

Montreat Youth Conference

2020 Leadership Bios

Alpha

Week 1 | June 7–13
Week 2 | June 14–20

Theta

Week 3 | July 12–18
Week 4 | July 19–25

Omega

Week 5 | July 26–Aug 1
Week 6 | Aug 2–Aug 8

Alpha Leadership



Gail Henderson-Belsito – Keynoter

I was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, and attended Williams College in Massachusetts where I met my husband. We moved to Charlotte, NC, with our two children in 2002. I love to travel, journal, and eat homemade chocolate chip cookies. Even though I love to teach, preach, and pray with people, I find my greatest joy in silence and solitude, with my journal and several pens in various colors close by.



Chris Henry – Preacher

Chris lives out his call to congregational ministry as senior pastor of Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis, where he serves and leads out of a deep conviction that churches have both the capacity and the mandate to be places of transformation in individual lives, the broader community, and the world. Chris is a graduate of Duke University and Columbia Theological Seminary, and previously served churches in Atlanta, GA. He is married to Rev. Sara Hayden, who serves the PC(USA) through the 1001 New Worshipping Communities movement. Sara and Chris are the parents of two sons, Samuel (6) and Benjamin (3). Chris loves running long distances, grilling on the Big Green Egg, watching Duke basketball, reading novels, and traveling with friends and family (especially to the mountains of western Colorado and North Carolina). He has loved Montreat since his first conference as an eighth grader in 1997.



Steve Lindsley – Music Leader

When Steve Lindsley is not being a pastor at Trinity Presbyterian Church of Charlotte, or sermonizing, or songwriting/gigging, or keynoting/leading music for various retreats and conferences, or working out, or enjoying a beach vacation with his wife and two teenage sons, or cheering on his beloved Carolina Panthers and Charlotte Hornets, it probably means he's sleeping.



Jerry Chapman – Music Leader

Jerry is a full-time musician, spending his days and nights (and Sunday mornings) playing restaurants, listening rooms, coffeehouses, and, of course, churches. He lives in Mount Airy, NC, with his wife Jennifer and his two crazy, awesome kids, Georgia (15) and Matthew (13). When he is not playing music, sleeping, or hanging with his family, he enjoys reading and running. He is not particularly fast at either.



Carla Dos Santos-Webb – Music Leader

Music has played a major role in Carla Dos Santos-Webb's life as a singer-songwriter and worship leader. Raised in Apex, NC, Carla followed God's direction towards music in her later teenage years. She earned a BS majoring in music while receiving her Bible certificate at Columbia International University in Columbia, South Carolina. Carla has witnessed the power of worship to bring healing and meaning in a variety of contexts and cultures from large, blended traditional/contemporary churches in the Carolinas to a multi-ethnic house church in Italy. She seeks to point to God's presence and power through youth ministry, mentorship, and the daily grind of a Christ-centered life. Today, Carla continues to lead worship at different churches in the Carolinas and to touch people through worship, music, and life's ongoing journeys.



Kim McNeill – Recreation Leader

Kim has served youth and their families at University Presbyterian Church in Chapel Hill, NC for the past 12 years. She loves games that make you laugh and trips in the van. When she's not in Chapel Hill, you can find her on a NC beach. Kim loves Montreat Youth Conference and is excited to be gathering this community together though play.



Kyrie Blocker – Recreation Leader

Kyrie is a Nursing student at Florida State University. She works as a barista at her Ukirk coffee shop and on the nursery staff at her church. She is so excited to laugh and play with everyone, and hopes to help youth have an awesome MYC experience!

Theta Leadership



Rodger Nishioka – Keynoter

Rodger Nishioka serves as the senior associate pastor at Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, Kansas. He joined the staff in 2016 after serving for 15 years on the faculty of Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. At Village Church, he works with the other associate pastors and ministry directors and carries major responsibility for adult faith formation. The son of an honorably retired Presbyterian pastor, Rodger is evidence that you can be a pastor's kid and still love Jesus.



Clare Parry Lozano – Preacher

Clare loves her call as pastor at Heritage Presbyterian Church in Olathe, KS, where the Spirit is on the move and helping shape a community of radical welcome and love. Clare has also embraced her Kansas farm roots in the past couple of years. She and her family now live just south of Kansas City on their newly founded farm, Luna Acres, where they raise Idaho Pasture Pigs and chickens.



Marcus Hong – Music Leader

Marcus A. Hong is a child of God and a cultivator of worship who has served in congregations, new worshipping communities, college chapels, and youth groups for over fifteen years. He is the director of field education, chapel worship coordinator, and assistant professor of practical theology at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and a PhD candidate in Christian education and formation at Princeton Theological Seminary. Originally from Salt Lake City, UT, Marcus is a lover of movies, fantasy literature, poetry, and songwriting. He and his wife Sarah have their hands blessedly full raising two precocious children.



Darci McKinnon – Music Leader

Howdy folks! I live in Edmond, Oklahoma with my amazing PCUSA pastor husband John, daughter, Aidan age 18, and son Ian age 8. I am a crazy, creative, energetic person who truly loves to hang out young people. I am passionate about making a joyful noise in anyway that makes your inner heart sing and your outer voice resonate. When I am not pretending to be a responsible adult, you can usually find me behind a sewing machine, reading books really fast or helping others explore and express their own creativity.



Kelly Fitzgerald – Recreation Leader

Give Kelly a big cup of coffee and she can conquer the world. Fueled by the power of the Holy Spirit - she loves a good laugh, a fun game, and a solid high five between friends both old and new. When not at Montreat, she leads Family Ministry at her church, trying to find new and exciting ways for folks of all ages to be the church together.



Cliff Haddox – Recreation Leader

Cliff is a husband and father of two kids who enjoy play as much as he does, and is happy to talk about how faith, geek culture, and the latest board & video games all fit together. He has been a pastor in Dayton, OH, for seven years and previously served churches in Pennsylvania and Georgia. In addition to his work in ministry, Cliff is also the dungeon master for his presbytery pastors' D&D group, and finds passion in using his past skills as a morning show DJ and online content creator as RevnGeek in his church work.

Omega Leadership



Mark Yaconelli – Keynoter

Mark Yaconelli is the Executive Director of The Hearth, a nonprofit that uses community storytelling for social transformation. Mark is also the Co-Founder of The Center for Engaged Compassion where he served as the director of formation. Mark is a veteran retreat leader, youth worker, speaker, and community activist. He is the author of 5 books including *Wonder, Fear, and Longing: A Book of Prayer* and *The Gift of Hard Things: Finding Grace in Unexpected Places*.



Cecelia Armstrong – Preacher

Lovingly called Pastor CC, she loves children, enjoys dancing, and adores butterflies. Pastor CC is a graduate of Spelman College, the University of Southern Mississippi, and the Interdenominational Theological Center where she earned a MDiv at Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary. Pastor CC is a cradle Presbyterian born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, and the youngest of five siblings.



Tony McNeill – Music Leader

Dr. Tony McNeill affectionately known as "Dr. T.," is a sought-after workshop clinician, lecturer, consultant, mentor, and guest choral conductor throughout the country. He currently serves as Interim Choral Director at Texas Southern University (TSU). Prior to coming to TSU in 2017, Dr. McNeill served almost five years as the Director of Worship and the Arts at Atlanta's Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, "America's Freedom Church." In addition to his work at TSU, Dr. McNeill is a member of the staff of Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary (JCSTS), based in Atlanta, where he serves as Program Director for the JCSTS Certificate in Worship Leadership.

He has extensive experience and passion for music ministry organization and administration, worship education, worship leader/clergy professional development, and mentoring. His current research interests include: the convergence of song and sacrament, leadership and performance practices of congregational song in black churches, and exploring connections between worship, ethics, and justice.



Laura Becker – Recreation Leader

Laura is a child of God, wife, mom, pastor, knitter, cross-word puzzler, and amateur crafter who loves TV political dramas and Broadway musicals. She also loves being in the mountains of Montreat and can't wait to play and re-create with everyone!



Mich Phillips – Recreation Leader

Mich lives in the ever changing weather state of Kansas, smack dab in the mid-west. She is currently serving as the Director of Christian Education and Congregational Ministries at The Kirk on the other side of the Heartland in Missouri. Michelle or Mich as most call her, enjoys evening movies outside with her family and friends. She is excited to be a part of Omega and is looking forward to spending time back at Montreat!