



pastoral leadership
INSTITUTE

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Faculty & Staff



Wayne Allen, eProf

The morning after his confession of faith at age 18, Wayne says the Lord gave him Jeremiah 1:5 as a life verse. For both he and his wife, Carolyn, accepting Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord meant missionary service, so he began to prepare for a life of ministry. He earned a Bachelor of Arts from Fort Wayne Bible College, a Master of Arts from Grace Theological Seminary, a Master of Arts from Fuller Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Missiology degree from Concordia Theological Seminary. Over the years God has used them mightily around the world sharing Christ with many.

Besides eProfing PLI's "Missions and the Church" and "Cultural Anthropology" courses, Wayne serves World Partners missionaries in Asia, often traveling to the other side of the globe to encourage creative strategizing, coordinate communication and cooperation with other agencies, provide personal and spiritual support, and facilitate communication to supporting churches. He also assists with administrative duties in the WP home office in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Wayne and Carolyn have two grown sons, Joshua and Caleb, and three grandchildren. Their daughter, Rachel (Allen) Amstutz, went home to be with Jesus shortly after giving birth to her third child in April, 2009.

Bob Andrews, eProf

Bob holds a Master of Divinity from Moody Bible Institute, an MA in theology and history from Loyola University, and will soon finish his PhD in theology from Loyola. He and his wife, Lynne, are currently leading the formation of a vibrantly multi-ethnic church in the Edgewater-West Ride communities of Chicago focused on caring for and welcoming refugees and immigrants.

Bob teaches PLI's Writing Skills Development course as well as our two-part Systematic Theology courses. He's also ready to step in if any teaching positions open up for hermeneutics or practical ministry courses.

Bob and Lynne have four wild and wonderful sons who live with them in Edgewater, Illinois, (Chicago area).





Stan Buck, eProf

Dr. Stan Buck says he feels like he's been a student for most of his life! After earning a BA in economics from Ball State University in 1981, he went on to earn a Master of Divinity from Oral Roberts University in 1985 followed by a Doctorate of Ministry from Asbury Theological Seminary in 2003.

Stan loves learning, and he loves to teach. Besides teaching PLI's "Fundamentals of Christian Leadership" course, he's taught for more than ten years at Indiana Wesleyan University and as an adjunct faculty member for a few other schools, including Huntington University.

Ordained as a United Methodist pastor in 1985, Stan planted Sunrise Church (www.sonrisechurch.info) in Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1987 where he is still serving as lead pastor. This non-traditional community of faith invites believers and seekers to enjoy exuberant music in a casual atmosphere.

Growing up in Muncie, Indiana, Stan became a Christ-follower at the ripe old age of twelve through the influence of two different youth camps. He married Kathy, a registered nurse as well as his best friend and sailing partner, in 1981; and they have two beautiful daughters. Their oldest daughter, Stephanie, married a few years ago and is now a diving coach and elementary teacher. Ashley is a 2008 graduate of Huntington University, also an elementary education major. In his spare time, Stan enjoys coaching basketball (assisted by daughter Ashley) in the wildly popular "Uncle Buck School of Indiana Basketball," sailing, and blogging (<http://stanbuck.blogspot.com>). His life mission is "to love well, to live fully, to learn continually, and to leave a legacy of God's amazing grace!"

Jim Carder, eProf

Jim Carder and his wife Linda, both graduates of Indiana Wesleyan University (IWU), have served together in pastoral ministry for more than 20 years. In fact, Jim has been involved in church leadership since the age of 13 when he was appointed church treasurer of a small church in his home town. (Ask him about paying the pastor out of a mason jar.) In 1981 he accepted an associate pastor position at a small mission church in El Paso, Texas, while serving as a military policeman in the U.S. Army. Five years later, after his stint in the army, Jim completed a BS in Criminal Justice and Biblical Studies — an unusual combination! — and went on to earn an MA in Ministerial Education in 1994. His latest degree is a Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership at IWU.



Jim claims a diverse denominational background. He was ordained as an Elder in The Wesleyan Church in 1991, transferred his credentials to The Church of the Nazarene in 2003, and has held many general church and conference positions along the way. A certified church growth and capital stewardship consultant for both the Wesleyan and Nazarene denominations, he most recently began serving as the Resource Development Director for the Salvation Army in Stark County, Ohio. Of course, that was in addition to his senior pastor position at the Ontario Free Methodist Church in Ohio.

Jim has taught many Level One PLI courses, including Old Testament Survey, New Testament Survey, Biblical Interpretation, Biblical Theology, Systematic Theology 1 and 2, and Homiletics.

Jim and Linda are thankful for their four children — Phil, Sam, Jill, and David.

Steve Ganger, eProf

Steve Ganger pastors a Brethren church, New Song Community Church, in Elkhart, Indiana. A graduate of the University of Notre Dame, Steve earned a master's degree in ministry and theology from Bethel College, Mishawaka, Indiana, where he is an adjunct instructor in religion and philosophy. Steve and his wife, Liz, have two young sons.

Although he's taught several Level One PLI courses, Steve likes teaching Biblical Interpretation best. About PLI Steve says, "... PLI ministers *to me*. I take great encouragement in seeing how and who God is calling to the front lines and consider it a privilege to partner with the students for God's work at-hand.



Greg Getz, Coordinator

A former church planting pastor with the Missionary Church, Greg designed the PLI program and coordinated the development of the curriculum. Although his other US Ministries assignments limit his day-to-day involvement in PLI, he continues to market our pastoral training program.

Growing up in Morton, Illinois, Greg graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in landscape architecture and launched Getz's Edgemor Nurseries. Then called by God from business to vocational Christian ministry, he returned to school to earn a Masters of Theology from Dallas Theological Seminary and then joined the church planting efforts of the Missionary Church in 1992.

Greg and his wife, Sara, have three children and five grandchildren.



Joe Himes, eProf

After graduating from PLI, Joe put his Logos expertise to work teaching PLI's Study Prep course. Joe has a passion for people and a great sense of humor that puts new PLI students at ease. In fact, he types his name JOeY because, he says, "There is JOY in JOeY because the love of Jesus resides in me."

As visitation pastor at West Loop Missionary Church (and another small local church) in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, Joe often ministers to the sick and elderly in hospitals and nursing homes. He also teaches a Sunday school class for adults who can't navigate stairs. More than sympathy, Joe can actually empathize with physically-challenged people because he's lived the majority of his 50+ years wheelchair-bound himself (with muscular dystrophy). Dependent on a breathing machine, he knows the fear of struggling to breathe. Joe truly believes that God has allowed him to suffer so that he can identify (and minister to) others in pain.



Joe enjoys spending time with his wife, Candy, playing his guitar (click [here](#) to hear him), discipling truck drivers late at night while they're driving (thanks to cell phones with headsets), and forwarding jokes on the Internet. Rumor has it he used to enjoy riding horses until one day the horse he was riding went berserk. Joe held on for dear life for nearly 30 minutes until finally a lady from K-Mart came out and unplugged the horse!



Jeff Kephart, eProf

With a BA degree in Christian Education (Messiah College), a Masters of Divinity degree (Ashland Theological Seminary), a Doctoral Ministry degree (Ashland), and more than 20 years ministry experience in various Missionary Church churches, Dr. Jeff Kephart is well-qualified to teach our “Church Health and Redevelopment” course.

Jeff and his wife Donna are blessed with three children — Sarah, Daniel, and Nathaniel. Although he grew up in a 30-person Methodist church in rural northern Pennsylvania (where he says more deer than people reside), he “married into” the Missionary Church when he claimed his bride. Since then he has served MC churches in many roles including youth pastor, director of Christian education, director of worship, and senior pastor. In fact, he’s currently the senior pastor at Trinity Missionary Church in Cleveland, Ohio.

In his “spare” time, Jeff enjoys following Cleveland sports, playing the piano and writing music, participating in short-term missions trips (to Russia, Estonia, Guatemala), and sharing life with his family.

Jeff’s ministry passion is to see Christians “walk as Jesus walked” in a healthy relational context; seeking to multiply groups of believers who share life together while purposefully partnering to influence their families, neighbors, and co-workers with the love and message of Christ. This general aim dovetails beautifully with his goal as a PLI eProf to equip church leaders with a Biblical, relationally-driven strategy for assisting the church in being God’s instrument of transformation in its local context — specifically, to help church leaders catch God’s vision and process for revitalizing struggling churches.

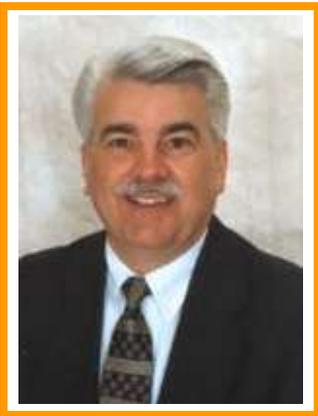
Jared Looney, eProf

Born in Ohio and transplanted to Texas as a child, Jared earned a BS in Domestic Missions from Abilene Christian University. While still in school God ignited a passion in him for urban ministry, and he spent summer vacations working with various ministries such as Houston Impact Ministries, Memphis Urban Ministry, and Camp Shiloh in New York.

In 1996 Jared joined the staff of Impact Houston Church of Christ where he served as a youth minister and developed new ministry programs while completing his MA at Houston Graduate School of Theology. After 18 months as church planter-in-residence with Mission Church in Abilene, Texas, Jared relocated to New York City in 2001.



In 2003 Jared and his team planted Bronx Fellowship, an organic church network; and he continues to develop new disciples and new faith communities in the Bronx area while serving to encourage church multiplication throughout the city and beyond. Jared has experience to varying degrees in large multi-service urban ministries, small ethnic churches, traditional congregations, cell-based churches, and organic church networks. While completing a doctor of missiology degree (Fuller Seminary), he continues making disciples, researching organic church multiplication, and teaching PLI’s “Church Multiplication & Planting” course. He loves to see lives transformed due to ordinary people participating in the mission of God. Jared shares his New York City home with his wife, Hylma, and his daughter, Adalia.



John Nissley, eProf

For several years the Rev. Dr. M. John Nissley served as the Academic Dean and Professor of Spiritual Formation & Pastoral Theology at Winebrenner Theological Seminary located in Findlay, Ohio. Over the years he has ministered as youth counselor, camp director, evangelism and church growth consultant, and an ordained minister in the Mennonite Church-USA. His doctoral research project analyzed the spiritual, emotional, and social support of pastors within their congregational context.

With his education, experience, and gift mix, John is well-equipped to author our newest missional course—Spiritual Formation—which is slated to debut this winter. His passion is to see ministry leaders conformed to the image of Christ, following His example to regularly get alone with the Father for rest, refreshment, and spiritual revitalization.

John has been married to Lois for more than 40 years, with an expanding family of two married daughters—Lara & Brian and Monica & Armando, parents of their two grandchildren, Olivia and Armando John “AJ” III. John’s hobbies include Penn State football, cycling, gardening, Columbo, Celtic spirituality, and maintaining “Jakie,” a 36-year-old Jacobsen push lawn mower.



John Oelze, eProf

Raised in a Christian family that actively displayed their faith through ministry involvement (especially hospitality), John trusted Jesus as his Savior at a young age and rededicated his life to Christ in high school. While traveling with a ministry team the summer after high school graduation, God awakened in John a passion for evangelism and a desire to pursue full-time ministry. After earning a BA degree in Speech Communications at Grace College, he continued his studies at Grace Theological Seminary where he received a Master of Divinity and a Master’s in Biblical Counseling.

Over the years (more than 20), Oelze has served as youth pastor, associate pastor, and senior pastor in congregations ranging in size from a few hundred to a few thousand. John and his wife Linda (see below) have three teenage children — Erin, Benjamin, and Micah — and now live in Wichita, Kansas, where John serves as Executive Pastor at a growing church.

John has taught several PLI classes — Writing Skills Development, Homiletics, Pastoral Caregiving, Fundamentals of Christian Counseling, Strategic Leadership, and Teaching Methods & Christian Education – as well as his xPLI course “Walking with the Wounded Heart.” His diverse background, education, and experience allow him great flexibility in serving the PLI family!

John says, “I am very excited to continue growing in my personal faith and ministry experience as well as sharing what I have learned with others through PLI. I’m so grateful for the grace and mercy of Christ displayed *for* me and now *through* me to others. My desire is to continue to share the love of Jesus with others and challenge those who already know Christ to become fully-devoted followers of Him.”

Aaron Palmquist, eProf

This Portland, Oregon, resident describes himself as “an insignificant nobody who doesn’t have a seminary degree and has never been paid for serving in ministry, yet is crazy enough to believe he is playing a role in launching a movement of Jesus in his community.”

Armed with a bachelor’s degree in marketing from Oregon State, Aaron’s “tent-making” night-time job at a high-tech Internet software company supports his family—a wife (Michelle) and sons Carlos (18), Zachariah (7), and Luke (4). As part of the Field USA team, Aaron’s day-time ministry focuses on taking Christ to people who are far from God ... making disciples who make disciples who form the Body of Christ.



In a “past lifetime” Aaron owned dirt bikes—the big, fast motorized ones like you might see on X-games—and enjoyed riding trails all over Oregon. Now, when he’s not working, sleeping, interacting with his family, making disciples, or preparing to teach a PLI class, he helps his wife with a couple of home-based businesses. You can visit their storefront on Facebook. Just search for “The Palm Bakery” and “The Custom Soap Shop” (choose the ones listed in Tualatin, Oregon).



Donna Ransom, eProf

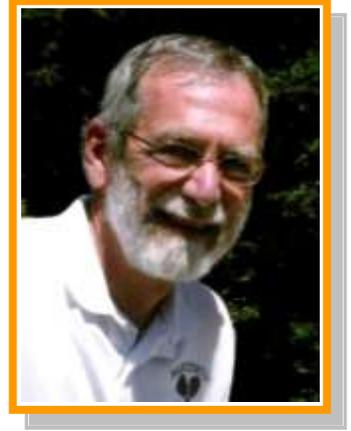
Donna Ransom hosts our online chats for ministry wives. With a Bachelor’s degree from Fort Wayne Bible College, she has taught Early Childhood Development for many years. After college she married Bob, who said he was going into teaching, not preaching! Although Donna didn’t anticipate becoming a pastor’s wife, she has filled that role for over 30 years. Never a stereotypical pastor’s wife, Donna has been innovative in her quest to be herself and fulfill the role God has given her. Opportunities to share with other ministry wives over the years have given her a deep interest in seeing them develop into the women God made them to be while facing the unique challenges and rewards of ministry life for both themselves and their families.

Bob and Donna are pleased that their son Matthew (married to Erin) and daughter Sarah (married to Andrew Lawrence) are both now serving in ministry as youth pastors, and even more pleased with their four grandchildren. On occasion Donna travels with her husband in his work as director of US Ministries and meets with other pastors’ wives across the United States. (She especially enjoys accompanying him to visit the MC churches in Hawaii! ☺)

In her spare time, Donna enjoys putting her dramatic flair to work in ministry with the drama team at her church, especially playing the leading role in a “whodunit” dinner theater.

Don Snell, eProf

Don Snell was born and raised in Dunlap, Indiana (between Elkhart and Goshen). After graduating from Manchester College in 1970, he taught sixth grade for two years. While teaching, the Lord re-affirmed Don's call to ministry, so he moved to California to work in cross-cultural ministry with Campus Crusade for Christ in Los Angeles. Three years later, he returned to the Midwest (Ohio) to serve as campus pastor at Ashland University and attend Ashland Seminary. Following seminary, Don pastored various churches in Iowa and Indiana, often bi-vocationally working in construction or education (including 11 more years teaching fourth and fifth grades). In 2005, through circumstances led by the Holy Spirit, Don joined the Missionary Church and was invited to pastor the Dever-Conner Community Missionary Church in Albany, Oregon, where he continues to serve.



Don married Mary, the second (after Jesus) love of his life, more than 40 years ago; and the Lord has blessed their marriage with eight children and twelve grandchildren. Don says, "Ministry, especially teaching and preaching, has been a great joy. We have been through some rough times where God has taught and pruned us. God always prepares His servants for the precise roles that He has ordained for them. He has prepared me for my heart's desire: to help others walk victoriously in Christ so they can minister and reproduce successfully to the glory of God. By the grace of God and His strength, we are living our life to that end."

As a veteran coach for the Keystone Project, Don was just the right man to help us convert the Keystone training material to PLI courses. He has adapted well to the online classroom and teaches Organic Discipleship Movements 1 & 2.

Jon Swanson, eProf



Jon likes Mirado number 2 pencils. He has worked for many years as a 2nd chair. And when he began teaching with PLI this summer, he was the 2nd eProf of "Principles of Church Administration." These items may be related. =)

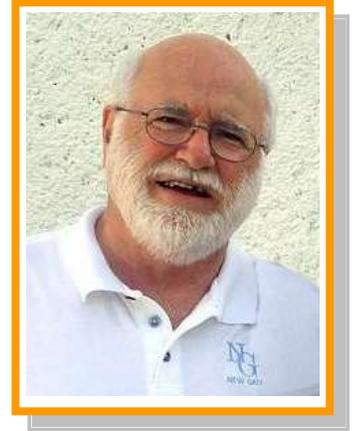
After spending several years as an assistant professor (communication) at Fort Wayne Bible College, Jon became assistant to the president. He spent time at Goshen College teaching management and leading an adult degree completion program and then moved to the University of Saint Francis where he was associate VP for academics. Later God and Steve Jones took Jon to First Missionary Church in Fort Wayne as administrative pastor, and now he's executive pastor at Grabill Missionary Church.

One of Jon's unpublished (and as yet unwritten) books is a study of leadership titled "Not Like Paul" for people God brings to leadership positions whose personalities differ from Paul's. In the meantime, he writes a daily devotional at 300wordsaday.com and writes about lots of things at levite.wordpress.com. [These are both interesting blogs. Take a peek!] Jon and Nancy have been married for more than 25 years and have two children. The older is now married, the younger is a student at Bethel College.

Jon has degrees from Wheaton College, Northern Illinois University, and The University of Texas at Austin. He is ordained in the Missionary Church. Fortunately, everyone still calls him "Jon."

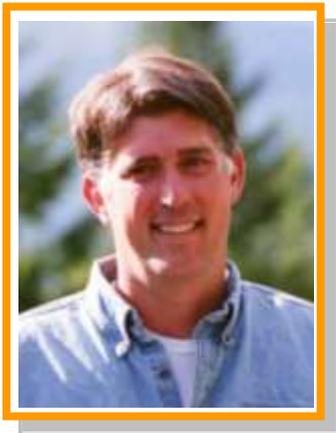
Allen Tyndall, eProf

First called to ministry at the age of 17, Allen wasn't sure he could pastor a church when he graduated from Elon College, so he began teaching school. He earned his MEd degree from UNCG during the 17 years he served in public education (teacher, principal, assistant superintendent) and with the VA Department of Education. When God called again, he enrolled in Lancaster Seminary where he received his MDiv degree. After being ordained in another denomination, he pastored in Ohio and Virginia before finally settling in Kannapolis, North Carolina, his current home. Along the way he completed requirements for his DMin degree from Southwest Bible College and Seminary.



Ordained by the Missionary Church in 2000, Allen now serves the Lord in New Gate Ministries and is actively involved in prayer ministry in his local church. In recent years he's also filled the roles of teacher, coach, and principal at First Assembly Christian School in Concord (NC).

In his "spare" time, Dr. Tyndall teaches several Level One PLI courses, including Old and New Testament Surveys. He also has a passion for missions (evidenced by eleven short-term mission trips to Mexico) and prayer. In fact he and his wife Doris are now the prayer ministries coordinators of JAARS (the support organization for Wycliffe Bible Translators). They've been married for almost 50 years and have four children and nine grandchildren.



Marcus Warner, eProf

A former pastor and Bible professor (Bethel College) with a doctorate from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, since 2006 Marcus has served as president of Deeper Walk International and primary teacher at Deeper Walk seminars and has written two books: *The Deeper Walk Guide to the Bible* and *Toward a Deeper Walk*.

Dr. Warner (not to be confused with his father, Dr. Tim Warner) authored and teaches our missional course "Spiritual Warfare Ministry." Applying warfare principles in the discipling process," Marcus designed this course to help those in the Western church reclaim a biblically-balanced message of spiritual warfare and a truly biblical worldview.

Marcus and his wife, Brenda, live in Noblesville, Indiana, a suburb of Indianapolis.

Diana Boyer, Administrator

Your main contact with PLI will probably be Diana. She handles incoming email, phone calls, new student applications, coaching applications, course registrations, class schedules, eProf communications, student accounting, newsletters, Web site updates, technical support, etc. Though now working from her home office in Houston, Texas, the internet and cell phones insure her availability. If you have any questions, contact Diana.

Before coming to the Missionary Church national office in 2002, Diana honed her administrative and technical skills working in church offices, a counseling office, an accounting office, and a software company.

Diana and her husband, Jim, have three grown children and 13 grandchildren. Pictures of grandchildren are readily available, just ask!



Praise God for blessing PLI with such a great staff of gifted, dedicated eProfs!