



REV. MARK DEYMAZ

Pastor/ Author / Movement Leader

A thought-leading writer and recognized champion of the Multiethnic Church Movement, Mark planted the Mosaic Church of Central Arkansas (mosaicchurch.net) in 2001 where he continues to serve as Directional Leader. In 2004, he co-founded the Mosaix Global Network (mosaix.info), with Dr. George Yancey, today serving as its president and convener of the triennial National Multi-ethnic Church Conference. In 2008, he launched Vine and Village (vineandvillage.org) and remains active on the board of this 501(c)(3) non-profit focused on the spiritual, social, and financial transformation of Little Rock's University District.

Mark has written seven books including his latest, *The Coming Revolution in Church Economics* (Baker Books, 2019); *Disruption: Repurposing the Church to Redeem the Community* (Thomas Nelson, 2017); and *Multiethnic Conversations: an Eight Week Guide to Unity in Your Church* (Wesleyan Publishing House, 2016), the first daily devotional, small group curriculum on the subject for people in the pews. His book, *Building a Healthy Multi-Ethnic Church* (Jossey-Bass, 2007), was a finalist for a Christianity Today Book of the Year Award (2008) and for a Resource of the Year Award (2008) sponsored by Outreach magazine. Other works include, *re:MIX: Transitioning Your Church to Living Color* (Abingdon, 2016); *Leading a Healthy Multi-Ethnic Church* (formerly *Ethnic Blends*; Zondervan, 2010, 2013), and the e-Book, *Should Pastors Accept or Reject the Homogeneous Unit Principle?* (Mosaix Global Network, 2011). In addition to books, he is a contributing editor for Outreach magazine where his column, "Mosaic" appears in each issue.

In 2019, Mark launched an academic partnership with Wheaton College (wheaton.edu/mosaix) through which students seek to earn an M.A. in Ministry Leadership with an emphasis on establishing healthy multiethnic and economically diverse, socially just, and financially sustainable churches. He is also an Adjunct Professor at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (Charlotte Campus) and at Phoenix Seminary, where he earned a D.Min. in 2007.

To find out more about Rev. Deymaz and all his work visit the Mosaix webpage here::
<https://mosaix.info/>

Facebook - @mosaixglobalnetwork

Instagram - @mosaixgn

Twitter - @Mosaix



REVDO. JUAN M. GARAY

Minister / Pastor / Church Planter of Multicultural Churches in Milwaukee, WI and Orlando, FL

Ministro/ Pastor/ Plantador de Iglesias Multiculturales en Milwaukee, WI y Orlando, FL

El Revdo. Juan Marcos Garay es un pastor líder de la Iglesia Metodista Unida Cristo, en Orlando, FL. Su trayectoria de más de 20 años de ministerio incluye la transformación de una iglesia de jubilados a una para todas las edades y familias. Plantador de una de las iglesias multiculturales más grandes de Wisconsin, en el área urbana de Milwaukee, WI. Actualmente, se encuentra reimaginando el ministerio hispano para alcanzar a todas las generaciones en la ciudad de Orlando.

Información contacto: <https://about.me/pastorjuangaray>

Rev. Juan Marcos Garay is a lead pastor of Christ United Methodist Church, in Orlando, FL. His 20+ year history of ministry includes transforming a church for retirees into one for all ages and families. Planter of one of the largest multicultural churches in Wisconsin, in the urban area of Milwaukee, WI. Currently, he is reimagining Hispanic ministry to reach all generations in the city of Orlando.

Contact information: <https://about.me/pastorjuangaray>



REV. TIM SOERENS

Pastor/ Social entrepreneur / Co-founding
Executive Director of the Parish Collective

Tim Soerens is the co-founding executive director of the Parish Collective, a network of over 1,000 place-based churches and the author of the newly released “Everywhere You Look: Discovering the Church, Right Where You Are.” He is also a church planter, local business owner, and is currently working on a neighborhood trust so that more and more neighbors can own their neighborhood together. He is passionate about the intersection of church planting and holistic neighborhood development.

Find out more about Rev. Tim Soerens here: <https://www.timsoerens.com/>

Instagram: timsoerens

Twitter: @timsoerens

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tim.soerens>



REV. JOY GONZALEZ

Planter / Speaker / Lead Pastor of
Uptown Church,
North Texas Conference

Rev. Joy Gonzalez is a pastor and speaker who is currently a lead pastor at Uptown Church, the newest campus of Highland Park UMC. Uptown Church, which launched in January 2021, meets every Sunday at House of Blues, nestled between the Uptown and Victory Park neighborhoods. Since opening its doors 12 months ago, this community of faith has launched small groups, a kid's ministry, and partnered with various non-profits to bless home-insecure neighbors in the city. Uptown Church is passionate in its mission to provide people a community to belong to, a cause to live for, and a church to call home.

Prior to her work at Uptown Church, Joy began her pastoral ministry serving in the Missouri Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church as an Associate Minister where she was awarded the Harry Denman award of Evangelism for her work launching a young adults ministry in the Kansas City area. Before beginning her work at Uptown Church Dallas, she served as an Associate Minister at Highland Park UMC where she assisted in developing the Mark Craig Leadership Network pastoral intern program and the launching of the Working Faith speaker series. She also worked on the pastoral team which launched The Grove campus of Highland Park UMC in North Dallas.

Twitter: [@JoyLynnGonzalez](https://twitter.com/JoyLynnGonzalez)

Joy has earned the distinction of a United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry Scholar from Saint Paul School of Theology, where she graduated with honors with a Masters of Divinity. She is a recipient of the Roy M. Brady Excellence in Preaching Award.

To find out more about the amazing work Rev. Gonzalez is doing at Uptown Church go here: <https://uptownchurchdallas.org/about> Twitter: [@JoyLynnGonzalez](https://twitter.com/JoyLynnGonzalez)



REV. DEREK JACOBS

Planter / Senior Pastor of The Village UMC,
North Texas Conference

Rev. Derek Jacobs is a graduate of Kansas State University where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Family Studies and Human Services in May 2000. Later, Rev. Jacobs continued his education at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University where he earned a Master of Divinity Degree in May 2007. Rev. Jacobs is an Ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church and is a member of the North Texas Annual Conference.

Rev. Jacobs currently serves as the Lead Pastor of The Village United Methodist Church in Desoto, Texas where he has provided leadership for the last eleven years. He is strongly committed to his calling and has a strong passion for a ministry of education and a strong compassion for people. Rev. Jacobs is a contributor to the books *Flipping Church: How Successful Church Planters Are Turning Conventional Wisdom Upside-Down* and *Launching a New Worship Community: A Practical Guide for the 2020s*. He lives by the motto: Empower, Equip and Excel.

To find more information about Rev. Derek Jacobs and his work visit The Village UMC webpage: <https://www.thevillageumc.com/pastor-jacobs-bio>

Twitter: @villagepastorj



REV. PAIGE CHRISTIAN

Coach / Strategic Planner / Associate Pastor of
Off-Campus Ministries at
Christ United Methodist Church,
North Texas Conference

Rev. Paige Christian spent 20+ years earning herself a solid reputation as a strategic and competitive marketer, vertical market business representative, and partner development liaison with nationally recognized companies, such as Microsoft Corporation and Kinko's/FedEx.

She then moved into the non-profit arena spending the last 16 years serving on staff, as a lead pastor, and in key volunteer positions at both large and small United Methodist churches in the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex. Currently, she serves as the Associate Pastor of Off-Campus Ministries at Christ United Methodist Church in Plano, Texas. Paige also provides executive coaching, team building, and strategic planning for churches, non-profit organizations, and Christian-based businesses, as she has time.

Twitter: [@paigebchristian](https://twitter.com/paigebchristian)



KENNETH WOLVERTON

Entrepreneur / Lay Leader /Board Member of
Nonprofit Frisco FastPacks / Co-Founder of the
Accelerated Church Expansion Program

Kenneth has served as the North Central District Lay Leader since 2016. He is a co-Founder of the Accelerated Church Expansion Program within the Conference. He was one of 10 people that started Grace Avenue UMC 22 years ago and has served on several church committees, including all three vision committees. Kenneth was elected to be a 2020 General Conference delegate at Annual Conference 2019.

He spent his career building and selling technology-based companies. He most recently served as the president of a non-profit called Frisco Fastpacs, which provides weekend meal bags to children on free and reduced lunch programs, and serves on several company boards. Kenneth is passionate about the church and loves to talk about how to make our churches, our district, our conference, and our denomination better.



Alma W. Pérez

Directora, Desarrollo de Recursos para el Liderato
Hispano/Latino, Ministerios de Discipulado

Alma's cultural sensitivity and experience with people from diverse backgrounds enriches the work of Hispanic/Latino Resourcing with Discipleship Ministries. She has a Master's degree in Public Administration, a specialization in Adult Education, and advanced studies in Education Technology. Alma is passionate about seeing people reach their potential and loves being around young and diverse people.

La sensibilidad cultural y la experiencia de Alma con personas de diversos orígenes enriquece el trabajo de Hispanic/Latino Resourcing with Discipleship Ministries. Tiene una Maestría en Administración Pública, una especialización en Educación de Adultos y estudios avanzados en Tecnología Educativa. A Alma le apasiona ver a las personas alcanzar su potencial y le encanta estar rodeada de gente joven y diversa.



Revdo. David Martínez

Director Ejecutivo, Formación de Liderazgo Contextual,
Educación Superior y Ministerio

Rev. David Martinez nació en El Paso, Texas. Él empezó en la iglesia Metodista Unida por medio del programa de Boy Scout of América. Sirvió en Deming, NM. en la Iglesia Metodista Unida El Sinaí por dos años como pastor local, y después se movió a servir a Fort Worth en la Iglesia Metodista San Pablo UMC por 5 años. Él se ordenó como presbítero en la Conferencia Central de Texas. Él asistió a la Universidad de Texas del Paso donde fue parte del ministerio Wesley Foundation. Él continuó en la Universidad de Texas en Arlington donde También participó en el ministerio Wesley Foundation. Él se graduó con un Licenciatura (Bachelor) en Sistemas de Computadoras. Después siguió su educación en la Universidad Southern Methodist University donde recibió su maestría en Divinidades. Él hizo su internado en una congregación anglosajona y también en una iglesia Hispana. Después fue asignado a la Iglesia Metodista Unida llamada El Buen Samaritano donde sirvió por 14 años. Él obtuvo un certificado de Bride Divinity School en el área de consejería pastoral y familia. En su tiempo como pastor él sirvió y se conectó con los jóvenes de diferentes grupos en la Iglesia Metodista Unida. Él coordina un programa que se llama Journey to Ordained Ministry (JTOM) para jóvenes étnicos que tienen el llamado para pastoral y quieren prepararse en el seminario. Él forma parte del Liderazgo Hispanos-Latino de las agencias. Él es llamado a hacer discípulos para Jesús para el Reino de Dios y trabaja en las Américas haciendo discípulos para la transformación del mundo. Él es el director Ejecutivo del Desarrollo de Liderazgo Contextual para la Junta General de Educación Superior y Ministerios (GBHEM). El trabajo de David es de trabajar con los Native American, Asian-Pacific Islander, Hispano-Latino and Multi- Étnico en nuestra nación y promueve el llamado de todos los discípulos de Jesús. Él sigue preparando líderes laicos y pastores que quieren servir a Dios en su reino aquí en Estados Unidos, Latino América y donde Dios lo mande. David es un anciano de la Conferencia Central Texas en Fort Worth, entrenador por más de 22 años, un profesor de la escuela de licencia de pastores, profesor de Curso de Estudio y un mentor por muchos años. Él vive en Nashville, Tennessee.



Jorge L. Berríos

Director de Relaciones Internacionales Latino América y editor gerente, *Alto Aposento Aposento*, Upper Room, Ministerios de Discipulado

Jorge Berríos trabaja para The Upper Room como Director de Relaciones Internacionales para América Latina y el Caribe y como Editor Gerente de *El Aposento Alto*, la edición en español de la guía de meditaciones diarias *The Upper Room*.



REV. GAIL SONG BANTUM

Conductor / Coach / Communicator

Reverend Gail Song Bantum is the Lead Pastor of Quest Church, an urban, multi, and inclusive community in the heart of Seattle. Pastor Gail is particularly passionate about empowering emerging leaders and is a highly sought after speaker, preacher, and consultant. She is a contributing author of the New York Times Bestseller, *A Rhythm of Prayer: A Collection of Meditations for Renewal*, edited by Sarah Bessey, and co-author of *Choosing Us: Marriage and Mutual Flourishing in a World of Difference*. Pastor Gail received her M.Div. from Duke Divinity School and is an ordained minister in the Evangelical Covenant Church.

Find more information on Rev. SongBatum work here:
<https://www.thebantumspace.com/>

Twitter: @GailSongBantum



DR. BRIAN BANTUM

Writer / Teacher / Theologian

Dr. Brian Bantum is the Neil F. and Ila A. Professor of Theology at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. He writes and teaches on the intersections of theology and embodiment, particularly on questions of race and identity. He is a contributing editor for The Christian Century and has published three books: *Redeeming Mulatto: A Theology of Race and Christian Hybridity* and *The Death of Race: Building a New Christianity in a Racial World* and most recently, *Choosing Us: Marriage and Mutual Flourishing in a World of Difference*, co-authored with his spouse, Rev. Gail Song Bantum. He speaks throughout the country on how racial imagination shapes our identity and how our lives as disciples might live into the fullness of God's life and create spaces of justice and flourishing and life in their midst, becoming slight glimmers of God's present and coming kingdom.

Find more information on Dr. Bantum work here:
<https://www.thebantumspace.com/> @BrianBantum



VICTORIA SUN ESPARZA

Innovator / Consultant / Speaker

Victoria Sun Esparza is the founder and CEO for In the Water Design, a consulting firm that specializes in Human-Centered Design strategy for religious organizations and nonprofits. Victoria's non-traditional background in ministry, theological education, and Human-Centered Design gives her a unique perspective on the world and its problems. Her work aims to connect religious organizations and nonprofits to better tools for solving problems and meeting the needs of the people around them. Victoria holds a Masters of Divinity and a Masters of Arts in Design and Innovation. In her day job, Victoria works as a Senior Design Strategist at Booz Allen Hamilton and lives in Dallas, TX.



Rev. Rachel Gilmore

Planter / Coach / Author / Consultant

Rev. Rachel Gilmore most recently served as the Director of Recruiting, Training and Assessing for lay and clergy church planters in the United Methodist Church.

Rachel and her husband, Rev. Brandon Gilmore, are currently pastors at Central United Methodist Church in Phoenix, Arizona where they are creating a new faith community while revitalizing the existing congregation. In the spring of 2022, she launched "Connect: a Faith Community for the Journey" with Deontez Wimbley which is a digital and hybrid faith community reaching a diverse group of young adults.

In 2009, Rachel planted a church in Virginia Beach and started two missional preschools, growing her church plant from 10 young adults to over 250 during her ten years there.

In the fall of 2021 Rachel co-founded Intersect: a Co-Planting Network to provide coaching, courses and community to church planters and spiritual entrepreneurs from an incarnational, diverse, innovative, equitable, contextual and post-colonial perspective.

She is the author of *Expanding the Expedition Reach with Missional Communities and Voices of Christmas* and a contributor to *Launching a New Worship Community: a Practical Guide for the 2020s*. Her story is also featured in *Ready, Set, Plant* and *From Franchise to Local Dive: Multiplying your Church by Developing your Contextual Flavor*



REV. MICHAEL SCOTT

Pastor / Planter / Social Entrepreneur / Mentor

Michael serves as the pastor at Woods Chapel Church in Blue Springs, Missouri. He is a husband, father of 4 and a serial entrepreneur. Michael spent 20 years in the commercial construction industry where he managed projects like the Royals and Chiefs stadiums. In 2014 Michael started his pastoral ministry in Raytown, Missouri where he and his family revitalized an existing church that was about to close and incorporated it as a campus of Woods Chapel UMC in Lee's Summit, Missouri. In 2016, he started a third campus for Woods Chapel Church in Blue Springs, Missouri where he is currently the pastor primarily made up of young families.

Discerning a community need, in 2017 he started a preschool and daycare at the Blue Springs location with 7 children and today it has grown to over 100. With a waiting list for this growing community that currently supports over half of the overall church's budget, a second location is under development. Other communities at the church include the community garden community, the worshiping community, and the youth community. Other communities and revenue streams for growth are planned in the coming 12-24 months. The Blue Springs campus will be launched as an autonomous United Methodist Church in the Summer of 2022.

Michael loves helping others start their entrepreneurial endeavors and serves as an advisor in the local school district for their marketing and entrepreneur tracks. He has owned/developed several real estate projects in his community including multifamily rental projects and a local cafe. He is a community developer and serves as director in his local Chamber of Commerce, Past President of the Rotary, and serves on the Board of the Economic Development and Community Improvement District. Michael is the

founder of the not-for-profit, RelaTable. RelaTable builds farmhouse tables for children graduating out of the foster care system and focuses on building RELAtionships around TABLES. Michael's newest endeavor, Creation Incubator, assists churches and nonprofits in conducting comprehensive asset mapping and then guides them in discovering how to leverage those assets to create sustainable ministries that solve a community issue.



REV. BEN INGERBRETSON

Pastor / Planter / Author

Ben Ingebretson planted a church back in the stone age (think mid '80's). Since then he has served as a coach, trainer and friend to over 100 planters.

Ben currently directs planting work in the Dakotas and Minnesota and has published *Multiplication Moves: A field guide for churches planting churches*; and *Plant Like Jesus: The church planters devotional*.



REV. KATIE NEWSOME

Pastor / Planter

Katie Newsome is a Georgia native and came to Texas by way of SMU where she studied Psychology and Religious Studies. Katie went to seminary at Perkins School of Theology and graduated with a Master of Divinity. Katie is an ordained elder with 5 years of professional experience in the North Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church. Previously, Katie has served at Methodist Dallas Medical Center, Oak Lawn UMC, FUMC Coppell, FUMC Rockwall, and now, Union Coffee. Katie is a warm and friendly person who loves new ideas, possibilities, and collaboration and is committed to the Church being a place in which everyone belongs fully as their most authentic self. Katie genuinely believes that the divine spark is present in all things, and the work that we do finding and cultivating that can absolutely change the world.



Rev. Stacey Piyakhun

Planter/Lead Pastor of Melissa UMC,
North Texas Conference

Rev. Stacey Piyakhun came to Melissa UMC in January 2014 as a new church start that was failing to thrive. After a few short months, the church experiences rapid turnaround and growth. Melissa UMC is located in a growing suburban area that still considers itself as a small town. It is a multisite of First United Methodist Church of McKinney, a downtown historic church located 7 miles south.

Under Rev. Piyakhun's leadership, Melissa UMC opened its first church building in April 2021. Melissa UMC began a for-profit coffee shop on the church grounds, Connections Coffee, as a part of its vision to create community gathering spaces. Melissa UMC's story is one of resiliency and hope.

Rev. Piyakhun lives in Melissa, Texas with her husband and daughters. For more information about Rev. Stacey Piyakhun and her work at Melissa UMC visit their webpage: <https://melissaumc.com/pastor-and-team/>