

United Methodist Association of Communicators

Awards 2020

Welcome, and thank you

Dear United Methodist Communicators.

With this digital awards booklet, we celebrate the excellent work of United Methodist communicators through the annual Awards Program of the United Methodist Association of Communicators.

UMAC is a voluntary, professional organization designed to provide recognition, fellowship and vocational enrichment for professional and volunteer communicators of the church; plan, participate in and support training and continuing education events; develop standards and seek to enhance the professional quality of the work by United Methodist communicators; and assist in keeping members informed about developments in the communications industry and in promoting dialogue and discussion on technology and communication advocacy issues.

Each year, UMAC recognizes excellence in communication through an awards program, the United Methodist Association of Communicators Awards Contest. The contest recognizes excellence in print publications, digital publications, writing, internet communications, video production, audio, photography, visual design, publicity/advertising and media presentations.

High-quality work from United Methodist communicators across the nation is submitted to the contest and judged by a panel of first-rate judges. Those honored at the Awards Gala are the best of the best, and we applaud their fine work, as well as the strong work of the rest of the communicators who have entered this contest.

Competition is fierce, and we are grateful for the excellent work of so many writers, photographers, videographers and other communications professionals who dedicate their lives and their work to the Lord.

In addition to the work of United Methodist communicators, we also celebrate this evening one other significant contribution: UMAC's United Methodist Communicator of the Year. The Communicator of the Year is an active professional currently serving in a communications role who has made recent striking achievements in communication with broad impact, often breaking new ground for the church (see this year's winner, page 30).

Please join us in celebrating the work of all of these communicators and the passion each of us collectively brings to communications ministry as the body of Christ.

Sincerely,

The Executive Leadership Team of the United Methodist Association of Communicators

Executive Director—Royya James
Chairperson—Mark Doyal
Chairperson Emeritus—Art McClanahan
Vice-Chairperson—Rick Wolcott
Secretary—Jasmine Haynes
Treasurer—Andra Stevens
Leadership Development—Cathy Bruce

Membership—Carolyn Conover
Awards Coordinator—Jessica Brodie
Event Coordinator—Evelyn Warren
Webmaster—Todd Seifert
Communications—Tara Barnes
Database—Rev. Deborah Coble
Local Church School—Diane Degnan

Thanks to the 2020 Judges

The UMAC Executive Leadership Team thanks the following communications professionals who gave many hours of their talents and skills serving as judges of the 2020 United Methodist Association of Communicators Awards Contest:

Leon Alligood Kay Barksdale **Chris Blount** Rodney Bowen **Dave Bradford** Kristin Brooks **Jud Burkett Tracy Collins** Mark Forrester Callie Goodwin George Hohmann Heather Hunter Mitch Kline Paul Ladd Vincent Maloney Gary McClure Jill Meyer Julie Miller **Brandon Tomlin** Lisa Ware

About the Awards Contest

The spirit of this competition is to recognize the achievements of UMAC members who played a key role in the creative process (writing, designing, producing, etc.).

This year's UMAC Awards Contest considered communication material completed Nov. 1, 2018, to Oct. 31, 2019.

All entries were judged on meeting their stated purpose; content; creativity; execution; and regard for target audience, using a 50-point scale. Awards go to first, second and third place winners of each category in each division, with one Best of Class award given per class.

There are two divisions:

- A. Annual Conference or Local Church
- B. General Church Agency or Jurisdictional Area

There are 10 classes with multiple categories per class:

- Print publications
- Digital publications
- Writing
- Internet communications
- Video production
- Audio
- Photography
- Visual design
- Publicity and advertising
- Media presentations

2020 UMAC Award Winners

Listed by Class

Class 1 Print Publications



Best in Class 1, The Robert F. Storey Award of Excellence: Staff of United Methodist Communications The Advance Catalog

Category A, Newsletter, General/Agency Division:

1st Place Diana Durie

Georgia United Methodist Foundation Faith & Money Fall 2019, Summer 2019

and Winter 2019 Newsletters Georgia United Methodist Foundation

Category B, Newspaper, Annual Conference/Local Church Division:

1st Place Heather Mistretta and Staff

The GNJ Relay

United Methodists of Greater New Jersey

2nd Place Anne Marie Gerhardt and Natalie Rowe

Northern Illinois Conference Reporter (March, July/August, September)

Northern Illinois Conference

Category C, Magazine, Annual Conference/Local Church Division:

1st Place Doug Peninger

Through Centenary Windows (July/August, September/October,

November/December)
Centenary UMC, Winston Salem



2nd Place Fred Koenig

The Missouri Methodists
Missouri Conference

3rd Place Caleb Hennington

The Arkansas United Methodist: June, July, August 2019
Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church

Category C, Magazine, General/Agency Division:

1st Place Tara Barnes, Tanya Krawciw and Debbie Smalley

response Magazine

United Methodist Women

Category D, Special Publication, Annual Conference/Local Church Division:

1st Place Carolyn Conover and Brittney Reilly

The Way We Gather Makes a Difference United Methodists of Greater New Jersey

2nd Place Staff

The Circuit Rider Souvenir Journal 2019

Mississippi Annual Conference

3rd Place Melissa McGill

Stories of Faith

Western North Carolina Conference

Category D, Special Publication, General/Agency Division:

1st Place Staff

The Advance Catalog

United Methodist Communications

2nd Place Staff

United Methodist Women Program Book 2019-2020, Let Your Light Shine, Ignited

Rint Publication

for Justice

United Methodist Women

3rd Place Diana Durie

Impacting Lives Together! Georgia United Methodist Foundation 2018

Annual Report

Georgia United Methodist Foundation

Class 2 Digital Publications

Best in Class 2:

Sharon Dean, Brandy Bivens and Melissa Jackson,

Local Church Resource Guide

General Council on Finance & Administration



Category A, eNewsletter, Annual Conference/Local Church Division

1st Place Staff

Mlfaith - June 28, August 2, August 16

Michigan Conference

2nd Place Anne Marie Gerhardt

Northern Illinois Conference eNews - Sept. 26, Oct. 3, Oct. 24

Northern Illinois Conference

3rd Place Day Davis

ARUMC Weekly E-News: <u>June 19</u>, <u>August 1</u>, <u>July 25</u>, <u>2019</u> Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church

Category A, eNewsletter, General/Agency Division

1st Place Melissa Jackson, Brandy Bivens and Sharon Dean

The Collaborator - <u>January</u>, <u>May</u>, <u>September</u> General Council on Finance and Administration

2nd Place UM News Staff

UM News Daily Digest Feb. 23-26, 2019, General Conference Coverage

United Methodist News Service - File 1, File 2, File 3



Category B, Electronic Publication, Annual Conference/Local Church Division

1st Place Fred Koenig

<u>The Missouri Methodists</u> Missouri Conference

2nd Place Derek Leek, Chris Daniel and LeeAnne Thornton

Connections - File1, File2, File3 North Carolina Conference

3rd Place Meagan Ewton

The Contact - March, June, October

Oklahoma

Category C, Electronic Special Publication, Annual Conference/Local Church Division

1st Place Paul Perez and Lisa Drake Collins

Engage MI 2019 Michigan Conference

2nd Place Staff

Conference Circuit: West Virginia Annual Conference Special Edition

Wednesday/Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday

West Virginia Annual Conference

Category C, Electronic Special Publication, General/Agency Division

1st Place Sharon Dean, Brandy Bivens and Melissa Jackson

Local Church Resource Guide

General Council on Finance and Administration

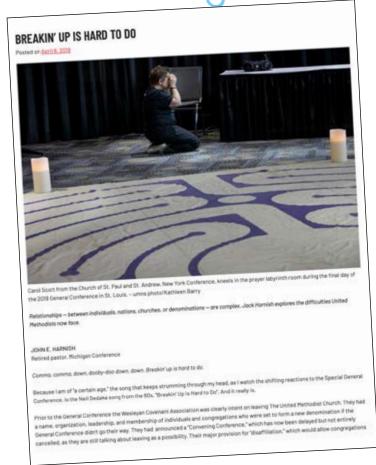
2nd Place Katie Tait, Dr. Kim Cape and Cynthia Howard

General Secretary Messages for Thought and Reflection - File1, File2

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry



Class 3 Writing



Best in Class 3, The Donn Doten Award of Excellence:

John E. Harnish Breakin' Up Is Hard to Do Michigan Conference

Category A, Nonfiction Story, Annual Conference/Local Church Division

1st Place John E. Harnish

Breakin' Up Is Hard to Do Michigan Conference

2nd Place Melissa McGill

The Light Within You

Western North Carolina Conference

3rd Place Todd Seifert

(Tie) Great Plains Response Teams Bring Hope to Flooded Nebraska Towns

Great Plains

Caleb Hennington

From the Editor: It's OK to Not Be OK, October 2019
Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church

Serena Acker

There's Hope: A Website Apology
Indiana United Methodist Conference



Class 3 Writing

Category A, Nonfiction Story, General/Agency Division

1st Place Katie Tait, Donnie Reed and Cynthia Howard

The Five Church Performance Measures that Matter General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

2nd Place Janet M. Carrato, Pamela Garofolo and Dean Livingston

Mr. Hudson Benefits from Tapestries® Model of Care

United Methodist Communities

Category B, News Article, Annual Conference/Local Church Division

1st Place Arthur McClanahan, Courtney Levin and Liz Winders

Hamburg Flood: Residents Find Strength Through Church, Community

2nd Place Forrest White and Madeline Pillow

Virginia Delegation Takes Progressive Turn

Virginia Conference

3rd Place Kay DeMoss

See the Footprint of the UMC in Flint

Michigan Conference

Category B, News Article, General/Agency Division

1st Place Heather Hahn

GC2019 Maps Uncertain Way Forward

2nd Place Katie Tait and Cynthia Howard

Methodist University Leaders Call for Broad Ecclesiastical Support of LGBTQ

Community

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

3rd Place Tara Barnes

General Conference 2019 United Methodist Women

Category C, Feature Article, Annual Conference/Local Church Division

1st Place Forrest White

Couple Fighting for Surrogacy Rights Finds Support at Church

Virginia Conference

Class 3 Writing

2nd Place Upper New York Communications Team

Three Men on a Mission
Upper New York Conference

3rd Place Caleb Hennington

Saving History, Emmet UMC

Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church

Category C, Feature Article, General/Agency Division

1st Place Heather Hahn

Growing the Church in West Africa

2nd Place Tara Barnes

Sanctuary and Separation United Methodist Women

Category D, Article Series, Annual Conference/Local Church Division

1st Place David Burke

Nebraska Flooding Response - File1, File2

Great Plains

2nd Place Sybil Davidson and Rebecca Wallace

Meet the Laity - File1, File2, File3, File4, File5

North Georgia Conference

Category D, Article Series, General/Agency Division

1st Place Joey Butler, Mike DuBose and Deborah Coble

The Road to Recovery in West Virginia: The Church Responds to the Opioid

Crisis

United Methodist News Service

2nd Place Christie R. House

UMCOR and Native American Communities in the United States - File1, File2,

File3

General Board of Global Ministries

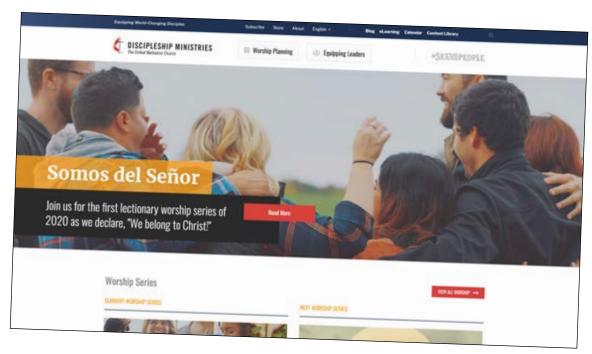
3rd Place Katie Tait

The Black College Fund Summer Series - File1, File2, File3, File4, File5

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry



Class 4 Internet Communication



Best in Class 4:

Matt Carlisle, Steve Horswill-Johnston and Staff UMCdiscipleship.org Discipleship Ministries

Category A, Website, Annual Conference/Local Church Division

1st Place Jayna McFarland

Great Plains website

Great Plains

2nd Place Staff

WVUMC.org, a Ministry of the West Virginia Conference of The United

Methodist Church

West Virginia Annual Conference

Category A, Website, General/Agency Division

1st Place Matt Carlisle, Steve Horswill-Johnston and Staff

<u>UMCdiscipleship.org</u> Discipleship Ministries

2nd Place Brandy Bivens, Sharon Dean and Melissa Jackson

United Methodist Insurance Website

General Council on Finance and Administration

Category B, Blog, Annual Conference/Local Church Division

1st Place Staff

Reflections

Mississippi Annual Conference

2nd Place Annette Spence

The Call to Cook
Holston Conference

3rd Place Todd Seifert

Multimedia Tools in Worship - File1, File2, File3, File4

Great Plains

Category C, Social Media Online Content, Annual Conference/Local Church Division

1st Place Chris Bradley: I Believe in the Church - File1 and File2

West Ohio Conference

2nd Place Great Plains Instagram

Great Plains

3rd Place <u>Live-Tweet Coverage of Special General Conference 2019</u>

Iowa

Category C, Social Media Online Content, General/Agency Division

1st Place Katie Tait

Memorial Day Video: The Four Chaplains

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

Category D, Mobile Apps, Annual Conference/Local Church Division

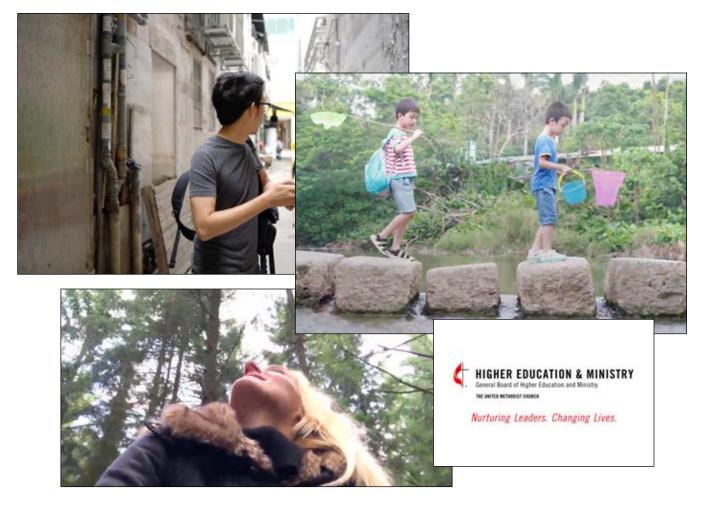
1st Place Jayna McFarland

Great Plains App - Apple and Google Play

Great Plains



Class 5 Video



Best in Class 5, The Hilly Hicks Award of Excellence:

Donnie Reed, Katie Tait and Cynthia Howard Brand Video "Preparing Leaders for a Global Church" General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

Category A, Video Production Less than \$500, Annual Conference/ Local Church Division

1st Place Chris Daniel and Derek Leek

Women in Ministry

North Carolina Conference

2nd Place Brent Donaway

<u>The Maker's Place Introduction Video</u> United Methodists of Greater New Jersey

3rd Place David Stucke, Doreen Gosmire and Eric Brown

The Journey at Spirit Lake



Category A, Video Production Less than \$500, General/Agency Division

1st Place Katie Tait and Donnie Reed

A Life Changed: André Vieira

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

Category B, Video Production \$500-\$2,000, Annual Conference/Local Church Division

1st Place Nathan Bonnes, Julie Mirlicourtois and Brittany Holland

Your Ways Are Better The Story Houston

2nd Place Brent Donaway

Pinelands Center at Mt. Misery—Camper Experience

United Methodists of Greater New Jersey

3rd Place Doreen Gosmire and David Stucke

Simpson UMC Surrenders Life, Trusts in Resurrection

Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

Category C, Video Production \$2,000 and Up, General/Agency Division

1st Place Donnie Reed, Katie Tait and Cynthia Howard

Brand Video "Preparing Leaders for a Global Church" General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

2nd Place Steve Horswill-Johnston and Andrew Jensen

On the Brühl I A Documentary Short

Discipleship Ministries

3rd Place Staff, Image Revolver

Connections: Rich and Marion United Methodist Communities

Category D, TV Ad or Promotion, Annual Conference/Local Church Division

1st Place Eugenio Hernandez

Daily Devotions Sign-up Campaign

Great Plains

2nd Place Brent Donaway and Dwayne Gayle

IGNITE Communities Promotion

United Methodists of Greater New Jersey



3rd Place Nicholas Ruxton

General Conference Election Instructional Video

Virginia Conference

Category D, TV Ad or Promotion, General/Agency Division

1st Place Staff

Celebrating United Methodist Women's 150th Anniversary, 2019

United Methodist Women

2nd Place Rae Grant

Wellness Wednesday
United Methodist Women

3rd Place Rae Grant and Mary Chen

What About Our Money?
United Methodist Women

Category E, Streaming, Annual Conference/Local Church Division

1st Place Eugenio Hernandez

2019 Annual Conference Livestream

Great Plains

2nd Place Staff

Livestream AC 2019

Dakotas Annual Conference

3rd Place Upper New York Conference Communications Team

Post Special Session Gathering
Upper New York Conference

Category F, Video News Story, Annual Conference/Local Church Division

1st Place Doreen Gosmire, David Stucke and Eric Brown

Celebrate Recovery

Dakotas Annual Conference

2nd Place Eugenio Hernandez

Great Plains Disaster Response Nebraska Flooding 2019

Great Plains

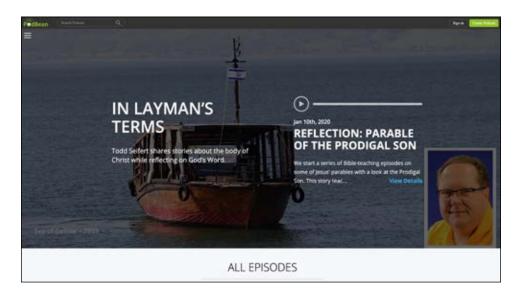
3rd Place Nicholas Ruxton and Madeline Pillow

Circles Ashland: Breaking the Cycle of Poverty

Virginia Conference



Class 6 Audio



Best in Class 6:
Todd Seifert
In Layman's Terms:
A Town's
Resurrection Story
Great Plains

Category A, Radio Spot or Interview

No entries

Category B, Podcast or Internet Stream, Annual Conference/Local Church Division

1st Place Todd Seifert

In Layman's Terms: A Town's Resurrection Story

Great Plains

2nd Place Sybil Davidson and Bishop Sue Haupert-Johnson

(Tie) <u>At the Table with Bishop Sue</u>

North Georgia Conference

Arthur McClanahan

General Conference 2019, Monday Report

3rd Place Emanuel Lirag and Amie Stewart

TODOTW Episode 11: Punk & Podcasting with Adam Baker

North Carolina Conference

Category B, Podcast or Internet Stream, General/Agency Division

1st Place Ryan Dunn and Pierce Drake

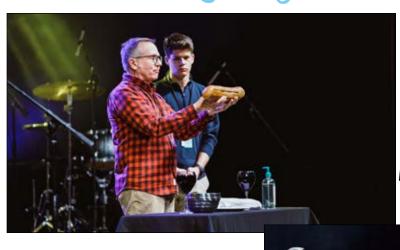
The Compass Podcast: What Still Needs to Be Said about Suicide

and Mental Health

United Methodist Communications



Class 7 Photography





Best in Class 7: The Donald B. Moyer Award of Excellence

Day Davis

Veritas 2019

Arkansas Conference of the
United Methodist Church





Category A, Photojournalism, Annual Conference/Local Church Division

1st Place Luke Lucas

Joy in the Chaos

Alabama-West Florida Conference

2nd Place Brandon J. Abbott

Young Wyandotte Dancer West Ohio Conference

3rd Place Deborah Coble

Smoke and Ashes: The Florence Memorial Fire

West Virginia Annual Conference



Category A, Photojournalism, General/Agency Division

1st Place Mike DuBose and Kathy Gilbert

After the Cyclone, Faith Abides
United Methodist News Service

2nd Place Teresa Tate

With You Always

Lake Junaluska Conference & Retreat Center

Category B, Portrait, Annual Conference/Local Church Division

1st Place Connie Offutt

Michael Romans Ordination Reflection

Kentucky Annual Conference

2nd Place Cathy Bruce

Woman at Worship

Kentucky Annual Conference

3rd Place Christina Choh

Nancy Meredith, Board of Ordained Ministry for the ARUMC

Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church

Category C, Commercial Product or Staged Shot, Annual Conference/ Local Church Division

1st Place Stephen Coburn

Petit Jean Mountain, Arkansas

Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church

Category D, Photo Series, Annual Conference/Local Church Division

1st Place Day Davis

Veritas 2019

Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church

2nd Place Matt Brodie

Communicating General Conference

South Carolina United Methodist Conference

3rd Place Shari DeAngelo

2019 Ordination

United Methodists of Greater New Jersey



Category D, Photo Series, General/Agency Division

1st Place Melissa Jackson, Brandy Bivens and Sharon Dean

UMC Support Portraits

General Council on Finance and Administration

2nd Place Staff and Dennis Degnan

The United Methodist Communities Lifestyle

United Methodist Communities

3rd Place Staff

The Night Has Not Overcome the Day

Lake Junaluska Conference & Retreat Center



Class & Visual Design



Best in Class 8: David Giles

and Sybil
Davidson
At the Table
with Bishop
Sue Podcast
Art
North
Georgia
Conference

Category A, Artwork, Annual Conference/Local Church Division

1st Place Kylie Marino

Ebenezer Hispanic Fellowship: Handprints of Change

Tennessee Conference

2nd Place Cindy Young

2019 KY Annual Conference session graphic

Kentucky Annual Conference

Category A, Artwork, General/Agency Division

1st Place Dawn Scott

GBHEM Supports Young Clergy Discernment through Engaging

Journal

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry



Category B, Print and Electronic Design, Annual Conference/Local Church Division

1st Place Christina Choh

Quest Banner

Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church

2nd Place Thomas Waldren

Suicide Prevention Postcard West Ohio Conference

3rd Place Mary Catherine Phillips, Karla Merritt and Luke Lucas

Email Template Upgrade

Alabama-West Florida Conference

Category B, Print and Electronic Design, General/Agency Division

1st Place Donnie Reed, Cynthia Howard and Katie Tait

"Lead On. We're With You." Poster

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

2nd Place Sharon Dean, Brandy Bivens and Melissa Jackson

2018 Annual Report

General Council on Finance and Administration

3rd Place Rae Grant

Managing Anxiety: A Youth Study

United Methodist Women

Category C, Website Visual Design, General/Agency Division

1st Place Donnie Reed, Katie Tait and Cynthia Howard

GBHEM.org

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

2nd Place Brandy Bivens, Sharon Dean and Melissa Jackson

UMC Well Website

General Council on Finance and Administration

Category D, Motion Graphics, Annual Conference/Local Church Division

1st Place Doreen Gosmire, David Stucke and Gavin Wigg (Tie) 2019 AC Countdown Animation - File1, File2, File3

Brandon J. Abbott CEE the People

West Ohio Conference



2nd Place Brent Donaway and Edison Lee

Next Generation Ministries Rooted Series Motion Graphic

United Methodists of Greater New Jersey

3rd Place Connie Offutt

AC 2019 Mission Offering Open Kentucky Annual Conference

Category E, Branding/Logo Design, Annual Conference/Local Church Division

1st Place David Giles and Sybil Davidson

At the Table with Bishop Sue Podcast Art

North Georgia Conference

2nd Place Brittney Reilly and Carolyn Conover

Branding: Creative and Strategic Guidebook United Methodists of Greater New Jersey

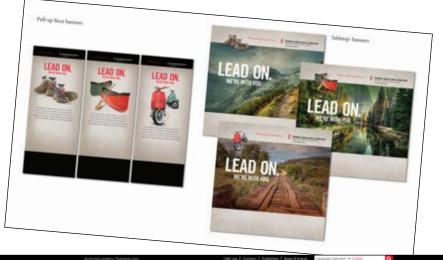
3rd Place Mary Catherine Phillips and Karla Merritt

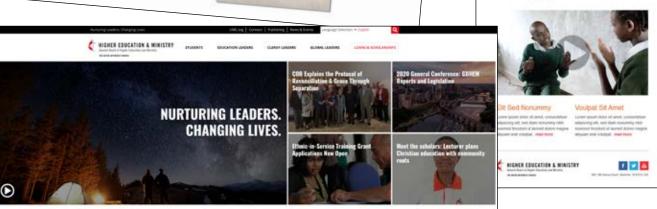
This We Proclaim

Alabama-West Florida Conference



Class 9 Publicity & Advertising





Best in Class 9:

The Leonard M. Perryman Award of Excellence

GBHEM Office of Marketing and Communications GBHEM Leadership Brand, 2019 Launch Overview General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

Category A, Campaign/Strategic Planning, Annual Conference/ Local Church Division

1st Place Mary Catherine Phillips and Luke Lucas

Hurricane Michael Remembrance - File1, File2

Lead On. We're With You.

Alabama-West Florida Conference

2nd Place Staff

(Tie) 2019 IGNITE Youth Conference - File1, File2, File3

United Methodists of Greater New Jersey



C HICKER EDUCATION & MI

2nd Place Staff

(Tie) Winter Thaw - File1, File2, File3, Flle4

Upper New York Conference

3rd Place Karla Hovde

Camp Minnesota Promotional Materials

Category A, Campaign/Strategic Planning, General/Agency Division

1st Place GBHEM Office of Marketing and Communications

GBHEM Leadership Brand, 2019 Launch Overview - File1, File2

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

2nd Place Staff

ResourceUMC.org Marketing Campaign

United Methodist Communications

3rd Place Staff

Winter Youth Retreats - File1, File2, File3
Lake Junaluska Conference & Retreat Center

Category B, Single Piece, Annual Conference/Local Church Division

1st Place Karla Hovde and Christa Meland

New Places for New People: Multiplication Across the Dakotas-Minnesota Area

Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

2nd Place Mark Doyal

How We Share

Michigan Conference

Category B, Single Piece, General/Agency Division

1st Place Jan Snider, Troy Dossett and Poonam Patodia

New York Times UMCOR Ad

United Methodist Communications

2nd Place Staff

Conferences and Retreats at Lake Junaluska Lake Junaluska Conference & Retreat Center



Class 10 Media Presentation



Best in Class 10:

Mike DuBose, Gustavo
Vasquez and Joey Butler
"John Wesley"
Sails the Amazon
United Methodist
News Service









Category A, Slide Show, Annual Conference/Local Church Division

1st Place Jayna McFarland

How To Use Social Media In Your Local Church - File1, Flle2

Great Plains

2nd Place Ed Chapman and Jasmine Haynes

2019 Conference-Wide Day of Mission

Mississippi Annual Conference



Category B, Multimedia, Annual Conference/Local Church Division

1st Place Upper New York Communications Team

UNY Annual Conference Coverage - File1, Flle2, File3, File4, File5

Upper New York Conference

2nd Place Staff

Renovate: 2019 Lenten Study - File1, File2, File3, File4, File5

Dakotas Conference of The United Methodist Church

3rd Place Joe Webb, Deborah Coble, Communications Team

Seeds of Hope - File1, Flle2, File3, File4, File5

West Virginia Annual Conference

Category B, Multimedia, General/Agency Division

1st Place Mike DuBose, Gustavo Vasquez and Joey Butler

"John Wesley" Sails the Amazon United Methodist News Service

2nd Place Matt Carlisle and Steve Horswill-Johnston

See All the People: Discipleship Begins with Relationship Teaching Series

Discipleship Ministries

3rd Place Katie Tait, Donnie Reed and Cynthia Howard

Email/Video Brand Launch, GBHEM Center for Leadership Development

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

Category C, Display Table, Annual Conference/Local Church Division

1st Place Day Davis, Rodney Steele and Amy Ezell

Culture of Call Display

Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church

Category C, Display Table, General/Agency Division

1st Place Dawn Scott

Connecting Youth and Their Mentors to GBHEM General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

2nd Place Staff

Wesley Bros Display Booth

United Methodist Communications



2020 UMAC Special Award

Communicator of the Year

Communicator of the Year

UMAC's 2020 Recipient Todd Rossnagel

Director of Communications
Louisiana Conference of The United Methodist Church



Todd Rossnagel is a communicator who has known how to tell a story since childhood.

Todd got his break when his family purchased their first VHS camcorder. He would film Christmas morning festivities and mail the tapes to his grandmother in Chicago. From that experience, he developed an interest (some may call an obsession) in television, especially sports reporting. He had a career as a sports producer and reporter, news anchor, and feature reporter that lasted 15 years. He moved on to work for the State of Louisiana in a program that recruited companies to the state. He produced educational, instructional content to help these companies prepare their workers.

Now, as a licensed local pastor in Louisiana, Todd continues to follow one of his primary passions—to educate people about the love of Christ. He is heavily involved in Kairos prison ministry at Angola. He would say he has learned more about Christ's love in that capacity than in any other experience he has had.

As you can see, learning and education of others is a common thread throughout Todd's life. He has a degree in secondary speech education. If you have ever asked him a question that starts with, "How do you...," you know you have received a patient, enthusiastic, and thorough answer. In the classroom of life, Todd is the kid whose hand always shoots up high to ask ALL the questions and debate all the answers. And we are all better for it.

About the UMAC Communicator of the Year.

The Communicator of the Year is selected based on these criteria: active professional, currently serving in a communications role (at least three years of communication-related employment within the denomination); UMAC member (nominations are made by UMAC members for UMAC members); recent striking achievements in communication (i.e., previous/current year); broad impact of the contribution; and vision-thinking beyond the present/immediate demands of the job, breaking new ground.

