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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2025 - 2026

Meet the McMurry Board Of Trustees

A strong and dedicated Board of Trustees is McMurry University’s most vital guarantee of strategic success.

The Board of Trustees appoints and directs the president who, in turn, manages McMurry University. The board provides vital policy leadership and oversight in critical areas as well as oversees the financial performance of the University. Its members are long-range planners who help define the University’s philosophy. They offer their knowledge and experience as well as financial support to help ensure the success of the University in its mission and commitment to Christian higher education.

McMurry is fortunate to have an exceptionally gifted and dedicated board. Each trustee has contributed in significant ways to make McMurry the wonderful institution it is today.

The role of a trustee involves serious work and a significant time commitment. The board meets four times a year for one and a half to two days, usually on campus, in October, February, April, and June. A strong committee structure provides the framework for the board to oversee the important functions for which it is responsible.

The trustees are a highly accomplished, dedicated, and energetic group of people who share an uncommon loyalty for, and commitment to McMurry and its status as one of the best universities of its kind in the country.

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Cindy Rucker Allen '80, J.D.

*The Whitten Law Firm, P.C.
Abilene, Texas*

Chair, Advancement Committee
Board Member: 2022 to present

Civic and Volunteer Activities:

Abilene Philharmonic Foundation, Inc. — Board member 2005 to 2007, Chair 2006

City of Abilene, Landmarks Commission — 1998

City of Abilene, Planning and Zoning Commission — Member 1995 to 1998

City of Abilene, Civil Service Commission — Member 1991 to 1995, Chair 1992 to 1995

Central Appraisal District of Taylor County, Texas, Appraisal Review Board — Member 1987 to 1993, Chair 1989 to 1993

Taylor County Health Endowment Committee — Member 1999 to 2007, Chair 1999 to 2007

West Texas Rehabilitation Center — Board of Directors 2020 to 2022

Cindy Allen '80 lives in Abilene, Texas, and is a shareholder in The Whitten Law Firm. She received her Bachelor of Arts in social science from McMurry and graduated with distinction from St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio, Texas, in 1984. Her area of practice focuses on family practice law. In her practice, she enjoys supporting families with family law mediation helping them come together to find common ground. She also relishes the opportunity to support, create, and expand families through adoption services. Allen began her career in Abilene, Texas, with The Whitten Law Firm in 1984.

Allen has been active with the State Bar of Texas, serving on committees and as a presenter at many conferences. Her community involvement has spanned her career. She has given back to the Taylor County communities with numerous board positions, including serving as the chair of Taylor County Health Endowment, City of Abilene, Civil Service Commission, and Central Appraisal District of Taylor County, Texas. Currently, she is focusing her time on client needs stepping back from civic involvement. She is grateful to be a part of the McMurry University Board of Trustees during this time of growth. She also serves on McMurry's Board of Visitors.

Allen is a native of San Angelo, Texas, and has made Abilene her home, along with her husband Larry, a graduate of Abilene High School, since 1984.



David Bailey '04, B.B.A.

*Executive Vice President, Chief Banking Officer
First Financial Bankshares
Abilene, Texas*

Chair Elect
First Vice Chair
Chair, Trusteeship Committee
Board Member: 2019 to present

Civic and Volunteer Activities:

Abilene Chamber of Commerce

Hendrick Medical Center Foundation

Abilene Philharmonic Orchestra Board

David Bailey '04 is the Executive Vice President, Chief Banking Officer for First Financial Bank. He received his B.B.A. in Business Finance from McMurry University in 2004 and later graduated from the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University in 2014.

He began his career with First Financial Bank in Abilene as a part-time teller while attending college. Over his 21-year career with the bank, he has worked in numerous positions in multiple regions throughout the company, spending 12-years in Eastland prior to moving to Abilene, where he has worked since 2020. In his role as Chief Banking Officer, Bailey leads the growth effort for all loans and deposits across the entire Texas footprint of First Financial Bank. In addition to this role, Bailey is also the co-chairman of the company-wide Service Improvement Team, which focuses on improving the overall customer experience and service quality for the First Financial organization.

In addition to his career, Bailey has been an active community member having served on numerous boards in various leadership positions. His true passion, however, is in church music ministry – which was evidenced by his service to the First United Methodist Church of Eastland, where he volunteered as the Music Ministry Director for 11 years.

Bailey and his wife, Ashley, are '04 graduates of McMurry. His parents, one brother, and sisters-in-law are also McMurry graduates (father, Frank '78; mother, Shelley '78; brother, Weldon '01; sister-in-law, Leah '02; and sister-in-law, Holly '04). In total, 14 of Bailey's family members have attended McMurry, including family through marriage.

Bailey and his wife met at McMurry, having both grown up in small West Texas communities and being raised in the United Methodist Church. They have two children: a son, Hudson, and a daughter, Hadley.



Emma Yvonne Batts, B.A.

*Batts Communications, LP
Abilene, Texas*

Board Member: 2023 to present

Civic and Volunteer Activities:

Abilene Community Foundation–Board Member 2016 to 2022, Board Chair 2020, 2021

Abilene Grace Museum–Board Member, 2018 to 2023, Board Vice Chair 2023 to 2024, Chair 2024 to 2026

Central Appraisal District of Taylor County–Board Member 2011 to present, Board Chair 2015 to present

Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation DBA Trellis Company–2005 to present, Board Chair 2016 to 2018, Chair Nominating and Governance Committee and Chair Compensation and Benefits Committee

Abilene Chamber of Commerce–Board Member 2008 to 2018, Board Chair 2017

Abilene Industrial Foundation–Board Member, 1998 to current, Board Chair 2014 to 2016

Abilene Independent School District Board of Trustees–1998 to 2002, Board Secretary

Day Nursery of Abilene–Board Member 1996 to 1998

Yvonne Batts lives in Abilene, Texas, and is General Manager of Batts Communications LP. She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business from Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri in 1987. Batts began her degree at McMurry College in Abilene, Texas, after graduating from Abilene Cooper High School. She joined Southwestern Bell Telephone Company full time in 1966 and began attending McMurry College part time. Batts was transferred to SWBT General Headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1980. She continued her degree in two years at Washington University. After being transferred to central Missouri, she completed her degree at Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri.

Batts and her husband moved to Abilene, Texas, in the mid 80's. She became Vice President of Operations and Trust Officer with NCNB, later known as Bank of America.

Ron Batts established Batts Communications in 1989. She joined the family company in 1991. They will celebrate their 34-year company anniversary July 1, 2023. They have an owner finance agreement with a young partner, Jacob Bunton, a graduate from Jim Ned High School in 2006 and McMurry student and football player 2006 to 2010. His wife, Jera Bunton, attended McMurry College 2004 to 2009 graduating with major in Education and History and a minor in English.

Batts and her husband, Ron, Married in 1982. Ron had two sons and a daughter. The family now consists of three children and spouses, 5 grandchildren and one spouse, and one great granddaughter. This family is a blessing!



Mike Bennett '65, Ed.D.

*Retired Educator
Dallas, Texas*

Board Member: 2018 to present

Mike Bennett '65 graduated from Abilene High School in 1961 and from McMurry University in 1965 majoring in English and speech communication.

After McMurry, he earned his master's degree in education and English from Abilene Christian University, followed by his doctorate in education from Texas Tech University with emphasis on curriculum and instruction with minor in English.

Bennett dedicated 52 years to educating students in a variety of capacities. He began his career at Wylie Independent School District in 1965 as a middle school English teacher, coach, bus driver and high school one-act play coach. From 1968–2005, he served in Lubbock Independent School District (LISD), including positions as Mackenzie Junior High assistant principal and principal, LISD director of school public relations, and principal of Monterey High School. In 2005, Bennett became headmaster of All Saints Episcopal School in Lubbock. He retired from that position in 2017. He also taught undergraduate and graduate courses at Texas Tech and Wayland Baptist universities.

Bennett was honored to serve as president of the Texas School Public Relations Association. He received the Honorary Lone Star Degree from Texas Future Farmers of America. Bennett received honors as distinguished supervisor/administrator at the State level. Metropolitan Lubbock Rotary Club recognized Bennett with the W. H. Tinney Ethics Award. Upon retirement from headmaster of All Saints Episcopal School, Bennett was honored with naming of the "Bennett Academic Center" at All Saints Episcopal High School.

Bennett is married to Sharon Wells Bennett '67. They have three children, Jeff, Mark (deceased), Whitney, and six grandchildren. Sharon is retired from Texas Tech University as Assistant Vice-Chancellor for Institutional Advancement. Seven members of the extended Bennett family hold degrees from McMurry. Sharon's father, Gaston Wells from Dumas, Texas, served on the board at McMurry. Mike's father, Dr. Gordon Bennett, was the seventh president of McMurry. The Bennetts are members of University Park UMC in Dallas, Texas.



Carl Childers '76, M.Ed.

*Retired Math Teacher and Coach
Manager, Family Business
Abilene, Texas*

Board Member: 2024 to present

Current and Previous Civic and Volunteer Activities:

Big Country Hall of Fame – Board of Directors

Chisholm Trail Council Executive Board – Scoutmaster

Community Foundation of Abilene – Grant Committee

**St. Paul United Methodist Church – Sunday School Teacher
Administrative Board**

**Center of Contemporary Arts – President
Board of Directors**

Born and raised in Abilene, Texas, Carl Childers attended Cooper High School and then made his way down Sayles Boulevard to McMurry. Childers graduated from McMurry University in 1976 and was recognized by Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities. He was a member of Alpha Phi Omega, president of the Kiva social club, vice president of McMurry Student Government, Chief McMurry, and also received the Harry Soloday Award.

Childers is a retired math teacher and coach of 30 years and was named teacher of the year and a three-time coach of the year recipient after having helped teams win 12 district championships. Currently, Carl is managing his family business.



Deena Duarte '99, B.A.

*Sr. Implementation Specialist
Waterford.org
Houston, Texas*

Board Member: 2025 to present

Deena Duarte is a Sr. Implementation Specialist with Waterford.org. She has supported Waterford.org partners, nationwide, since 2010. She aims to make everyone comfortable and confident while learning new teaching tools and seamlessly integrating technology into everyday classroom routines. She's passionate about making life easier for educators and administrators, while also empowering families, especially newcomer families and those with students who are English learners.

Deena is a 1999 McMurry University graduate with a BA in Communication and Spanish. She taught 4th and 5th grades in Houston ISD, Round Rock ISD, and Lago Vista ISD. She has since worked with all grade levels, including multi-age Life Skills & Exceptional Needs classrooms, focusing on adapting technology tools to reach all learners and learning styles. In addition to working with the Waterford Institute, she consults for additional education-centered organizations, including Learning.com and ParentGuidance.org.

Deena lives with her fiancé, Steve, and their two dogs in Houston, Texas. She enjoys returning to West Texas to visit family as often as possible.



Kathi Edwards, M.A.

*Retired Chaplain, Hendrick Hospice Care
United Methodist Deaconess
Clyde, Texas*

Chair, Board of Trustees

Board Member: 2017 to present

Current and Previous Civic and Volunteer Activities:

Clyde Boys and Girls Club – Advisory Board Member

Hendrick Hospice Care – Patient Care Volunteer and Staff Chaplain

The Haven Women’s Center – Counselor

Clyde Economic Development Corporation – Board Member

North Runnels Hospital – Board of Directors

Abilene Aggie Mom’s Club – Member and Club Secretary

United Methodist Church – UMW Mission u Presenter;

Delegate to Annual Conference;

Abilene District Lay Leader

Kathi Edwards grew up in nearby Callahan County and graduated from Clyde High School. She received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Education from Texas Tech University in 1975. After living in California for a number of years, Edwards and her husband, Murray, returned to Texas with their two young children, having purchased Alderman-Cave Feeds, a livestock feed manufacturing company in Winters. In 1992, after the death of her 32-year old brother-in-law, David Edwards, from kidney cancer, Edwards began volunteering with Hospice of Abilene, which later became Hendrick Hospice Care. She continued this work for 16 years as a patient care volunteer, and eventually as a volunteer chaplain, before entering Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University, where she received a Master of Arts in Christian Service in 2011. Edwards was consecrated to the Order of United Methodist Deaconess and commissioned by the Northwest Texas Annual Conference to serve in hospice ministry. She became a board-certified chaplain (B.C.C.) through the Spiritual Care Association. Upon completion of this process, she was employed as a staff chaplain with Hendrick Hospice Care until her retirement in January of 2021. She has been a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church.

Edwards and her husband, Murray, also a native of Callahan County, married in 1975 and live south of Clyde on their family ranch. Both their fathers are McMurry graduates (Weldon Edwards '40 and C. Lee Smith '78). The couple has three adult children: Rachel Stazzone (Rich), John-Morris Edwards (Aubrey), and Lincoln Edwards (Marjorie), as well as five grandsons and four granddaughters.



Charles (Chuck) Fallon '85, MBA

*President and CEO of Englert (ELM)
Jupiter, Florida*

Board Member: 2007 to 2016; 2020 to present

Charles (Chuck) Fallon '85 earned his Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance and Accounting from McMurry University, and received a Master of Business Administration in Finance from Columbia University in 1987. On September 1, 2021, Fallon assumed the role of president and CEO of Englert based in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. Englert is a private, equity-backed company providing home and building solutions. From 2013 to 2021, he was the CEO of FirstService Residential, the largest manager of residential communities in North America operating 8,500 communities with over 2.5 million residents. He served as president of Terminix from 2011 to 2013 and president, North America of Burger King Holdings from 2006 to 2011. Prior to that, he led sales, marketing, and revenue management at AvisBudget Group as well as other positions at Cendant Corporation from 1998 to 2006. Over a decade of his career were spent as an investment banker in New York and London.

Fallon previously served on the board of trustees for McMurry and also as board Chair. He is a Distinguished Alumnus recipient and a member of the Athletic Hall of Honor. He is married to Susan and they have three children — Emily, a graduate of Elon University, and Rebecca, a graduate of Texas Christian University who live in New York City; and Carson lives in Seattle.



Russell Hall, B.S.

*Founder and Owner, Russell K. Hall and Associates
Midland, Texas*

2nd Vice Chair
Chair, Institutional Oversight Committee
Board Member: 2020 to present

Russell Hall graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from University of Oklahoma in 1978. Hall founded Russell K. Hall and Associates in 1996. He is a recognized expert witness in Texas and New Mexico. He chaired the SPEE Committee on Resource Play Evaluation Guidelines. Russell has received honorary recognition from SPE, SPEE, and the Texas Society of Professional Engineers.

Hall is an active supporter of youth organizations serving the Permian Basin area. He served as a Boy Scout scoutmaster, as chairman of Junior Achievement of Midland, as a Sunday school teacher for adult and youth classes, on the board of Midland Teen Court, as chairman of the Lee High School Band Boosters, and on numerous UMC church committees.

Hall and his wife, Susan, believe they are abundantly blessed and hope to share some of these blessings with others. Susan graduated from University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Science in Education in 1976 and a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering in 1978. She then joined Mobil Oil. Mobil was in her blood as she grew up in a Magnolia (now Mobil) company camp in Duncan, Oklahoma.

They are the parents of Chris Hall and daughter-in-law Meaghan Hall, graduates of University of Oklahoma; Jennifer Hall Luke, a McMurry University graduate and son-in-law Preston Luke, a McMurry graduate who went to Hardin-Simmons for his master's, and two grandchildren.



John T. Hendrick '73, B.B.A.

*Certified Public Accountant
La Jolla, California*

Chair, Campus Oversight Committee
Board Member: 2013 to present

John T. Hendrick '73 has served since April 2016 as CFO of Delta Energy & Communications, Inc. in Murrieta, California. From July 2001 until he joined Delta Energy, Hendrick was primarily engaged in monitoring his private equity investments.

From July 1996 to December 1999 he was vice chairman and CFO of The Cassidy Companies, Inc., one of the largest government affairs and public affairs firms in Washington, DC. He was also a managing director of Galway Partners, LLC, a Washington, DC-based merchant bank from July 1996 to June 2001. Prior to joining Cassidy and Galway in 1996, Hendrick was a general partner with Avalon Ventures, a San Diego-based venture capital firm, from 1987 to 1996.

In addition, Hendrick co-founded and served on the investment committee of Innova Capital (formerly Poland Partners), a Warsaw-based private equity fund, from April 1994 to May 2012. Hendrick is a CPA and graduated cum laude from McMurry University in 1973 with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting.



Rev. Felicia P. Hopkins, M. Div.

*Retired Abilene District Superintendent
Northwest Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church
Abilene, Texas*

Board Member: 2021 to present

Originally from Buffalo New York, Rev. Felicia P. Hopkins received her undergraduate degree from Valparaiso University and her Master of Divinity from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She has spent the last 28 years in various leadership roles in ministry as a senior pastor, chaplain, and director. In June she retired as the district superintendent of the Abilene District of the Northwest Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church. Hopkins is also a proud retired army chaplain (Major) having served over 20 years to include a tour overseas in Operation Iraqi Freedom as a trauma chaplain.

Her background includes management experience from corporate America, having worked for the Walmart Distribution Center and Pepsi Cola Company where she specialized in logistic management.

Hopkins has also received numerous awards to include being selected as the El Paso Women of the Year, Abilene Outstanding Women of Achievement, and receiving a Meritorious Service Medal for her service in the Army. But, her most prized honor is that of being a mom to her two sons, Douglas Samuel a graduate of the University of Texas at Dallas and Adam Glen a proud resident of Disability Resources Incorporated and a graduate of Abilene High School.



Martha Arias Howell '93, Ed.D.

*Healthcare Leadership/Organizational Development Consultant
Mass General Institute's Department of Health Professions
Boston, MA*

Board Member: 2024 to present

Current and Previous Civic and Volunteer Activities:

**Baylor Scott & White Health-Relationship Centered Communication program (RCC)
RCC Leadership Training and Coaching the Coach**

Martha Howell, EdD, currently serves as a Healthcare Leadership & Organizational Development Consultant and teaches at Mass General Institute's Department of Health Professions Education. Formerly, she established the Relationship Centered Communication program (RCC), RCC Leadership Training and Coaching the Coach programs at Baylor Scott & White Health.

Her educational background includes a BA in Psychology and MEd in Counseling and Human Development. Doctoral studies include Higher Education Administration and a doctorate in Educational Leadership with an emphasis in medical education.

She has been a healthcare educator for 20+ years and has a background in simulation/standardized patient instruction, faculty development, quality, safety, experience improvement and communication skill training. She also serves as a faculty member with the Academy of Communication in Healthcare and the Institute for Healthcare Communication.

She adheres to a design thinking approach that engages the human perspective in all aspects of systems-building, organizational development and improvement. Recently, she completed the certification in Foresight and is passionate about sharing practical application of foresight methodology. Whereas history is concerned with origins, roots, and where we have been, foresight monitors the global environment for signs of change, develops plausible scenarios and prepares options to support organizational goals.



Carl Hubbard '68, PH.D.
*Retired Professor of Finance; Forensic Economist
San Antonio, Texas*

Treasurer, Board of Trustees
Chair, Finance Committee
Board Member: 1998 to present

Carl Hubbard '68 graduated from Abilene Cooper High School in 1964. He enrolled in McMurry University and graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance.

After a 20-month sojourn in the Army, he continued his education by completing a Master of Business Administration at Hardin-Simmons University in 1972 and then a Doctor of Philosophy in Economics from Texas Tech University in 1975. In June 1975, he began a 37-year career on the faculty of Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, where he taught undergraduate courses in business financial management and investment analysis.

In 1979, Hubbard became a chartered financial analyst. He has authored and co-authored 40 journal articles plus conference proceedings and case studies on subjects in economics and finance. Since 1976, he has served as an economic consultant and expert witness.



Billy Joe Jay, B.S.
*Retired, Director of Roscoe Financial Corporation
Sweetwater, Texas*

Board Member: 2024 to present

Current and Previous Civic and Volunteer Activities:
Pioneer Museum, Chair of Board of Directors

Billy Joe Jay is a Roscoe High School and Texas A&M University graduate. He worked 16 years at The Roscoe State Bank before opening his business, Sweetwater Frame & Gallery. Jay has served on the Roscoe City Council and Roscoe ISD School Board. He was also a Roscoe Collegiate ISD P-Tech Advisory Committee member and a director of the Roscoe Financial Corporation until it sold.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions, Jay was featured in the Jaycees Outstanding Young Men of America catalog in 1982. Two years later, in 1984, he was elected Mr. Outstanding Citizen of Roscoe, a testament to his significant impact on the community.

Jay is a member of the First United Methodist Church of Roscoe, where he served many years as a lay delegate to the Northwest Texas Annual Conference. He has held several positions there, such as Chair of the Small Membership Church Committee, Insurance Committee, Conference Ministry Team, and Lay Leadership Committee. He held positions on the District Ministry Team and District Trustees in the Big Spring District of the Northwest Texas Annual Conference.

Today, Billy Joe Jay, a man of many accomplishments, is retired and proudly serves as the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Pioneer Museum in Sweetwater, Texas. His leadership and dedication continue to shape the museum's future.



Rev. Thomas J Long
*District Superintendent of the Horizon Texas Conference
Mid-Central, West and Northwest Districts
San Angelo, Texas*

Board Member: 2025 to present

Civic and Volunteer Activities:
Northwest Texas Conference

Tom was born in Lubbock, Texas, in 1966. He attended elementary school in Lubbock before moving to Aspermont in 1979. Tom graduated from Aspermont High School in 1985. After receiving an Associates of Arts degree from Western Texas College in Snyder, he then attended University of Texas Permian Basin and received a bachelor’s degree in mass communications.

After graduating Tom returned to Aspermont and worked at the First National Bank of Aspermont until he entered ministry. Tom completed Course of Study, Advanced Course Study and was ordained an elder in the United Methodist Church in 2011. Tom served throughout the Northwest Texas Conference for 24 years. He has provided leadership in a variety of ways throughout his 24 years of ministry, and most recent in the unification process of the Horizon Texas Conference.

Tom is married to Amy, and they currently live in San Angelo. They are parents to two children—Hannah and Mia.



Sandra Maddox, PH.D.
*Retired Educator
Dallas, Texas*

Board Member: 2020 to present

Civic and Volunteer Activities:
First Methodist Church, Richardson – Board Chair and Chair of Childcare Committee
University of North Texas – PK through College Education Committee
Grant writer for nonprofits

Sandra (Sandy) Maddox received both her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science degrees from Baylor University and her Doctor of Philosophy from the University of North Texas. She retired in 2014 after over 35 years in K-12 education.

Maddox was appointed in 2005 as deputy executive director of the Region 10 Education Service Center (ESC), where she had oversight of five major divisions, 435 personnel, and a total budget of over six million dollars annually. Prior to her Region 10 experience, she worked in public education in Waco and other districts. While at Region 10 ESC, Maddox had extensive statewide educational responsibilities including state educational projects such as homeless education and dyslexia including the development of the State Handbook for Dyslexia Education and its accompanying app in 2014.

Maddox is currently a capital investor in residential construction as well as a small business owner of People in Touch, a company specializing in increasing independent opportunities for senior adults to engage in life by going out and reconnecting. She is the mother of five children, two of whom received a degree from McMurry University.



Dr. Lynne Murray
President, McMurry University
Abilene, Texas

Board Member: 2025 to present

Civic and Volunteer Activities:
Abilene Chamber of Commerce Board
Abilene Convention Center Hotel Development Corporation Board

Dr. Lynne Murray is the 11th President of McMurry University, a role she has held since January 2025. With a deep commitment to higher education and a vision for fostering academic excellence, Dr. Murray has played a pivotal role in enhancing the university’s reputation and positioning the University for growth.

Prior to her presidency at McMurry University, Dr. Murray held various leadership positions in higher education, including as President of Baker University from 2014–2024. During her former presidency, Murray launched the university’s largest campaign in its history, raising more than \$50 million during her tenure to support scholarships, faculty and staff excellence, and capital projects including the complete transformation of the athletics facilities. Additionally, she was responsible for growing the endowment by \$20 million.

Before that, she held the position of vice president for development, international, and alumni relations at Gallaudet University, a pioneering institution serving deaf and hard-of-hearing students. She also served as the Senior Director of Principal and Leadership Gifts at Georgetown University.

Dr. Murray holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from St. Mary’s College of Maryland, a master’s degree in marketing from Johns Hopkins University, and a Doctorate in Special Education Administration from Gallaudet University.

She is married to Jeff Murray, who is retired Air Force.



Rev. Dr. Clayton Oliphint ‘83, M.Div.
Senior Pastor of First United Methodist Church of Richardson
Richardson, Texas

Board Member: 2025 to present

Current and Previous Civic and Volunteer Activities:
Lovers Lane UMC
First UMC in The Colony
First UMC Duncanville
Methodist Dallas Hospital System – Board Member
Circle 10 of Scouting America – Chaplain
2013 Citizen of the Year – Richardson Chamber of Commerce
Texas Methodist Foundation – Chair
Methodist Children’s Home – Chair
Board of Ministry and Finance and Administration for the North Texas Conference – Chair
United Methodist General Conference– Delegate (x6)

Dr. Clayton Oliphint has served as Senior Pastor of First United Methodist Church of Richardson since 2001. FUMCR is a 6,000 member church with a strong missional presence in the Richardson/North Dallas community. Ordained in 1986 he has served at Lovers Lane UMC, First UMC in The Colony, and First UMC Duncanville before coming to Richardson. Each of the churches he has led have experienced growth in attendance and missional outreach.

Dr. Oliphint received a B.A. in History and Religion from Austin College, where he also played on AC’s 1981 NAIA National Championship football team, receiving All America recognition as a record setting wide receiver. Austin College awarded him with the Distinguished Alumni Award as well as induction into their Athletic Hall of Honor. He received a Master of Divinity Degree and a Doctor of Ministry Degree from Perkins School of Theology, SMU, where he has also been recognized as a Distinguished Alumni.

Clayton serves on numerous boards in the community including Methodist Dallas Hospital System, as Chaplain of Circle 10 of Scouting America, and was named 2013 Citizen of the Year by the Richardson Chamber of Commerce. He chaired the Boards of the Texas Methodist Foundation, Methodist Children’s Home, and the Board of Ministry and Finance and Administration for the North Texas Conference. Clayton has been elected to serve as a delegate to the United Methodist General Conference six times. He is the co-author of three books by Abingdon Press, Citizens of Hope, The Road To Amazing, and Get in the Game.

Clayton and his wife, Lori McGee Oliphint, a McMurry graduate (1983), are both preacher’s kids, and are the parents of three adult children.



Hope Pamplin '01, Ph.D.

Director of Disability Services – University of Houston, Downtown
Hope Pamplin LPC-S
Houston, Texas

Board Member: 2024 to present

Current and Previous Civic and Volunteer Activities:

McMurry University Black Alumni Network – Founder & President

Leadership Houston – Class LXII

The Way of Life Church – Founding member

Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church – Youth Leader

The Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund – Scholarship Committee

United Way, Houston – Funding Allocations Committee (Mental Health)

United Way, Houston – Funding Allocations Committee (Domestic/Sexual Violence)

United Way – Grant Reviewer for Community Building Grants

United Way – Reading Buddy Program

Houston Community College – Scholarship Committee

Hope Pamplin is the daughter of James and Barbara Pamplin and a native of Austin, Texas. Hope graduated from Manor High School and attended McMurry University in 1997. During her time at McMurry, Hope was active in various organizations such as Alpha Psi Alpha, Student Government, Woman's Interclub, Cheerleading, Model United Nations, and Servant Leadership, among others. She was also involved in her local church, Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Abilene, where Dr. Kelvin Kelly was the pastor. At the church, Hope led the youth group and discovered her passion for teaching and working with young people.

When Hope graduated from McMurry she moved to Houston and ran from her calling to teach. She didn't get far! Hope became a fourth-grade teacher, school counselor then the dean of instruction. After about 10 years in K-12 education, Hope transitioned into higher education. Currently, Hope serves as the Director of Disability Services at the University of Houston, Downtown, where she established a counseling center for the University to meet the needs of the 13,000 enrolled students.

Before she served as Director of Disability Services, she led the counseling and disability department at the Central campus in Houston's largest community college system. Hope has a desire to learn and give back. She earned a master's degree in counseling and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership. Dr. Pamplin owns a private practice and founded a group counseling practice and a 501c3 that focuses on therapy and education. She has authored three books and daily works to find ways to empower and love those she serves.



Austin T. Pittman '91, M.H.C.D.S.

Co-founder & CEO, Suvida Healthcare
Founder, Blue Norther
Austin, TX

Board Chair

Board of Trustee Task Force for Strategic Planning

Board Member: 2008 to present

Civic and Volunteer Activities:

National March of Dimes

National 4-H Board – Former Board of Directors

American Heart Association's Mid-Atlantic Affiliate – Former Board of Directors

Austin T. Pittman '91 is CEO and co-founder of Suvida Healthcare, a neighborhood-centric primary care model delivering an exceptional consumer experience to underserved communities, beginning with the rapidly growing 65+ Hispanic population. Pittman thrives on the challenges of solving tough business and societal problems with more than 25 years of executive leadership in the healthcare industry. This seventh generation Texan is bringing his leadership skills and love of Texas heritage to exciting new endeavors, including co-founding Blue Norther, a family business in the fast-growing hard seltzer industry.

Prior to this Pittman was CEO of OptumCare, a UnitedHealth Group company providing information and technology-enabled health services and care delivery. He was accountable for a \$27 billion business, the largest ambulatory care and physician organization in the U.S. At a pivotal time in the business, he helped to build the largest, most financially successful clinical organization in America. Previously, as CEO of UnitedHealthcare Community & State, Pittman led a \$40 billion enterprise and one of the largest Medicaid platforms in the country. Earlier he held leadership roles as president of UnitedHealth Network, chief growth officer of UnitedHealthcare Employer & Individual, and president and CEO of the Carolinas.

In addition to his ventures and board experience with Urology America, HopCo, Topsail Re, Shared Clarity, Inclusive Health, and MyConnections, he is active in community and philanthropic endeavors. He is on the national March of Dimes Board of Trustees, and previously served on the national 4H and American Heart Association's Mid-Atlantic Affiliate Board of Directors. Pittman holds a Master of Health Care Delivery Science from the Tuck School of Business/Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth College, a Master of Science in Business & Human Relations at Amberton University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from McMurry.



Jack Reed

*Retired, Chief Financial Officer
Midland, Texas*

Board Member: 2018 to 2022, 2025

Civic and Volunteer Activities:

St. Luke's United Methodist Church—Member and Treasurer 2008 to present

Midland Shared Spaces--Board Member and Vice Chairperson -- 2019–2022

Permian Basin Area Foundation—Member 2016 to present

Butman Methodist Camp and Retreat Center—Board Member and Chairman 2000 to 2018

United Methodist Church—Church School teacher/leader 1981 to present

Little League Baseball Coach—1986 to 2004

Jack lives in Midland, Texas, and is a retired Chief Financial Officer for several Oil and Gas Production Companies. He attended Angelo State University and completed his studies in Accounting/Finance at Texas Tech University. Jack is married to Janet Kay Reed, a licensed United Methodist pastor and they have been married for 56 years, Jack and Jan have four children and six grandchildren. His oldest son Dr. Peter Reed, a former Trustee and wife Tricia are alumni of McMurry University. The three younger children all hold graduate degrees from other universities.

Throughout his fifty year plus working career Jack has had the opportunity to work in several industries including general commodities transportation, oil and gas well drilling industry, computer software development, medical waste remediation, oil and gas exploration and development and real estate investment and development. Jack retired from a corporate position with Reliance Energy Inc. in 2017 but remains active in ranching, investments and real estate development.



Kay Younggren Lauderman '02, D.D.S.

*Dentist
Artesia, New Mexico*

Secretary, Board of Trustees

Board Member: 2017 to present

Civic and Volunteer Activities:

Artesia Downtown Lions Club

New Mexico Dental Association – Vice President

Kay is a 1998 graduate of Artesia High School. After high school, she moved to Texas to further her education, first graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry with a minor in biology from McMurry University, and then graduating with a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from Baylor College of Dentistry, Texas A&M Health Science Center. She also received and completed a fellowship in Implantology with the International Congress of Oral Implantologists (F.I.C.O.I.). Following graduation from dental school, she began practicing dentistry in Artesia. Two years later, she purchased Smile Xpressions. Over the past decade, they have expanded into a new, state-of-the-art facility featured in Sidekick Dental Magazine.

In addition to the daily practice of dentistry, she is involved in several professional organizations: the American Dental Association, the New Mexico Dental Association Board, and the Eastern New Mexico Dental Association (President 2010–12). She continues involvement with her undergraduate alma mater, McMurry University, serving as an Alumni Association Board of Director (2008–17) and a University Trustee (2017–present). She is proud to have received the Spirit of McMurry Award, which the university bestows upon its young distinguished alumni.

She is a past-president and current member of the Artesia Downtown Lions Club. She also works with the Written in Red Foundation and is a member of Artesia First Methodist Church.

In her free time, she enjoys traveling with her husband, Chris Lauderman, and spending time with their dog, Gabby.



Kristy Jack Waldruff '83

*Retired, JPMorgan Chase
Abilene, Texas*

Board Member: 2017 –2019, 2025 to present

Civic and Volunteer Activities: **Institutional Advancement and Campus Oversight**

Kristy Waldruff '83 lives in Abilene, Texas and recently retired from 42 years with JPMorgan Chase. Through her career Kristy worked in various lines of business- Commercial Credit Underwriting Manager, Executive Director in Strategy for digital product development, Business Manager for Southwest Region, and national Business Banking lead for processes and compliance with various Know You Customer government regulations.

Kristy was active in numerous employee relations committees within JPMorgan Chase and volunteer mentorship programs. Over the years she has also supported various children organizations in Abilene, most recently Children's Performing Arts.

Kristy and Rick '83 have two sons. Brad lives in Pittsburgh and Matthew lives in Peru with Amanda and their twin 2 year old daughters, Hannah and Danielle.



CORE VALUES

Christian Faith

as the foundation of life,

Personal Relationships

as the catalyst for life,

Learning

as the journey of life,

Excellence

as the goal of life, and

Service

as the measure of life.



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