

LLUMC Conversations: Information about our Panelists

Dr. Clifton Howard has been a pastor for nearly 40 years, having served 12 congregations in the Central Texas Conference. He has also served as a District Superintendent, and is currently privileged to serve as the Assistant to Bishop Lowry in the Central Texas Conference. His highest priority and desire is to be the most faithful follower of Jesus Christ that he can be.

Dr. Baranda Fermin is Community Curator of Sunday Spread, a worship gathering of Union Coffee and associate pastor at University Park UMC. Baranda is an accomplished higher education professional and nonprofit leader with experience in program design operations, training, community development, and research. She has a gift for seeing long range patterns and developing visions, yet her first love is writing.

She has numerous published articles including a book of prayers and prose, *For Our Boys: A Mother's Prayers*. She makes life beautiful by using words to share the stories of our lives, as a writer and preacher. Her favorite things on earth are yoga, tacos and her son, Montgomery James

Danielle "Pockett" Brown has been the drummer of the Thrive and Crosswalk Churches of LLUMC for four years. Being born to a family of Pentecostal musicians, singers and preachers it was only natural that at the early age of seven she began singing and playing drums in church. Over the years Brown continued honing her God-given gift, touring with various jazz artists while running a multimedia company with her husband, Jirard. With God and music at the core of her life, Brown aims to use the power of sound to heal, equipped with her background and recently obtained music therapy certification.

Rev. Macie Liptoi will be commissioned as Provisional Elder in the North Texas Conference at our postponed Annual Conference in September. In the meantime, she serves as a Licensed Local Pastor at Lovers Lane over our 723 Ministries in West Dallas, working to create a community that reaches out to marginalized people, specifically those who identify as LGBTQ+ and the artists that live in the neighborhood.

Dr. Stan Copeland has served as the Senior Pastor of Lovers Lane United Methodist Church for 22 years. He has strong roots in East Texas, where he was called to ministry as a young man, and where he served as part of the Texas Conference to begin his ministry. He and his wife, Tammy, have two grown children, both of whom live in Dallas. They are smitten by their granddaughter, Claire. Stan has been elected to serve as a delegate to General Conference and is the author of *Together: United Methodists of the Temple, Tabernacle, and Table*.