

*The Executive Leadership Team consists of the bishop plus 12 other persons—six clergy, six laity. Eight of those persons are elected by the National Conference, four of them every two years to four-year terms. The other four are appointed by the new ELT to two-year terms. Report 41 lists all members of the 2021-2023 ELT, and identifies the four persons whose terms continue until 2025.*

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## East District, Lay

### **Maria Alonso-Tomlinson**

*International UB Church in Allentown, Pa.*

Maria Alonso-Tomlinson was born in San Juan, Puerto Ric. She became a Christian there in 1987, and became highly involved in the church. For 18 months she was a missionary in Costa Rica. Maria came to the US in 2000 when she married Rev. Neville Tomlinson, who had founded International UB church in Allentown, Pa., in 1997. They have served there ever since.

Maria has participated in leading worship, preaching, counseling, children's ministry, youth retreats, and more. She received a bachelor's degree in Sciences of Communications from Sacred Heart University in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and a Master's in Leadership Development and Spiritual Formation from Evangelical Seminary in Myerstown, Pa.

#### **Why are you interested in serving on the ELT?**

Maria: "I believe that bringing my cultural background can diversify the committee and help with the decision-making in terms of new endeavors that the conference will include now and in the future."

### **Jeremiah N. Greenland**

*Prince Street UB church in Shippensburg, Pa.*

Jeremiah Greenland is vice president of operations for Susquehanna Civil Inc., an engineering firm based out of York, Pa. He grew up in a Presbyterian church, and became a Christian at a youth retreat around age 13. He writes, "A good way to describe my belief and faith journey early on in life and through college would be 'belief but no connection.' It wasn't until near the end of college and meeting my current wife that I really felt the need and call to be more involved and connected with not only God, but the church in general. Prince Street became home for us. I have been able to connect on a deeper level with God and my church family since that point."

Jeremiah has been involved in leadership at Prince Street, including four years as board chair and six years as Missions Commission chair. He also served on the board of the UB Laurel Mission in Kentucky. He and Rebecca have been married for 12 years and have two children.

**Why are you interested in serving on the ELT?**

Jeremiah: “I feel that I can bring a different perspective to the table on where people are today with their faith. We are currently battling a generation of young adults who did not grow up in the church because their parents left and never went back. I feel that some non-traditional influence on things could maybe help us to reach those who may not have a favorable view of the church in general.”

**Alternate: Brad Etchberger**

*King Street UB church in Chambersburg, Pa.*

Brad Etchberger owns and operates a CPA firm in Chambersburg, Pa. He and Crystal have been married for 27 years and have one adult daughter. Brad is concluding 12 years as treasurer at King Street Church. He also serves on the board of administration and leads the Finance Commission. In addition, he has invested many years in youth and children’s ministry.

Brad’s grandmother introduced him to Jesus when he was very young, and he accepted Christ as Savior around age 6 or 7 and began attending King Street with his mother. He writes, “It was later in life (teenager) that I understood the commitment and extent of his love for me. I also understood how he had carried me through some unbelievable tough times as a young person. That led me to take Discipleship with pastor Pat Jones so I could be equipped to lead others.”

**Why are you interested in serving on the ELT?**

Brad: “I have served in senior leadership at King Street for many years in various capacities. I understand the inner workings of a large local church. I have seen some aspects of the workings of the denomination and desire to be part of that for the next chapter of my leadership ministry.”

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## Central District, Clergy

**Michael Elkins**

*New Hope Community Church in Bryan, Ohio*

Michael Elkins has been lead pastor of New Hope Community Church in Bryan, Ohio, since 2016. He and his wife, Mickey, met at a Baptist Bible college, where he received his bachelor’s degree. They have now been married for 18 years and have four children. In 2015 he received a Master of Executive Leadership from Liberty University.

Michael has served in church ministry for nearly 20 years. He started out in 2005 with two years as a junior high pastor, followed by two years as youth pastor of a Baptist church in Florida. He then moved back to Michigan to be associate pastor at Connections Community Church in Schoolcraft. He served on the Executive Leadership Team 2021-2023.

**Why are you interested in serving on the ELT?**

Michael: “When the opportunity came up to serve on the ELT, it seemed like a great way to serve our denomination and be a part of helping take us where we want to go in the future.”

**Tim Sherman**

*Bethel UB church in Elmore, Ohio*

Tim Sherman has been lead pastor of Bethel UB church (Elmore, Ohio) since 2012. For 19 years prior to that, going back to 1993, he served on staff at three different churches (two UB), mostly leading youth and college-age ministries. He holds undergraduate degrees in General Business and Psychology (1998), and a Master of Divinity from Rockbridge Seminary (2014). He was ordained in 2015. Tim has been a cluster leader since 2017, and has chaired the Nominating Committee since 2020.

Tim and Shelly will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary in October 2023. They have three children, ages 17-22.

**Why are you interested in serving on the ELT?**

Tim: “I love leadership. Participating and working with others toward a goal from God is invigorating and enjoyable. I have found that serving as a cluster leader and chairing the Nominating Committee is truly a joy. My desire is to serve however God would like and whatever that would look like.”

**Alternate: Dan VanArsdalen**

*Alvordton and Kunkle UB churches in northwest Ohio.*

Dan VanArsdalen became a Christian during a five-day Good News Club taught by his Sunday school teacher at Alvordton UB church (Alvordton, Ohio). He entered college at age 43, and earned degrees in Biblical Studies (2006) and Missionary Ministries (2007), followed by a Master’s in Missionary Ministries which had an emphasis on church planting (2008). That was followed in 2009 by a doctorate.

Dan began serving the Alvordton UB church in 2010, was ordained in 2013, and has served a number of years as a cluster leader. In 2017 he also became pastor of the Kunkle UB church. Bishop Fetters appointed him to the ELT 2021-2023.

**Why are you interested in serving on the ELT?**

Dan: “I truly enjoy trying to understand all the ins and outs of our denomination. As a cluster leader, I enjoy encouraging and helping to better equip our local ministers. I will do my best to listen and seek our Father’s will at this level of leadership within our denomination.”

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## North District, Clergy

### Tom Datema

*Gaines UB church in Caledonia, Mich.*

Tom Datema became a Christian as a first grader in Sierra Leone, where his parents were UB missionaries. He went on to graduate from Huntington University. He and Kim were married in 1986 and have four grown children. They served as missionaries in Sierra Leone 1990-1994. Tom served as an associate pastor at Dillman UB church (Warren, Ind.) 1995-1998, was ordained in 1998, and then began 22 years as senior pastor of the UB church in Zanesville, Ind. In 2020, he became pastor of Gaines UB church.

Tom served on various committees of the former Central Conference and was a delegate to General Conference. He has been a cluster leader, and is now a member of the denominational Financial Health Committee. He served on the ELT 2005-2007 and 2021-2023 (filling an unexpired term).

#### **Why are you interested in serving on the ELT?**

Tom: I believe that it is important to be willing to serve the church if asked to do so. I trust the Holy Spirit in the process and feel it is part of discerning God's will.

### Joshua Good

*Hillsdale UB church in Hillsdale, Mich.*

Josh Good began serving in ministry at age 17 as a junior in high school, and knew he was called to the ministry. He has now served at five different UB churches in Indiana and Michigan. At Huntington University, where he earned a degree in Youth Ministry, he met Sara; they were married in 1999 and have three children. After working with middle and high school students for 20 years, he became lead pastor of Home-Front UB church in Grandville, Mich., where he served 2012-2018. Since then, he has been senior pastor of Hillsdale UB church in Hillsdale, Mich.

Josh recently received a Master's in Ministry through Evangelical Seminary and is now part of the school's doctoral program.

#### **Why are you interested in serving on the ELT?**

Josh: "I am willing and interested in serving on the ELT out of my great affection for the denomination, my desire to see our churches grow in maturity and in their proficiency to share the gospel, and to expand the reach of the church for the sake of Christ's Kingdom."

## Alternate: Randy Carpenter

*Colwood UB church in Caro, Mich.*

Randy Carpenter began his ministry by serving on staff at three UB churches. He was ordained in 1993 and began the first of three senior pastor roles: three years at Third Street UB (Fort Wayne, Ind.), 11 years at Shoreline (Oak Harbor, Ohio), and seven years at Sunfield (Sunfield, Mich.). Since 2018 Randy has been teaching pastor at Colwood UB (Caro, Mich.).

Randy holds a BA in Christian Education and a Master of Christian Ministries from Huntington University. In 2004 he received a Master of Arts in Theological Studies from Winebrenner Theological Seminary. He is a cluster leader, and has served on the Higher Education Leadership Team, the Huntington University board of trustees, the ELT (2015-2019), and is a current member of the Pastoral Ministry Leadership Team. He and Crystal were married in 2009.

### Why are you interested in serving on the ELT?

Randy: "I believe my calling is not only to the local church but to the health and vitality of our denomination. I believe it is important to be available when called on to assist where needed."

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## West District, Lay

### Michelle Harris

*Anchor Community Church in Fort Wayne, Ind.*

Michelle spent her first 12 years moving about twice a year across the US. Her family then settled in Fort Wayne, Ind., where she became a Christian through the influence of school friends. At Ball State University, she became grounded in Bible study through the InterVarsity group. There, she met Scott, who was an InterVarsity staff worker at Ball State. He went to Paris as a missionary and she began teaching school in Houston, but God eventually brought them together.

Michelle and Scott served 11 years as missionaries in Gabon (West Africa), and seven years in Nice, France. They returned to Fort Wayne in 2012 and became part of Emmanuel UB church. In 2016, Michelle began six years as an associate director of UB Global. She recently completed her Doctor of Theology from Evangelical Seminary. She and Scott are now very active members of Anchor UB church in Fort Wayne.

### Why are you interested in serving on the ELT?

Michelle: "I value leadership groups with a diversity of perspectives and life experience, and appreciate that the UB not only values men and women working together, but models it through those who serve on the ELT. I would like to be a part of encouraging young women in different ways of leading and serving. I think I have a unique perspective through the years of working at headquarters with UB Global as well as

experience in both a large UB church and a small one.”

## **Andy Veenstra**

*Emmanuel Community Church in Fort Wayne, Ind.*

Andy was raised in a Christian home and accepted Christ as a young boy. He graduated from Taylor University and led his wife-to-be to Christ while they were dating. Andy has been a commercial banker for 38 years. Through several company moves, he and Debbie have been involved with various ministries in the churches they’ve attended. During the past 12+ years, he has been a member of Emmanuel’s mission team, and has led 17 short-term mission teams. He is also active with Habitat for Humanity.

Andy and Debbie have been married for 38 years and have four grown children, two of whom are in fulltime Christian ministry.

### **Why are you interested in serving on the ELT?**

Andy: “When Steve Fish approached me about serving on the ELT, he felt I would have something to offer (life experiences/faith walk, etc.). I see this as another opportunity to support UB leadership and further Kingdom-building activities.”

## **Alternate: Jeffrey Sherlock**

*College Park UB church in Huntington, Ind.*

Jeff Sherlock has been a United Brethren member or attender since high school. From 1972-1990, he was part of Avlon UB church in Bremen, Ohio. He and Joan met at Camp Scioto near Junction City and were married in 1979. They became part of the Avlon church and brought three children into the world.

Jeff worked for a large printing company. He left that job in 1990, when the family moved to Macau as United Brethren missionaries. After two years, they returned to the States. They settled in Huntington, and have been members of College Park UB church ever since. Jeff taught for a while at Huntington University, and is now Professor of International Business and Management at Taylor University.

### **Why are you interested in serving on the ELT?**

Jeff: “Filling out this information sheet is ‘knocking on the door.’ If elected, I believe my background and education will assist in looking at strategically important issues in our denomination.”