

## Asylum Hill Congregational Church Associate Ministers Search Committee Nominees

**Thulani Davis**



Thulani is the director of programming for Spectrum in Motion Dance Theatre Ensemble, the dance ensemble that is in residence AHCC, and performs annually at the Boar's Head Festival and other special events, most recently, for the installation of Rev. Erica Thompson.

Through the many years of partnership and collaboration, Thulani has been a regular visitor at AHCC, and in many ways, she and company dancers and students and their families have made AHCC a home. Thulani officially joined the AHCC in November 2017.

Thulani trained as a dancer, rooted in anthropology, and was raised along with an older brother in a humble home where love prevails and justice and fairness rule and each day. She does the good work of fellowship and citizenship following the proud Ubuntu tradition, "I am because we are." Thulani has her boots on the ground,

and is always listening and responding to the call to action.

**Gary DeLong**



Gary grew up on a small island, Beals, off the coast of Maine, both before and after a bridge was built to the mainland. After college and seminary he pastored in Longmeadow, Massachusetts for 26 years. In 1999, he resigned to lead an organization, the Maine Sea Coast Mission, that served remote coastal and island communities with telemedicine, after school programs, and provided scholarships, food and clothing. In 2010, he and his wife Judy retired (teacher) and in 2013 moved back to Longmeadow to be nearer two children and five grandchildren. They became members of AHCC in 2014. Gary served on the Senior Minister Search Committee. He is a member of the Outreach Committee and served on the Board of Deacons.

## Booker DeVaughn



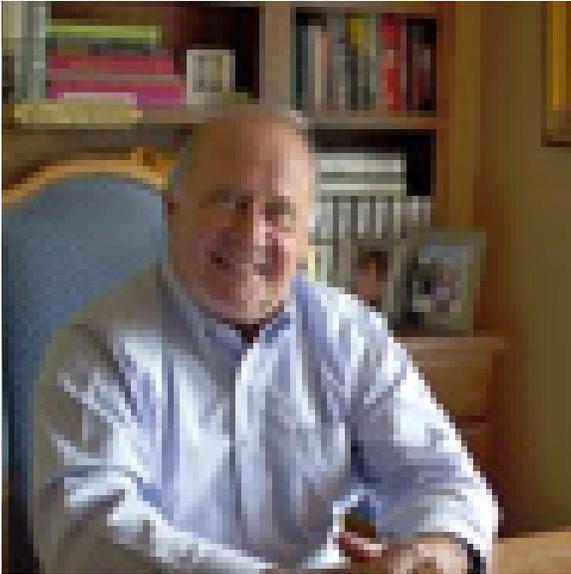
Booker has been a member of AHCC since 1991 and has served on various committees including Outreach, and an ad hoc committee on Diversity and Field Placement for seminary student Donna Manocchio. He has twice been a delegate to the UCC statewide annual meeting. Booker has participated in many Adult Education programs including Bible study groups and book discussions, completing the Bethel Bible Series Course. After serving for sixteen years at two community colleges as president, Booker is the president emeritus of Three Rivers Community College in Norwich CT.

## David Figliuzzi



David has been a member of AHCC for nearly 15 years. He has been actively involved in music, member engagement and most recently served as chair of the Senior Minister Search Committee. Professionally, David has worked in healthcare for over 25 years in various roles, most recently creating philanthropic partnerships and in diversity and inclusion. David lives with his partner in the West End.

## Jim Grigsby



Jim was born a Texan and a Preacher's Kid. He has been an active member of Asylum Hill Congregational Church for more than 25 years. Jim and his wife, Linda Fazio, were married in the AHCC sanctuary in 2010 by Rev. Gary Miller. Linda and Jim have two sons, two daughters and eight grandchildren ... all boys except six. A life-long choral singer, Jim sings in the AHCC choir. He and Linda are co-chairs of the Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival Committee. He is now serving as a Deacon and Chairs the Membership Committee for the second time. Most recently, Jim, following Rev. Erica Thompson's inspired leadership, has helped form and is now the Lay Leader of a new AHCC Growth Team that will focus on expanding and more deeply engaging the AHCC membership in the ways we grow our church and its impact on the Hartford community.

## Africka S. Hinds



Embarking upon sixteen years of faithful membership with Asylum Hill Congregational Church, Africka Hinds has served to preserve its vision and mission: Helping people grow in faith and love as disciples of Jesus. Throughout the years, Africka has served as a member of several committees (Hospitality / Welcome, Board of Worship and Fine Arts, and Outreach), assisted with establishing the School for Young Children on Asylum Hill, participated with Boar's Head Festival (lights, stage management, and "the Screamer"), and engaged as a Spirit Hill Shepherd and Teacher.

She embodies her beloved sorority's motto, Service to All Mankind, with numerous leadership roles in non-profit organizations and foundations, coordinating the Huntington Street Community Garden, and volunteers with Covenant to Care Crisis Food Program, 224 EcoSpace, Plimpton House and Hands on Hartford. Her

love of service and outreach allows her to meet the community members where they are on their faith journey, listen to their needs, and fulfill God's vision: Love One Another.

In all her life roles, the most important is that of mother to Mali (14) and Janai (10), who both follow in her footsteps of service, love for the arts, and bringing about positive change through marrying traditions and technology.

**Kent Lee Jr.**



Kent has been a member of AHCC for about 11 years. He started my membership in Spirit Hill, then continued into youth group when Rev. Erica Thompson was leading it. Following youth group, Kent became a youth deacon, and began teaching Spirit Hill Sunday School classes, as well as working backstage with the Boar's Head Festival for many years. Kent now I assists with the High School Youth Group.

**Catherine Magnusson**



Catherine joined AHCC in 2010 along with her husband, Martin, and their growing family. She has served on the Children and Family Ministries Committee. Currently, she is the chair of the Women's Spirituality & Fellowship Committee and part of the Member Growth Team.

## **Lynn Snyder**

Upon moving to Connecticut in 1990, Lynn began looking for a church to inspire her life. AHCC met the criteria and by October of that year, she had become a member. There were many things that interested Lynn about AHCC, including the choir and handbell choir, the building ministry and ServCorps for which she eventually served on the Board of Directors. Lynn co-chaired the Every Member Canvass, served on the Board of Communication, the Outreach Committee, the Thrift Shop, and as the assistant archivist and church historian, having written the history of the Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival and updated the AHCC church history book for the period 1993-2018. Last fall, Lynn had the opportunity to serve as vice chairperson of the Senior Minister Search Committee, a joyful experience.

## **Jane Torrey**



Jane and her family have been part of AHCC since the early 1960s. She was confirmed at the church in 1962 and was an active member of the youth group, led by Bob Potter. Members of this group from that time are still connected. Jane moved from Hartford after high school graduation, but her parents continued to be members until they died, so the connection was there even when she was away. Both of Jane's sisters were married at AHCC – in 1968 and 1970. Bob Potter returned to Hartford to officiate at Jane's wedding in 1978.

When Jane returned to Hartford in 1989, she rejoined the church and has been here ever since. Rev. Erica Thompson officiated at her second wedding in 2007, and Rev. Peter Grandy officiated at both of her parents' memorial services. Jane has had the privilege of knowing and appreciating multiple ministers with wonderful gifts.

Every minister that has walked through the doors of this church has taught her, supported her and helped her on her journey.

Jane has taught and told stories in Spirit Hill, participated in retreats, served on committees and most recently headed up the Refugee Resettlement Affinity Group. Her relationship to AHCC is deep and lasting.

## **Dan Tracy**

Dan is honored to be considered for the Search Committee for our next Associate Ministers. He has been a member of AHCC since 1985, and served as Moderator, Chair of the Board of Administration & Finance, Chair of the Investment Committee and, most recently, as a member of the Senior Minister Search Committee. He is a retired CPA/business consultant and has served in leadership roles at the United Way, YMCA, Renbrook School and Duncaster, including service on several search committees. Dan considers himself a listener and a consensus builder.