

## Invešt YC 2018-2019 Presenters and Workshop Leaders



**Jonathan Allen**

*Financial Advisor and Manager, Allen Wealth Management*

After earning his Master of Science in Accountancy from Wake Forest University, he began his career in Manhattan as a tax consultant at Ernst & Young. Though he enjoyed working at a larger firm, Jonathan longed to have a direct impact on client's lives. An avid outdoorsman, Jonathan enjoys hiking and fly-fishing the local trout streams. He and his wife, Stephanie, have two daughters: Meredith and Rachel. They reside in Boone, North Carolina with their dog, Deacon. Jonathan is a member of Boone United Methodist Church.



**Nate Berneking**

*Director of Finance & Administration, Missouri Annual Conference of the UMC*

Depending on the day, Nate thinks of himself as a writer, pastor or lawyer. He is a graduate of Saint Louis University, Saint Louis University School of Law and Emory University's Candler School of Theology. Prior to becoming a pastor, he worked as an attorney in the corporate and securities group of a large St. Louis law firm. When he isn't working, he enjoys writing fiction and hopes to soon publish his first novel. He has already written one nonfiction book on church finance, *The Vile Practices of Church Leadership*, available through Abingdon Press.



**Bob Christophel**

*Manager: Benefits Education, Wespeth Benefits and Investments*

Bob Christophel is a benefits educator who provides financial, retirement and other benefits education for clergy and lay employees. Prior to joining Wespeth in 2015, Bob worked for a not-for-profit multi-employer pension and 401 (k) system in New York City, providing benefit communications and participant education for employees of New York museums, performing arts centers and other cultural institutions. Previously, he was a licensed investment representative in a corporate retirement services division, where he focused primarily on participant education for national corporate 401 (k) plans.



**Mark King**

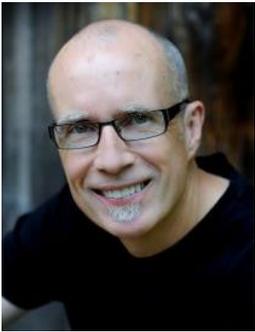
*Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services, Western North Carolina Conference*

Dr. R. Mark King was elected the WNCC Conference Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services in June, 2016. He holds the professional designation of Certified Church Administrator and possesses advanced degrees in business, accounting and divinity. A native of Charlotte, North Carolina, he has been a clergy member of the conference since 2000 and has served several appointments in local churches.



**Mary Langhorne**  
*Founder, MGL Financial LLC*

Mary believes that everyone deserves compassionate and objective financial advice, and a trusted professional they can turn to with questions. She has 30 years of experience in the financial services industry, including insurance and banking. She was inspired by her volunteer experiences with hospice to establish her own business to help people with their financial concerns. Mary is an active volunteer with Hospice & Palliative Care-Charlotte Region, helping patients and families with financial concerns during a very difficult time. She is a member of Davidson United Methodist Church.



**Mike Slaughter**  
*Pastor Emeritus, Ginghamburg Church, Tipp City OH & Founder, Passionate Churches LLC*

Mike served for nearly four decades as the lead pastor and chief dreamer of Ginghamburg and the spiritual entrepreneur of ministry marketplace innovations. Mike is also the founder of Passionate Churches, LLC, which specializes in developing church pastors, staff and lay leaders through coaching, training, consulting and facilitation. Mike's life-long passion to reach the lost and set the oppressed free made him a tireless advocate for the people of Darfur, Sudan, once named as the worst humanitarian crisis in the world. Mike's call to afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted challenges Jesus followers to wrestle with God and their God-destinies.



**David Snipes**  
*President and Executive Director, United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina*

"The ministry of the Foundation is more than money...it's about relationships...it's about faithfulness and recognizing the blessings God has given to grow the church. It is for this reason that I believe so strongly in the mission of the Foundation to build the church for generations to come." David has served at the Foundation since February 2002. He has been an ordained elder in full connection in The Western North Carolina Conference since 1996. David and his wife Debbi live in Davidson and have two daughters and two dogs.



**Donna Claycomb Sokol**  
*Pastor, Mount Vernon Place United Methodist Church, Washington DC*

Donna was appointed to Mt. Vernon Place in 2005, returning to a city that has shaped her and formed her – a place she loves. It's her second stint in Washington. The first chapter included serving as a White House intern, working as the scheduler for a Congressman, and then as a staffer for a Senator. Her other appointments include Minister of Congregational Care at First United Methodist Church in Hendersonville, N.C. and Director of Admissions at Duke Divinity School. Pastor Donna is the co-author of *A New Day in the City: Urban Church Revival* published. She's married to Craig Sokol – the person who most reveals God's love and grace to her.



**A.J. Thomas**  
*Founder, Joyful Giving Group LLC*

A.J. is a practiced believer in the power of generosity to transform individual lives, congregations, and entire communities. A.J. is an ordained elder in full connection in the Western North Carolina Conference, and after serving churches in Boone, Charlotte, and Greensboro, is appointed to Joyful Giving Group as a full-time extension ministry. He loves to help connect resources with your God-sized dream. A.J. is married to Rev. Ashley Pickerel Thomas, who is the pastor of Stokesdale United Methodist Church.