

ALL IN COMMUNITY HEALING COMMUNITY TRAINERS

Miami Valley District

Rev. Dr. Amelia Boomershine is a United Methodist deacon and Director of Go Tell Communications. She leads Children's Worship at Grace UMC in Dayton and Sacred Stories Circles in the Montgomery County Jail. Amelia previously worked with men at Chillicothe Correctional Institution. Amelia's book on biblical storytelling with incarcerated men and women, *Breath of Fresh Air*, will be published by Wipf & Stock in 2017. Amelia received her MDiv and DMin degrees from United Theological Seminary. She is a certified trainer for Healing Communities, an initiative sponsored by the West Ohio Conference to help churches become Stations of Hope for members impacted by incarceration.

"There are a great number of people in every community who are directly impacted by incarceration—those in Ohio's jails and prisons, their families and friends, as well as their victims. All of us are indirectly impacted because of the high cost of maintaining our correctional institutions. But few United Methodist churches pay much attention to the pain and brokenness accompanying involvement with the criminal justice system. I look forward to the ways in which the Healing Communities framework can change that by empowering our West Ohio congregations to practice restorative justice and fulfill Jesus' command to "visit those in prison" (Matthew 25:36)"

Ohio River Valley District

Reba Collins currently serves as the All In Community Consultant. Her previous work in community development and engagement with The Gathering in Middletown, Ohio opened her eyes to the wide-spread impact of incarceration in our communities. She has experience in leadership development, creating healthy organizational cultures, and strategic planning. Reba serves on the small group ministry team at Faith Community UMC (West Chester) and has served on the Butler County Bridges Out of Poverty Coalition and the organizing team to establish the Butler County Reentry Coalition. Reba holds a B.A. in international relations and Japanese studies from William Jewell College (Liberty, MO) and a M.Ed. in higher education administration from Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN).

"What I love about the Healing Communities Framework is that is completely contextual. We know that each church's community and situation is different, and the Healing Communities Framework recognizes that one size does not fit all. I am excited to be helping our churches demonstrate God's love, grace, forgiveness, and redemptive power with a population that our culture says needs to be thrown away and forgotten."

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Capitol Area South District

Wendy Tarr has worked across the country with faith communities as a community organizer for 12 years -- engaging on various justice issues including workers' rights, living wages, affordable healthcare, responsible development and immigration reform. Wendy currently works alongside restored citizens and families impacted by incarceration. Together, they address issues that pertain to re-entry and to advocate around criminal justice reform in Ohio. She leads a Central Ohio nonprofit called the Vincentian Ohio Action Network (formed by the Society of St. Vincent De Paul in 2014). This network has two organizing projects: the Newark Think Tank on Poverty and Restored Citizens and Communities for Change. Both projects focus on empowering people impacted by poverty or incarceration to work together for systemic change. Wendy is also working with a new network in Delaware County that is bringing together faith and community leaders with people impacted by incarceration to create better systems and programs to help with reentry. Wendy is active with the Re-entry Coalitions in Franklin, Delaware, and Licking County. Wendy and her husband Robb have two children and are members of a United Methodist Church in the Capitol Area South District.

"The Healing Communities Framework is a great opportunity to deploy my professional experiences to work with faith communities at the intersection of faith and justice and the intersection between faith motivations and public life."

Capitol Area North District

Harris Tay currently serves as the Director of Diversity Initiatives for the West Ohio Conference. Previously, Harris served as the Executive Director of the Wesley Community Center in Dayton and as a Learning Facilitator with the Army and Air Force Exchange Service. Harris has extensive experiences in community organizing, non-profit management, and fundraising, and he is a gifted facilitator and trainer in his areas of passion – inclusion and ministry with the marginalized. Harris holds both Bachelor's and Master's degrees with honors from Clark Atlanta University.