

Nominating Committee 2024 Report

PART I – Board & Committee Elections

OREGON CONFERENCE OF THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH

Board of Administration (BOA)

The Board of Administration (BOA, previously ‘Leadership Council’) acts as the standing administrative committee and finance board of the conference in the interim between annual conference sessions.

(2019 Book of Discipline ¶15200, ¶15240, ¶16400.)

- a. Function – Meets regularly at the call of the chair, typically six times per year. Cares for routine conference business and additional items as delegated by the conference; gives strategic planning for the health and growth of the church.
- b. Composition –The superintendent, by virtue of office (ex-officio); no less than four members elected by the annual conference with due regard to clergy/lay balance. (Revised-2020.05)

Continuing members’ names are shown in black.

2024 Newly elected members are pictured, and names are shown in blue below.

*BVO signifies ‘by virtue of office/ex-officio’

LAY MEMBER	TERM	MINISTERIAL MEMBER	TERM
Conference Treasurer	BVO*	Superintendent	BVO*
Kim Dettwyler	2025	(Late resignation/vacancy)	2025
Heather Johnstone	2026	Jeff Utu	2026
Loreen Mills Juran	2027	Sam Dilla	2027

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Loreen Mills Juran is a member of Northside Community Church in Newberg. She and her husband, Gary, are blessed with four adult children, eight grandkids, and two great-grandkids. At Northside, Loreen has served in many ways over the last 34+ years, including; local Board of Administration, lay delegate to the Conference, Treasurer, assistance with day-to-day business matters like HR, and leads a weekly Life Group. In the Conference, Loreen has served on the Nominating Committee, Board of Administration, and MEG & MAC. She is currently serving on the Board of Administration.

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Samuel Dilla holds a Master’s in Electrical Engineering from the University of Colorado at Boulder and currently resides in Portland, Oregon. He has led an impressive career as an Automation Engineer in different settings at Intel, AMS, Qimonda, Solarworld and Jireh Semiconductor.

For over 15 years, Sam has been a leader of the South Sudanese Fellowship in Portland, OR. In 2022, the Fellowship became a church plant for the Oregon Conference. Sam is an appointed CMC as Lead Pastor at the South Sudanese Bible church in the Oregon Conference and is working to become an Elder.

PART I – Board & Committee Elections

Ministerial Education & Guidance Board (MEG)

The Ministerial Education and Guidance (MEG) Board serves to identify, recruit, train and commission appointed leaders: located elders and deacons. (2019 Book of Discipline ¶15230.)

- a. **Function** – Meets at the call of the chair, with significant time served from early fall through late spring of each conference year. Screens candidates for reception into the conference and/or for ordination; is the authority on the meeting of the standard criteria for ordination in consultation with the bishop of record; guides and counsels those who are received so they may be able to meet the demands of pastoral ministry; gives consideration to the integrity and Christian discipleship of each ministerial member and the performance of each appointed pastor of the conference, and affirms the same of located deacons, reporting such action to the annual conference.
- b. **Composition** – Members of the Ministerial Appointments Committee and additional members as determined by the electing body. The superintendent serves by virtue of office (ex-officio). Additional members may be elected to rotating three-year terms with due regard to clergy/lay balance, and re-elected contingent on their ongoing effective service. (Description Revised-2020.05)

Continuing members' names are shown in black.

2024 Newly elected members are pictured, and names are shown in blue below.

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LAY MEMBER	TERM	MINISTERIAL MEMBER	TERM
		Superintendent (MAC)	BVO*
George Copeland	2025	Emily Nelson	2026
Gretchen Stehr (MAC)	2025	J. Chappy Swearingen (MAC)	2026
Angela Davis (MAC)	2026	Russ Brechbiel	2027
Diane McNay	2026	Larissa Hawk	2027
		Marla Sweeney (MAC)	2027

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Russ Brechbiel is an ordained elder in the Oregon Conference, appointed as lead pastor to The Source in Gladstone. He and his wife Lisa have led The Source since its formation in 2008. They started the church as a non-denominational ministry, having left the Conservative Baptist Association, within which they had grown up, were educated, and trained. However, they always felt like fish out of water until they found the Free Methodist Church. In the FMC, they found a family where they fit and theology and ministry ethos they could fully embrace. They have been a part of the FMC family since 2014. In addition to leading the church, they are both Licensed Professional Counselors, having started a private practice in The Source parsonage in 2015. Russ holds a BA in Music, MA in Exegetical Theology, and an MA in Counseling.

PART I – Board & Committee Elections

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Larissa Hawk has been a part of the Free Methodist Church for over 20 years as a pastor's kid, delegate, and as an elder. She is currently appointed to Trinity Academy, where she teaches music, drama, and literature. She lives in Portland with her husband Andrew and her baby, Phoebe. Larissa is passionate about education, family, and living in right relationships with people, tradition, and the natural world. She likes gardening, traveling, homemaking, hiking/camping/backpacking, and dreams of one day living on a hobby farm.

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Marla Sweeney has been a Free Methodist for 22.5 years, was ordained in 2014, and is on staff at Northside Community Church in Newberg. She has served as the MEG Administrator since 2017 and enjoys walking alongside people in the process of ordination and consecration. She is also the administrator of Pathwright for the Oregon Conference, so she always wants to know if people find difficulties or discrepancies with all the Paths on Pathwright (LMC, CMC, etc.). She has been married to Daniel Sweeney (ordained elder under special appointment at George Fox University) for 41 years. They have four grown children and 5 grandchildren.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee (NomCom) serves to identify spiritually mature, gifted and fruitful members who are able to provide leadership through service on standing boards and committees in the Oregon Conference with the exception of its own, whose members are nominated by the Leadership Council.

(2019 Book of Discipline ¶15080, ¶16310.)

- a. **Function** – Meets at the call of the chair. Prepares a list of nominations for positions vacated by either resignations or expiration of terms; reviews board and committee memberships in light of the standing rules of the annual conference.
- b. **Composition** – Not less than six members who may be elected to rotating terms, giving due regard to clergy/lay balance and regional representation. The superintendent serves by virtue of office (ex-officio).

(Description Revised-2020.05)

Continuing members' names are shown in black.

2024 Newly elected members are pictured, and names are shown in blue below.

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LAY MEMBER	TERM	MINISTERIAL MEMBER	TERM
Shellie Huff	2026	Superintendent	BVO*
Brenda Crofton	2027	Jessica Broich	2025
Amy Metzler	2027	Rick Herbert	2026
		Kaleb Herring	2027

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Nominating Committee Election (cont.)

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Brenda Crofton grew up in a Christian home and gave her life to Jesus at 12 years old. She had a few years away from the Lord, but when she met her future husband, he asked her to go to his church. She rededicated her life to Him at age 20. Since then, she and her husband have attended different churches and are usually very involved. She currently counts the tithe, greets, cleans the church, and helps in the nursery. She is also a church delegate. She enjoys church outreaches and participates in women's ministry.

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Amy Metzler and her husband, James, have been married for almost 27 years and enjoy serving the Lord together. She is a deacon at Mountain Gospel Fellowship, where she serves on the worship team, church board, and children's ministry. She and her husband have homeschooled their 8 children for the past 20 years. Amy's favorite things to do include family gatherings, reading, writing, studying God's word, and teaching.

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Kaleb Herring has been part of the Salem First FMC since 2009, and has served as lead pastor there since 2019. Kaleb has been married to Kristine since 2011 and is the father to three boys: James, Jordan, and Jackson. He enjoys playing and coaching soccer.

Aldersgate Board

The Aldersgate Board serves at the direction of the Leadership Council for the Oregon Conference of the Free Methodist Church and develops operational policies for Aldersgate Camps and Retreats (Aldersgate) to be administered on its behalf by Aldersgate's Executive Director.

- a. **Function** – Meets at the call of the chair, typically every other month. Ensures the proper governing of Aldersgate as an outreach of the Oregon Conference and the upholding of the values and mission of the Free Methodist Church USA and the Oregon Conference; oversees the responsible stewardship of finances, resources and staff; provides accountability and support to the Executive Director; offers insight to the Oregon Conference Leadership Council regarding camp matters.

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Aldersgate Board (cont.)

- b. Composition – Members are elected to rotating three-year terms, giving due regard to clergy/lay balance. The superintendent serves on the board by virtue of office (ex-officio) as does the Aldersgate Executive Director. Members are expected to have a healthy spiritual life, be active participants in the local church, have a heart for service and value the ministry of Christian camps and retreats. (Revised-2020.05)

Continuing members' names are shown in black.

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LAY MEMBER	TERM	MINISTERIAL MEMBER	TERM
Eric Mueller (Dir.)	BVO*	Superintendent	BVO*
James Metzler	2027	DJ Vincent	2025
Jim Page	2027	John Unger	2026

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James Metzler has collaborated closely with camp ministries and has supported them in many different ways throughout his life. From an early age, he has volunteered at many different camps as worship leader, cabin leader, activities director, and even serving as a summer missionary specifically for church summer camps through Ecola Bible College and American Missionary Fellowship throughout the Pacific Northwest. He currently owns and operates his own corporate business as an architectural, structural designer, builder, and CEO. James is a passionate servant and partner in the Kingdom of God, is a loving father of a beautiful family, a faithful friend to many, and an appreciated helper of those who are in need.

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Jim Page accepted Jesus as a small child at Vacation Bible School and this decision changed the course of his life. He grew up in the Newberg church—a fourth generation Free Methodist. He was richly blessed with godly parents, relatives, and friends. He attended Seattle Pacific for two years and then transferred to Oregon State University, where he earned an engineering degree. Soon after, he married his wonderful wife, who later became a pastor in the Oregon Conference. Upon her ordination, his name changed to "Peggy's husband." He has been involved at Aldersgate from its inception. Family Camp, youth camps, men's advances, work crews, seminars, and local church retreats have enriched his life and that of his children and grandchildren. He believes the camp's ministry is an important way the conference has been fulfilling the Great Commission, and lives have changed due to the foresight and sacrifice of his parents' generation to establish it. He prays that its influence will continue on.