

GNJ Awards

The Harry Denman Evangelism Award: *Sponsored by The Foundation for Evangelism to recognize a clergy member, lay person or a youth who has an outstanding personal evangelism ministry.*

Clergy: Rev. Dr. Jennifer Cho



Rev. Dr. Jennifer Cho, who became Bridgewater UMC's first ethnic minority senior pastor in 2017, is committed to a ministry that loves God by loving people of all backgrounds and walks of life. With her lay partners in ministry, she is developing highly effective and contagious "relational evangelism" like the church's active and generous feeding ministry. But Rev. Cho's real joy in ministry is to help people grow in faith and discipleship through passionate sermons, coaching, servant-leadership development and mentoring programs.

Laitiy: Scott Bilquist, First UMC of Toms River



Scott Bilquist is an active member of the First UMC of Toms River. Since beginning his ministry in 1983, Scott has been a driving force for discipleship and evangelism, part of which included serving as the United Methodist Men's president at First UMC of Toms River. At every opportunity, he works to build Christian community and enjoys serving the Lord. He is humble, intentional and patiently encouraging to everyone he meets. Working with adults and youth, inside and outside the church walls, exemplifies Scott's call to discipleship.

Laitiy: Debra and David Chapman, Cape May UMC



David and Debra Chapman are long time active members of Cape May UMC. Debra's cousin, Rev. Dr. Robert Carr, is a Presbyterian minister and church planter in Kenya. In 2017, when David accepted an invitation to participate in a building project in Guatemala, he felt called to travel and help others. Upon his return, he shared his experience, inviting his congregation to participate through attending the journey, giving financial gifts and purchasing supplies needed for building and medical missions. While Debra is unable to travel, David would not be the missionary he is without her commitment to his passion.

Youth: Grace Brameyer, Trinity UMC in Hackettstown



Grace stands firm in her belief of Jesus as her Lord and Savior and gracefully displays her gifts by focusing their attention back toward the truth of Christ. She speaks about forgiving herself, just as God had forgiven her. Her self-acceptance comes from the understanding that if she was special enough for Jesus to die for her, then she indeed was special enough to love herself and others just the same. She states "God's arms are wrapped around you, I promise. There are bumps in the road, but the Lord always has a plan. I know that things will look up because we are all wrapped up in His love, His care and His hope". Grace is intentional in building her Christian character.

The Helenor Alter Davidson Award: *Sponsored by the Commission on Status and Role of Women for leadership, vision, passion, resilience, purpose, inclusiveness and perseverance.*

Rev. Dr. Regina Hendrickson, Northern Shore District Superintendent



Rev. Dr. Regina Hendrickson leads 62 churches in the Northern Shore District Superintendent. She is passionate about leadership development and is able to help clergy understand the dynamics of church family because of her background in family systems. For the past three years, Gina has hosted and facilitated a woman's cohort offering book reading and conversations for women clergy, covering topics on vulnerability, church leadership and courageous leadership. Because she understands the challenges women face, Gina listens, encourages and validates the contribution of women clergy and women in leadership roles. She also promotes self-care and leads in this area by example. She is a proud mom, grandmother and role model for women and women clergy.

John C. Goodwin Multimedia Church History Award

Sponsored by the Commission on Archives and History

Haddonfield UMC



Rev. Chris Heckert



Meghan Martin



Brent Donaway

The Heritage Project (190th Anniversary) is a four chapter video chronicling the church's history, current ministry, ministries in communities near and far and other efforts to enrich lives in the Haddonfield area, especially in music. This engaging video makes the history and ministry come alive to the viewer as well as introduce a dynamic, growing church of 1,350 members. Meghan Martin, who coordinated the submission, Rev. Chris Heckert, pastor of Haddonfield UMC, and Brent Donaway, videographer, give credit to the many people who contributed to the video.

Harry A. Seese Memorial Scholarship: *Given to a pastor whose plans for continuing education will lead to strengthening his/her ministry in the local church. Guided by Rose Seese of Gibbsboro, his widow and supported by ongoing gifts, the scholarship honors her late husband, the Rev. Harry A. Seese, who died while serving the Medford UMC.*

Rev. James Lee



Rev. James Lee is an innovative and trend-setting leader among pastors and growing congregations. As the lead pastor at Wesley UMC, he has a noticeable zeal for risk-taking and learning new ways to make ministry work inspiring his congregation as well as other leaders around him. He was previously the associate pastor for Calvary Korean UMC in East Brunswick and the senior pastor of Conklin UMC in South River. James is also an award-winning photographer, videographer and podcaster who believes photos should record the spirit, tell a story and grasp emotions. He has been married to his wife Julie since 2012, and they have three young children, Amy, Adam and Renee.

Rev. Juel Nelson



Rev. Juel Nelson, who at 13 preached her first sermon of many at New Dover UMC in Edison, has chosen to continue her education by pursuing a Doctorate in Education at New York University while continuing to serve in her role as GNJ's Director of Leadership Development and on the boards of Laity and Ordained Ministry. The NYU doctoral program focuses on leadership skills to develop innovative solutions that affect sustainable and scalable change in their setting. The work she is doing in relation to the doctorate directly supports GNJ's mission. The education will only enhance what she does, coaching and encouraging leaders to live into God's greater vision.