBHEM), 2008-2009

#### Community and Ecumenical Involvement:

- Throughout my vocation, I have engaged in ministry in the public square. This includes working with activist communities (homelessness, economic justice, and LGBTQ rights as well as with communities of color through immigration and civil rights work). I am currently the vice chair of the SF Interfaith Council and co-chair the annual Thanksgiving Prayer breakfast, which brings together interfaith leaders, civic leaders, and federal, state, and city politicians to honor religious communities for their civic engagements. My ministry extends beyond San Francisco through articles, books, lectures, preaching, and teaching opportunities across the US and internationally.

#### Organizational Endorsements:

- Annual Conference Endorsement: Yes.

#### Why have you responded to this call?

- I have long resisted this call. But at General Conference, I began to hear that still small voice of God, speaking through those I respect in our church. I also had many late night wrestling sessions with God. The call to the episcopacy finally crystallized in recent weeks. I realize that my experiences and skills—as senior pastor of a large church, scholar of UMC Studies, and ministry with and for marginalized communities—would serve the denomination well at this particular time.

#### Tell about a time when your leadership made a difference.

- I was asked if Bethany UMC would be a medicinal marijuana distribution site at a time when the attorney general had shut down all the sites. A paper reported I had agreed to it before I discussed it with the church. I apologized to the members, gave them all the information I had, provided a theological framework for reflection, & asked them to be in prayer. We gathered for discernment & I was struck by the conviction of the community. Folks realized that by agreeing to it, we would be breaking the law. But folks kept saying, "But what would Jesus do for people who are sick?" It was a unanimous decision to host it. For years, the church pointed to that decision as pivotal in their growth as Jesus followers. I learned that when the Gospel takes hold, folks live into radical discipleship.

What are your strongest spiritual gifts for ministry and how will they apply to the episcopacy?

- My daily prayer is: Dear God, please help me check my ego at the door. I realized my ego has been very invested in my ministry and caused a blurring of boundaries around where my ministry ended & laity's began. Often I would default to "I can do it more efficiently," blocking the spiritual & leadership growth of others. As a result, I have moved from being ego-driven to being Spirit-led. Being Spirit-led, discernment has taken a center role in my decision-making, congregational development, & leadership empowerment. It's no longer about me, but instead how God's moving in the community, what opportunities for faithful discipleship God's offering, & who God's lifting up as new leaders. My job is to listen, plan, implement, & empower. I believe this would serve me well in the episcopacy.

General Statement:

- Old ways & structures aren't working. That is plainly evident not only from the stalemate experienced at GC but by the list of church closures that grows at a faster rate than new church plants. It's time for us listen for the whispers of the Spirit & to collectively dream dreams & see visions. It's time to unleash our imaginations to allow the Spirit to lead our church in a direction we never thought possible. We have within our denominational DNA the stuff of schism but also the profound depth of spirituality found in the Wesleyan way. I believe the best of our heritage can assist as we dream our church anew, so that we will bear witness to the God we know through Christ Jesus, who stands with the outcast, defends the vulnerable, challenges the powerful, & invites us to beloved community.



## Recommendations for: Karen Oliveto

Rev. Dr. Joretta L Marshall • Executive VP and Dean; Brite Divinity School • Rocky Mountain Conference

Rev. Dr. Karen Oliveto brings to the episcopal candidacy at least three qualities that are essential in this work. First, she loves the gospel, the church that embodies it, and the people who inhabit the institution we know as the church. This is not a simple love, but one which compels her to depth of passion, wisdom, and compassion in all that she does. Rev. Oliveto is steadfast to the call of the gospel and to the church. Second, Rev. Oliveto brings a vision that empowers her to see a United Methodist Church that embraces the most inclusive, diverse, and powerful presence of God in the world. She stands faithfully in the church, believing that it has something profound to offer the world. Third, Rev. Dr. Oliveto knows the United Methodist Church, in particular. She is not simply familiar intellectually with its history; rather, her life and ministry point toward the best vision for what we, in the Wesleyan tradition, can bring to the challenges and possibilities that surround us.

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Joan E. Carter-Rimbach • Senior Pastor - Mt. Zion UMC • Baltimore-Washington Conference

I have been a friend and colleague with Rev. Dr. Oliveto for almost three decades. She is a leader with a vital spirit and prophetic voice for justice, who seeks reconciliation and unity with a vision of a future Church. This fellow Christian exercises exceptional integrity, intelligence, and commitment to ministry; one who sees greatness in people while being compassionate about human frailty. As the only clergywoman serving in the top 100 largest UMC churches, she has demonstrated a servant leadership style through inspiring and equipping ministry for the marginalized. She has exhibited gifts of general oversight and supervision as a large church lead pastor, dean of a graduate school, and chair of different boards and committees. As a scholar activist, she teaches the importance of guarding the doctrine and discipline of the Church and its relevancy of the time. I believe Rev. Dr. Oliveto to hold qualities that would make her an outstanding episcopal leader of the UMC.

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Howard J. Parker • Lay member of annual conference, Glide Memorial UMC • California-Nevada Conference

As a member of Pastor Karen's congregation, I know her as an inspiring preacher who speaks eloquently and powerfully. I know her as a skilled administrator of a large and strongly growing local church. ... Karen has embraced the challenges at Glide with consummate grace. She has worked hard, worked well with others, and provided leadership in a highly complex and conflicted organization -- not unlike our denomination! ... She has developed disciples. The churches she has served have become agents of transformation. ... As the senior pastor of Glide, Karen broke the stained glass ceiling, becoming the first woman to serve as lead pastor in one of the denomination's 100 largest churches. ... I know that she also works in theological education at the Pacific School of Religion. She is highly regarded as a coach and mentor to those considering ministry, mentoring 15 from her churches who have gone on to seminary. ... I proudly endorse her Episcopal candidacy. It's time!



## Lyda Pierce

Eligible Quadrennium according to 2012 Discipline ¶ 408.1:

Two: 2016-2020  
2020-2024

Probationary Membership: 6/21/1980  
Full Membership: 6/19/1982  
Ethnic Background: Caucasian or White  
Annual Conference: Pacific Northwest Conference

### Education:

- Undergraduate: The Evergreen State College, BA, 1974
- Seminary: Pacific School of Religion, M.Div., 1980
- San Francisco Theological Seminary, D.Min., 2003

### Professional Service Record:

- Coordinator of Hispanic Latino Ministries, Pacific Northwest Conference, 2010 - present. Serving as a missionary with Global Ministries.
- Missionary Interpreter in Residence, NE Jurisdiction, 2008-2010
- First UMC, Eugene, Oregon, OR-ID Conference, Assoc. Pastor. 2004-2008
- (Missionary) Dean, Theological Community of Honduras, and Profesor, Latinamerican Biblical University, Costa Rica.
- (Missionary) Coordinator of Feminist Theology, Christian Commission on Development, Honduras. 1996-2004
- (Missionary) Women's Ministry Team Leader, National Primitive Methodist Church of Guatemala, 1994-1996
- (Missionary), GBGM, Latin American Office, Executive at Large, 1993-1994
- (Missionary) CEPAD, Council of Protestant Churches of Nicaragua, Women and Gender Ministry Associate Director, 1990-1993
- (Missionary) CEPAD, Council of Protestant Churches of Nicaragua, Delegation Leader and Coordinator of Sister Churches, 1984-1989
- Pastor, PNW Conference, Elma 1980-1983, Satsop & McCeary 1983-1984 (this year was a planned one year experiment and transition)

### Other Relevant Experience:

- Board member, Faith Action Network, Washington State, 2012-2016

### General & Jurisdictional Leadership Roles:

- Consultations on Hispanic ministries in the Western Jurisdiction, 2011-2012
- Western Jurisdiction Hispanic Ministry Advisory Board 2013-2016
- Rapid Response Team, on Immigration connected to Church & Society, and UMC Task Force, 2011-2016
- Representative to the National Consultation on Hispanic Latino Ministry, 2015

### Community and Ecumenical Involvement:

- Most of the time in Central America, I was working ecumenically with national and international churches. My current works keeps me connected to the communities in which we have or are envisioning Hispanic ministry, and with organizations working on immigration.

### Organizational Endorsements:

- Annual Conference Endorsement: Yes.

### Why have you responded to this call?

- I have a vision of a church in mission, a church that reaches out and crosses boundaries, a church that counts engaging its neighbors as more important than getting butts into pews, a church that offers deep hospitality and true friendship to those who are marginalized. I have responded to this call from God and my Conference to open myself up to the discernment of the WJC, trusting that sharing our visions, God will lead us to a united vision. Together, I believe we can become more open and flexible to the wide variety of gifted clergy (local pastors, deacons, elders) and the wonderful laity whom God calls into leadership from all the cultures in our Jurisdiction.

### Tell about a time when your leadership made a difference.

- In my current work with Hispanic Latino folks, I rejoice in that Hispanic leadership has moved from defining themselves against the conference to being part of it. Together we've grown in diversity and maturity. Every time I see the fruitfulness of these passionate and committed lay and clergy leaders, I give thanks for the part I play in watering the soil from which the growth comes. We've had difficult conversations over homophobia that have brought us closer together instead of further apart. We've led conference sessions into the streets for immigration justice and peace in Pasco. This year we are celebrating our first Latina commissioned as an Elder, and the first Hispanic successfully assigned from one Hispanic ministry to another.

### What are your strongest spiritual gifts for ministry and how will they apply to the episcopacy?

- 1. Accompaniment: I'm fanatical about walking alongside people at the margins. Adding my voice to theirs, assisting their organizing, listening to their stories, and being a faithful and trustworthy ally. 2. Heart for Justice: God has gifted me with a desire for justice, empathy for the marginalized, and anger in the face of oppression. As a bishop, I would focus my public work on our quest for justice. 3: Diversity: To me, variety is a gift. As a bishop I would seek out

diversity of culture, worship, theology, and ministry. 4. Playfulness: As we journey together, we need more time for play, for hanging out, for dreaming and praying together. Claiming God's gift of playfulness may be useful for just such a time as this.

General Statement:

- As a missionary, I see our church differently. During my decades in Latin America, I began to see how we are a part of a worldwide church. We are not simply a U.S. church but, instead, a part of a global church located in the U.S. Before we are citizens of any nations, we are citizens of God's Beloved Community. As such, we seek the good of all peoples, all nations. We stand with immigrants and refugees. We work for climate stabilization. We hold ourselves accountable to future generations who will inherit our church and world. We seek God's grace for today and walk the road to Christian perfection for ourselves and our society.

## Recommendations for: Lyda Pierce

Mary Huycke • Director, Courageous Space Coaching & Consulting • Pacific Northwest Conference

Lyda Pierce is exceptionally self-aware and spiritually grounded. Lyda has been key to the successful development of Hispanic faith communities in the Seven Rivers district and the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference. She has provided strong and wise leadership to Anglo congregations when their communities experienced ICE raids targeting undocumented immigrants. A hands-on leader, she continues to lead our conference in justice work around immigration. Highly intuitive and open to Spirit, Lyda is creative and spontaneous. She is an encouraging, collaborative leader that allows the wisdom and path to arise from the group. Voices that hesitate to speak find courage under Lyda's style and grow in confidence and ability. She brings groups together, yet is able to retain her own clear voice and perspective. Lyda has that rare ability to be both fully open with her perspective and fully open to the perspectives of others.

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Abigail Vizcarra Perez • Reverend Lead Pastor at Create Commons • Pacific Northwest Conference

Lyda's emotional intelligence and strategic impulse come to bear in every conversation we have. She is humble, honest, well-informed, creative and consistently gracious in the face of challenge. She connects easily with strangers, listens well and only gives advice when it is sought. She deescalates emotionally charged situations with an authentic diplomacy that is quite refreshing. Many voices would have been silenced in our midst if not for Lyda's working behind the scenes to make a place for all God's people the table. Her intercultural competencies are unparalleled among clergy in our conference. Her international experiences inform her ability to take healthy risks, follow God's leading, serve as Christ served and lead others to do the same. She never sought to be a Bishop; she fears her age and need for administrative assistant made her a lackluster candidate. Obviously, she possesses skills that cannot be delegated or learned and these are much more necessary to the task.



## Donna M.L. Pritchard

Eligible Quadrennium according to 2012 Discipline ¶ 408.1:

Two: 2016-2020  
2020-2024

Probationary Membership: 6/18/1982  
Full Membership: 6/14/1985  
Ethnic Background: Caucasian or White  
Annual Conference: Oregon-Idaho Conference

### Education:

- Undergraduate: BA in Public Recreation & Parks Man. 1977 Western Washington State College (now University)
- Seminary: MDiv Iliff School of Theology, 1983
- Shalem Institute Certificate in Contemplative Leadership, 2005

### Professional Service Record:

- Pastor, Cave Junction & Wilderville UMCs (southern Oregon), 1983-1987
- Associate Pastor, Newberg, Oregon UMC, 1987-1989
- Pastor, Mountain Home UMC Sherwood, Oregon, 1989-1992
- Pastor, Silverton, Oregon UMC 1992-1998
- Senior Pastor, Albany, Oregon UMC 1998-2003
- District Superintendent Oregon-Idaho Conference, 2003-2011
- Senior Pastor, First UMC Portland, Oregon 2011-present

### Other Relevant Experience:

- Chair, Oregon-Idaho Episcopacy Committee, 2012-2016
- Certified Facilitator, SoulCollage, 2014-Present
- Co-Chair, Oregon-Idaho Order of Elders, 2000-2004?
- Member, Bd of Ordained Ministry, OR-ID, 1992-1998?

### General & Jurisdictional Leadership Roles:

- Chair, Western Jurisdiction Leadership Team, 2008-2016
- Member, Western Jurisdiction Mission Cabinet, 2012-2016
- Member, General Commission on General Conference, 2008-2016
- Western Jurisdiction Conferences Committee, 2008-2012
- Western Jurisdiction Delegate 2008, 2012, 2016
- Oregon-Idaho 1st Elected General Conference delegate 2008, 2016

- Oregon-Idaho 3rd Elected General Conference (reserve delegate) 2012
- General Conference Committee on Credentials, 2008
- General Conference Committee on References, 2016

#### Community and Ecumenical Involvement:

- Portland Homeless Family Solutions Advisory Council (Portland); New City Initiative Village Support Network (Portland); Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, 2014 winner of preaching award; Board of Directors, Silverton Together; Board of Directors, Grants Pass Family YMCA; Greater NW SoulCollage Facilitator Network

#### Organizational Endorsements:

- Annual Conference Endorsement: Yes.

#### Why have you responded to this call?

- I found I could do nothing less. For over a year I have been saying "No thanks" to the call, because I love the church I serve - one of the first 50 Reconciling Congregations in the nation, a church of diverse and capable lay leaders, where discipleship and joy go hand in hand. However, I genuinely love The United Methodist Church, and I know God is not finished with us yet. The next 4 to 8 years are pregnant with possibility for us to re-imagine our denomination and re-create vital, healthy ministries in the West. This work demands bishops who are creative, energetic, persistent and spiritually grounded. I trust God's Spirit is not only calling me, but also equipping me to serve effectively as a bishop.

#### Tell about a time when your leadership made a difference.

- When I met with the SPRC before coming to Portland First, they told me they were hoping for a Senior Pastor who could shake them up, and make them new again. I took them at their word, designing worship that is joyful, thought-provoking, challenging and fun. I took them at their word, insisting on a strategic plan owned by the congregation. I took them at their word, finding the right people for the right positions, staffing for growth and vitality. I took them at their word, and reminded them of their word repeatedly. My leadership is grounded in God's love and fueled by God's joy, a contagious combination which has managed to shake up every community and every team where I have been privileged to serve.

#### What are your strongest spiritual gifts for ministry and how will they apply to the episcopacy?

- Compassion, wisdom, proclamation, creativity and humor - these may not all show up on the Biblical hit list of gifts, yet these are the ones which make me a good pastor, and they will serve me well as a bishop. First, compassion - the ability to put myself into others' shoes, and to be vulnerable - will go a long way in building trust. The wisdom to see what is going on in a group of people or a situation will allow me to lead with clarity. Proclaiming the Gospel with passion and finesse will inspire our common work. Creativity will allow God's imagination to flow through ours for innovative solutions to the most entrenched problems. And humor will help me to hold myself lightly, and to keep living out the Christian life of joy.

General Statement:

- These are critical days for The United Methodist church, and for those of us in the West who want to be in ministry in the most inclusive and loving ways possible. We need to share God's love with new people and to expand our effectiveness in bringing Christ's Light into the darkest places of pain. We need episcopal leaders with significant experience in the local church, at the Cabinet level, in Jurisdictional and in General Church arenas to help us re-imagine how God might use us. We need leaders who can build bridges and speak truth courageously and lovingly. I believe I am such a leader. To see more please visit Facebook page for Rev Donna Pritchard.



## Recommendations for: Donna M.L. Pritchard

David Beckett • Pastor • Oregon-Idaho Conference

I have known Donna Pritchard for many years, having worked on several jurisdictional, area, and conference teams. She is an authentic human being who has the insight our episcopal leaders need to frame reality for what it is and offer a gospel way forward. Her entire life is rooted in the way of Jesus, and her leadership track record is one of vision and proven results. Donna is the kind of leader the UMC needs today.

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Mele. Maka • District Co-lay leader • California-Pacific Conference

I am writing on behalf of Donna Pritchard who is a candidate for episcopacy. It has been my pleasure to know Donna over the years. In my experience Donna has excellent communication skills, positive outlook and pleasing personality. Her natural leadership qualities, and her spiritual gift will certainly guide her. She is a hardworking servant of God. Her faith in God is one of the qualities I admired about her. I know that Donna will serve as a great Bishop if elected.

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Kristina Gonzalez • Director of Leadership Development for an Inclusive Church • Pacific Northwest Conference

The Rev. Donna Pritchard is theologically grounded and thoroughly United Methodist; a proven leader at all levels of the church—general, jurisdictional, conference, district, and local church; values full inclusion and embraces the leadership challenges inherent in multicultural settings; lives her values—her rhetoric and actions match; plays well with others—is an excellent facilitator and listener, and is willing to learn from others. Donna is an artist, and brings creativity to her ministry and leadership. She is generous, willing to lead from the front or back, and is tireless in living her call. I met Donna years ago. I was drawn in by her humor, candor and authenticity. I am honored to know Donna's two adult daughters, both of whom are forces for inclusion and good in the world. I pray for discernment as you consider the slate of excellent candidates. Please give Donna your full consideration. She is worthy of your respect and of the office of bishop.

# Walter "Skip" Strickland



Eligible Quadrennium according to 2012 Discipline ¶ 408.1:

Two: 2016-2020  
2020-2024

Probationary Membership: 6/10/1979  
Full Membership: 6/10/1981  
Ethnic Background: Caucasian or White  
Annual Conference: Rocky Mountain Conference

## Education:

- Undergraduate: University of Puget Sound BA Urban Studies, 1975
- Seminary: Iliff School of Theology, MDiv. 1980
- Certification in Spiritual Direction, Benet Hill Monastic Center, 1995

## Professional Service Record:

- Ordained Deacon and Probationary member, PNW 1979, appointed to attend School
- Transferred to Rocky Mountain Conference 6/15/80
- Longmont First UMC associate, Longmont, CO, 80-86
- Pagosa Springs, CO, Community UMC, Pastor, 86-89
- Colorado Springs, Wilson UMC, New Church Pastor, 89-94
- Broomfield, CO, Broomfield UMC, Associate, 94-95
- Cortez CO, First UMC, Pastor, and Director of San Juan Cooperative Parish 95-4/10/99
- Boulder, CO, Mountain View UMC, Senior Pastor, 4/11/99-12/31/06
- Rocky Mountain Conference, Director of Mission and Ministry (Director of Connectional Ministries, Congregational Development and Communications 1/1/2007-12
- Rocky Mountain Conference, District Superintendent Peaks and Plains District 12-

## Other Relevant Experience:

- Conference Youth Coordinator, Rocky Mountain Conference, 1980-86
- Early Founder of Up With Youth Event in RMC, 1977. Served on Staff 11 years.
- Conference Secretary, Rocky Mountain Conference, 03-06
- Member Board of Director, Sierra Service Project, 2000-2002
- President Conference Council on Youth Ministries Pacific Northwest Conference
- Board member, Four Corners Native American Ministry, Navaho Reservation, Shiprock 1987-89
- Conference host and member of UMC Board of Discipleship Design Team and faculty member for the 2011 School of Congregational Development, Denver CO.

- Chairperson of Design Team for the annual meeting of UMC Directors of Connectional Ministries, 2010-2012
- Walterskipstrickland.com - Personal web site:

#### General & Jurisdictional Leadership Roles:

- Commissioner, General Commission on Communications, 2012-2016
- First Clergy Reserve Delegate to 2016 General Conference, 3rd Clergy Reserve Delegate to 2012 General Conference Session and Delegate to Western Jurisdictional Conference
- Sixth Reserve Clergy Delegate to 2012 General Conference and Delegate to 2012 Western Jurisdictional Conference.
- Member of Mission Cabinet of Western Jurisdiction 2008-2012
- Member of Western Jurisdiction Congregational Developers team 2007-2012
- Member of Western Jurisdiction Communicators Team 2007-2012
- Member of Western Jurisdiction Inter-ethnic Coordinating Committee 2007-2009
- Member of Design Team, Training for New District Superintendents and Directors of Connectional Ministries - 2011
- Adult member of the Nation Youth Ministry Steering Committee of the UMC from Western Jurisdiction 1984-86
- Western Jurisdictional Youth Coordinator 1984-86

#### Community and Ecumenical Involvement:

- Vice President of the Pinon Project, Cortez, CO, 97-99; Youth Speak Coordinator, With Ute Mountain UteTribe;1998-99; State of Colorado Board of Directors Healthy Communities Initiative

#### Organizational Endorsements:

- Annual Conference Endorsement: Yes.

#### Why have you responded to this call?

- The members of the Rocky Mountain Conference believed that 47 years of lay and clergy leadership at all levels of the church has equipped me to be a catalytic leader at a time when the UMC will face a significant systemic change. Having served 8 years at the appointed and program cabinet level I am well aware bishops provide steady guiding leadership through mission alignment, ordering the life of the church, strategic deployment and support of leadership, handling complaints, building relationships, inspiration, administration, conflict mediation and interpretation of the Book of Discipline. They also work to created space for innovation and new creative experiments and strive to give persons on the margins a voice. I would be humbled to serve in this way.

#### Tell about a time when your leadership made a difference.

- When I began as Director of Mission and Ministry, the Rocky Mountain Conference was a million dollars in debt and the conference budget was not sustainable. Due to budget limits I served as the Director of Connectional Ministries, Communication and Congregational

Development. Working with Bishops Brown and Stanovsky and treasurer Bettendorf, the conference became debt free and the budget was reduced by 1 million dollars and supported through the "tithe plus" apportionment plan. The conference culture shifted and new church planting and renewal became a priority. I led change through vision clarification, team building and collaboration. A positive conference attitude resulted and the conference operations are now healthy.

What are your strongest spiritual gifts for ministry and how will they apply to the episcopacy?

- Friends have described my spiritual gifts as intuitive, authentic, spirit filled, relational, compassionate, connectional, able to build networks, deep listener, adaptive, risk taker, and a servant leader that says, "Hey look at you." verses, "Hey look at me." I believe I am a networker, build teams, collaborate and look for the Christ in the other. I have dedicated my life to follow and practice the ways and teachings of Jesus. Empowered by God, I see myself called to be an animator, one who helps brings things to life. My model of ministry is based upon Luke 4:18-19 and its emphasis on liberation and release. Becoming a certified spiritual director taught me to listen, expanded my faith, deepened my spiritual journey and compels me to seek and discern what God it up to.

General Statement:

- I pray the United Methodist Church continues. We are the moderate and grace filled Christian choice in many rural communities. I hope the bishops find a way forward. To support them, may the global church model that cooperation and tolerance of significant diversity is possible. Present church members must use imagination and innovation for ministry with neighbors. Ministries with youth and young adults should expand. Barriers should be removed that prevent LGTBQIA+ and others on the margins from full participation. Yet I pray forces do not use specific issues to force schism. If things get turbulent and anxious, as a bishop I will depend on the deep calm of God and strive to be nimble, creative and able to adapt and lead within an ever changing religious & global context.

## Recommendations for: Walter "Skip" Strickland

Jerry • Rev./Pastor AfterHours Denver • Rocky Mountain Conference

Skip Strickland has exactly the gifts and graces need for the challenging job of Bishop in today's church. His experiance in a variety of roles within the church gives him the knowledge of the system that is needed to navigate it's waters. His love of the Church gives him the passion to want to see it succeed and flourish. Skip has been in love with the Church from an early age and continues to be smitten. His love and understanding of innovation means he will take what has worked best in the past and integrate it into the future for the betterment of the Church. Above all, Skip is a humble man that will give all the glory to God and act out of a servant leader mentality. Experiance, passion, innovation, humility. These words exemplify Skip Strickland. I can't recommend Rev. Strickland enough for the Episcopacy. Peace and all good things, Rev. Jerry Herships

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Kunle Taiwo • Co-Lay Leader Rocky Mountain Conference • Rocky Mountain Conference

It is an honor to endorse Walter "Skip" Strickland. He has the temperament, skills and knowledge to serve as an episcopal officer. Services as a youth director, local church pastor, director of mission and ministry and a district superintendent under different bishops testifies to Skip's gifts and graces for leadership. He has served rural and urban settings, has tremendous knowledge of the structure of the church and a deep understanding of the Book of Discipline. Those Skip serves as DS have remarked he is a very compassionate and encouraging cheerleader. A good listener, a thoughtful decision maker who handles conflict in a calm manner. He is not afraid to delegate as appropriate without second-guessing the decisions made by others. He does not need to be in the spotlight. And his exuberance for life is very contagious. Skip has a huge respect for the role of laity. He believes clergy and lay collaboration is the path to a sustainable, growth oriented mission service to the world.

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Jessica Rooks • Lead Pastor for Community Life • Rocky Mountain Conference

Rev. Walter "Skip" Strickland is a leader who seeks to empower others. As the Director of Mission and Ministries for the Rocky Mountain Conference, Skip focused on reshaping the culture of our conference. He developed clergy and lay leadership, built trust, and gained the respect of the conference through his authenticity and integrity. Leading with trust and respect, Skip was able to invite clergy and lay members into new leadership roles and expand the leadership base of the conference. I've had the pleasure to serve with Skip as a Commissioner with the UMC General Commission on Communications (UMCom), and I've known him as the Director of Mission and Ministry and as a District Superintendent. Skip has held a number of positions outside of the local church, yet his ability to stay grounded in the realities and needs of the local church are commendable. Skip has a passion for offering people the love of God. He can talk with anyone, and seems to know everyone.



## Frank D. Wulf

Eligible Quadrennium according to 2012 Discipline ¶ 408.1:

Two: 2016-2020  
2020-2024

Probationary Membership: 6/17/1979  
Full Membership: 6/17/1984  
Ethnic Background: Caucasian or White  
Annual Conference: California-Pacific Conference

### Education:

- Undergraduate: University of California San Diego, B.A. in Mathematics and Literature, 1973-77
- Seminary: Fuller Theological Seminary, M.Div., 1977-1981
- Columbia University/Union Theological Seminary, 1986-1997, Graduate work toward the Ph.D. in religion, Uncompleted

### Professional Service Record:

- Pastor in charge, Echo Park UMC, Los Angeles, CA, appointment to begin July 1, 2016
- Pastor in charge, United University Church, Los Angeles, CA, July 1, 2005-June 30, 2016
- Campus Minister & Executive Director, Wesley Foundation serving UCLA, Los Angeles, CA July 1, 1997-June 30, 2005
- Appointed to School, Columbia University/Union Theological Seminary, New York NY, July 1, 1993-June 30, 1997
- Leave of Absence, July 1, 1992-June 30, 1993
- Appointed to School, Columbia University/Union Theological Seminary, July 1, 1986-June 30, 1992
- Associate Pastor, Covina UMC, Covina, CA, July 1, 1981-June 30, 1986
- Appointed to School, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA, July 1, 1979-June 30, 1981

### Other Relevant Experience:

- Religious Director, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, 2005-16
- President, University Religious Conference at UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, 1999-2004
- Interim Pastor (local hire), Bell Memorial UMC, Rowland Heights, CA, June-September 1992
- Minister of Christian Education (local Hire), Upland UMC, Upland, CA, June-October, 1992
- Interim Pastor (1993-94); Associate Pastor (1994-97), Rutgers Presbyterian Church, New York, NY, 1993-97
- Associate Pastor for Administration, West Park Presbyterian Church, New York, NY, 1990-92

- Adjunct Faculty, Theology Department, Fordham University, Bronx, NY, 1994-97
- Adjunct Faculty, Auburn Theological Seminary, New York, NY, teaching on a contract basis, 1994-95
- Adjunct Faculty, New Brunswick Theological Seminary, New Brunswick, NJ, Fall Semester, 1994
- Tutor & Adjunct Faculty, Union Theological Seminary, New York, NY, 1988-92

#### General & Jurisdictional Leadership Roles:

- Chair, Western Jurisdiction Committee on Conferences, 2004-2012
- Chair, Western Jurisdiction Credentials Committee, 2000-2004
- Consultant on Campus Ministry, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, 2001-2005
- Chair, United Methodists in Campus Ministry/United Methodist Campus Ministry Association, 2001-2005

#### Community and Ecumenical Involvement:

- Presently: Member-Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice-L.A.; Member-Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace; Co-Leader-Stop Mass Incarceration Network-L.A.; Clergy member-Presbytery of the Pacific (PCUSA); Member & Chair-Presbytery Mission Interp. & Promotion Committee; Institutional Rep.-United Neighbors in Defense Against Displacement; Member-RCRC-California; Convener-Western Methodist Justice Movement; Member-Cal-Pac MFSA, Cal-Pac Reconciling Ministries, More Light Presbyterians; Previously: Board member-California Council of Churches; Member-USC Master Plan Advisory Committee; Member & Chair-UCLA Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Religion, Ethics & Values, Member-National Campus Ministry Assoc.; Chair-Cal-Pac Committee on Christian Unity & Interreligious Concerns

#### Organizational Endorsements:

- Annual Conference Endorsement: Yes.

#### Why have you responded to this call?

- As a person of faith who openly identifies as gay, I believe the time has come to take bold steps to confront the misrepresentations undergirding the church's exclusion of LGBTQI persons. This is especially important as we enter into conferencing about human sexuality & the future of the UMC. If this conferencing is to be truly holy, LGBTQI persons must have a presence & a voice at its center & not merely at its margins. The election of an LGBTQI bishop threatens to unleash a torrent of anger & fear, but also has potential to move the UMC to a more honest wrestling with its calling to full inclusion. I offer myself as a person of deep faith, grounded in the scriptures, long part of the struggle & with at least 2 decades of experience in engaging people of faith who oppose full inclusion.

#### Tell about a time when your leadership made a difference.

- My church sits on a private university in LA. While the students are largely affluent, the surrounding population consists of low-income African American & migrant families from

Mexico & Central America. When the Church expressed a desire to reach out to this neighborhood, I worked with our Peace Center Director to call together a team to develop plans for providing faith-based education in peacemaking, conflict resolution, and community building for neighborhood young people who had largely been written off by society. Peace Camp/Peace Kids now serves more than 70 neighborhood families with school year and summer programs that make a real difference in the lives of young people. Under my leadership, a strong team has emerged with the resources & permission it needs to do an excellent job.

What are your strongest spiritual gifts for ministry and how will they apply to the episcopacy?

- I am gifted for speaking the truth in love. This involves a capacity for discerning & articulating truth in a way that is honest, understandable & prophetic. It also involves the recognition that we are all fundamentally children of God created in the image of God & therefore deserving of respect & care. There are times when truth demands that we say 'No more' to those who cause harm but this must come with a commitment to engage as possible in the work of reconciliation. As a bishop I would lead in a way that is more collaborative than directive, recognizing that there are times when direction is required. I have a tested gift for facilitating holy conferencing that engages people in speaking their own truth, listening to the truth of others & being willing to be changed by God's Spirit.

General Statement:

- It is the bishop's task to order the life of the church & equip it for its disciple-making ministry. While I believe the Discipline provides general guidelines for carrying out this task, I also believe there are kairos moments when bishops must heed God's Spirit & guide the church in new directions. A decision to act in non-compliance with the Discipline should be not taken lightly. It should emerge out of deep prayer & profound engagement with our biblical/theological traditions. It must be set in the context of our covenant to live into the inclusive reality of God's kingdom. We seek fullness of life for all. While I pledge that I won't enforce rules that cause harm to LGBTQI persons, I won't stop there. I pledge to work on the margins with any who seek God's kingdom of justice and peace.



## Recommendations for: Frank D. Wulf

Dr. Susan Stouffer • Director of the Peace Center of United University Church • California-Pacific Conference

Rev. Frank Wulf has been a prophetic, dynamic, and spirit-led leader as the pastor of United University Church for the past 11 years. During his time with us, he has become proficient at leading bilingual worship in order to reach out to many in Los Angeles who speak Spanish. He helped create our outreach programs of food and services for people who are homeless or in need and our Peace Camp programs to reach out to the economically disadvantaged children and youth in our neighborhoods with God's love and the kin-dom focus of justice and peace. He has been involved in leadership and collaboration in Los Angeles with many of the struggles of our day such as Black Lives Matter and the Minimum Wage Campaign with Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice. He has worked in many roles for a more inclusive and just United Methodist Church. He thinks deeply and prays about the responsibility of being a Christian leader in our broken world and then allows God's spirit to lead him to action.

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Gary Bernard Williams • Pastor • California-Pacific Conference

Rev. Frank Wulf is a man of great character and deep faith in God. He is morally consistent, stable, and reliable. He's a humble man not only with an awareness of his shortcomings but with the knowledge that he is accountable to God a reality that transcend the local church and personal ambition. He is genuinely interested in, and concerned for, other people neither excessively self preoccupied nor interested in others only to the extent that they meet his need. He extends care and concerns to the larger community, especially for the voiceless, the dispossessed, those who do not have, or do not believe they have, any power to change their situation of suffering or oppression. He has worked hard to develop a ministry of the laity, laypersons who participate in worship, teaching, counseling and witnessing, and who work with the called professional leader to build a caring and redemptive faith community. I fully endorse Rev. Frank Wulf for the Episcopacy of the United Methodist Church.

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Sharon Rhodes-Wickett • Rev. Dr./ Retired • California-Pacific Conference

I've been blessed to be colleague with Frank Wulf in several church contexts. He is pastoral, carefully listens, works well with others as a team and carries a heart for justice & peace. When he was Campus Minister at UCLA & I at Westwood UMC he engaged with Westwood folks building relationships, teaching, co-teaching various classes, being part of the worship team & preached when asked. He was humble, available, prophetic & a fine colleague. We served on Conference Leadership Team where I experienced the same qualities as gifts to the Team. He understands himself as one of the team and does not self-promote. He offers his pastoral and prophetic gifts as they are needed and does not shy away from assuming leadership responsibilities. He is dependable & flexible. We have worked together serving Christ over many years. He lives the redemptive power of faith in Jesus. His faithfulness challenged my own. His grace & forgiveness inspire & transform. I commend him, church, for Bishop.