

AIA Workshop 2020
November 9, 2020

Workshop Summaries

Workshop 1: Fixing the Administrative Process

Judicial Decision 1383 found administrative process leading to involuntary leave of absence (§ 354), involuntary retirement (§ 357.3), administrative location (§ 359), and discontinuance from provisional membership (§ 327.6) violate the guarantees of a fair and unbiased process in §§ 20 and 58 and are unconstitutional, null and void. Rev. Meg Lassiat of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and Rev. Robert Zilhaver of the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference will explore the history leading up to Judicial Decision 1383 and its effect currently. They will also examine possible solutions to resolve the legal issues raised in Judicial Decision 1383 and restore the administrative processes for clergy and bishops in our church.

Workshop 2: Racial Justice Issues

The deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery have brought into sharp focus racial injustice and the need for The United Methodist Church to respond. Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi the newly elected president of the General Commission on Religion and Races reflects on anti-racism efforts by The United Methodist Church and resources within the church to deal with racism and racial harassment. There will also be time to address how the church can use its processes to hold individuals and groups within the church accountable for racist behaviors.

Workshop 3: Prevention and Response to Sexual Misconduct

We live in a world where sexual misconduct is a reality in The United Methodist Church. From stories such as the Boy Scout bankruptcy settlement to the United Methodist News Service coverage of a United Methodist clergyman's sexual misconduct against four women. Prominent in interfaith work, the clergyman ultimately surrendered his credentials. Becky Posey Williams, the Senior Director for Sexual Ethics and Advocacy from the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women will share from her perspective where we are in The UMC regarding prevention of and response to the chargeable offense of sexual misconduct.

AIA Workshop 2020 Contact Information
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Rev. Robert Zilhaver	connellsville.ds@wpaumc.org

SCHEDULE

Monday, November 9th

11a.m.-6 p.m. (ET). 8 a.m.- 3 p.m. (PT)

Time (ET/PT)

11-11:15/8-8:15

Opening Devotions

11-1/8:15-10

Block 1: **Fixing Administrative Process**

Meg Lassiat/Robert Zilhaver

1-2/10-11

Lunch Break

2-4 /11-1

Block 2: **Racial Justice Issues**

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi

4-4:15/1-1:15

Break

4:15-6/1:15-3

Block 3: **Sexual Ethics Issues**

Becky Posey Williams

Registration: <https://wpa-reg.brtapp.com/AIASEMINAR>

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Workshop Leader Bios



Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi

Bishop Moore-Koikoi was elected bishop of The United Methodist Church in July 2016 and began her assignment in the Pittsburgh Area on September 1 of that year.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from Loyola College in Maryland, and a Masters of Arts and advanced certification in school psychology from the University of Maryland. She worked as a school psychologist for Anne Arundel County Public Schools for 17 years before answering her call to ordained ministry.

Bishop Moore-Koikoi then completed her Master of Divinity degree at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC, in 2007. She served as pastor of a small church in East Baltimore and as associate pastor at Calvary UMC, a large congregation in Annapolis.

Ordained an elder in 2010, she served on the staff and as district superintendent of the Baltimore-Washington Conference. She was serving as superintendent of the Baltimore Metropolitan District when elected a Bishop. In addition to serving as a resident Bishop, she is currently president of the board of the General Commission on Religion and Race.

Bishop Moore-Koikoi is married to Reverend Raphael Koikoi, a pastor in the United Methodist Church. She enjoys travel, music of all kinds (singing and playing), sewing, and cycling.



Reverend Meg Lassiatt

Rev. Meg Lassiatt is the Assistant General Secretary in the Division of Ordained Ministry, General Board of Higher Education & Ministry and an ordained deacon in the Indiana Conference. At GBHEM her work includes training and consultation for Boards of Ordained Ministry, working on issues of clergy formation and evaluation through the Effective Ministry 360 (EM360), and serving as the legislation liaison for petitions of interest for GBHEM. She is a lifelong Florida Gator fan, enjoys running, and hiking in national parks.



Becky Posey Williams

Becky Posey Williams joined the staff of The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women in January, 2014 as Senior Director for Sexual Ethics and Advocacy for the worldwide United Methodist Church. In this position, she provides consultation to bishops and judicatory leaders and offers training throughout the denomination on the topics of sexual ethics and integrity in ministry, including the importance of self-care. Becky is also a trainer for the development and use of Response Teams for congregational and staff healing following an incident of sexual misconduct in a local ministry setting.

Prior to coming to GCSRW, she worked for 25 years as a Licensed Clinical Mental Health Therapist in private practice. For 10 years, she served as a trainer/consultant with annual conferences of The United Methodist Church in the areas of response to sexual misconduct and healthy boundaries. She developed and led “Beginning Well”, an eleven session small group for first year Residents in Ministry (RIM) focusing on understanding oneself in the multiple roles of ministry.

In 2007, she completed a two-year training and certification as a Spiritual Director through the Center for Ministry at Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi.

A lifelong United Methodist, she has served in various lay leadership positions including, chairperson of Staff Parish Relations Committee, Lay Leader, and on the District Board of Ordained Ministry.

She is the mother of one daughter. Becky enjoys being in nature kayaking or biking.



Reverend Robert Zilhaver

Bob started youth ministry in 1979 and has worked at all levels of the United Methodist Church from local church Youth Leader, District Youth Co-Coordinator, and on the Youth Teams at the Conference, Jurisdiction, and General Church. He currently serves as a board member and finance chair on the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women. He served as an officer in the United States Army from 1983-1993 in a variety of positions including being trained as an Equal Opportunity Officer.

Bob left the Army in 1993 to pursue his seminary education at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, was ordained an elder in 1997 and currently serves as the Connellsville District Superintendent in the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference. He has been elected to serve as a General/Jurisdictional Conference Delegate for 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016, 2019, 2020.

He has walked with and advised dozens of persons accused of misconduct and victims of misconduct in many different annual conferences. He has been a party to multiple cases before the Judicial Council involving Conference Structure (JD 928); Separation of Powers & Judicial Council Authority (JD 1096); Personnel Issues (JD 852, 1077/1082, 1135, 1166, 1273, 1276); Plan UMC Unconstitutional (JD1210); East Africa Conference Funds (JD1238, 1241, 1275, 1281); General Conference Special Session 2019 (JD 1366, 1377, 1378); Administrative Process (JD 1361, 1383)

He is married to Amy and has four children.