



Clergy Leadership Program

of Central Pennsylvania

Seminar One: GOVERNMENT / Seminar Coordinator and Speaker Bios

Monday, 23 October 2017

Joyce Davis is the Communications Director for the City of Harrisburg and president of the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg (WACH). Joyce is an experienced journalist, having formerly worked for National Public Radio, the New Orleans Time-Picayune, Knight Ridder Newspapers, and Radio Farda. Joyce has authored several books and was a senior fellow with the United States Institute of Peace. She is a valued member of the CLP Advisory Board.

Mike Brunelle was appointed Governor Tom Wolf's Chief of Staff in January 2017. Previously Mike was National Campaigns Director for the Service Employees International Union. He was also Executive Director of the New Hampshire Democratic Party and served as a state representative to the NH General Court. Mike currently lives in Lemoyne.

Thomas Carter is the Harrisburg City Police Chief, a role he has held since 2014. Chief Carter is a life-long Harrisburg resident known for his accessibility to the city's citizens and for his focus on community policing. In 2014, Chief Carter was recognized as a "Peacemaker in Our Midst" by the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg.

Dr. Ronald Costen (retired) was Director of the PA Institute on Protective Services at Temple University, which provides educational and consultation services related to victimization of the elderly. Dr. Costen was formerly Deputy Attorney General for the state of Pennsylvania. He has a law degree from Temple and Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh.

The Honorable John DiSanto was elected in 2016 as state senator (Republican) for District 15 (Dauphin and Perry Counties). Before taking office, Senator DiSanto was president of a construction and development company. A graduate of Central Dauphin high school, he has a B.A. in business and urban planning from American University in Washington, DC.

Brian Enterline is Harrisburg's Fire Chief. Growing up just doors from his hometown fire station in Highspire, Brian joined the Harrisburg fire department as a volunteer at Squad 8 in 1994. He became Acting Fire Chief in October 2013 and was offered the position permanently a year later. Brian is an avid fire historian and a collector of firefighting antiques.

Rev. Nathaniel Gadsden is founder and pastor of Imani African Christian Church (Harrisburg) and has also served as elder at Capital Presbyterian Church and as assistant pastor of Christ Community Church of God In Christ. Rev. Gadsden's profile is diverse. In addition to being a pastor, he is also a life skills coach, a poet, and a motivational speaker.

Russell W. Goodman is a board member of the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg and editor-in-chief of a supply chain company called Supply Chain Brain. Russell holds a B.A. in journalism from Louisiana State University and a J.D. from Loyola University-New Orleans. He specializes in developing and managing online and print media products.

The Honorable Carol Hil-Evans was elected in 2016 as state representative (Democrat) for District 95 (York). Hil-Evans is a native of York, and previously served 8 years on the York City Council, including a stint as president. Representative Hil-Evans is the 1st African-American and only the 3rd woman to be elected to the PA General Assembly from York County.

Jacqueline Z. Parker is Executive Director of Community and Economic Development for the City of Harrisburg, overseeing four departments: Parks/Recreation, Planning, Business Development, and Building/Housing. She is also CEO of JZ Parker Community Solutions, LLC, providing consultation about high impact projects for developers and communities.

Rev. Sandy Strauss is Director of Public Advocacy for the Pennsylvania Council of Churches, focusing especially on issues related to peace, justice, equality and compassion for all people. She received her Master of Divinity degree from Lancaster Theological Seminary and is ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA).