



Shirley Parris Service Award

The Shirley Parris Award honors laity who have served The United Methodist Church on the local church, district, conference, jurisdictional and/or general church levels. The award is named to honor Shirley Parris, a member of Union UMC in Brooklyn, whose lifelong devotion to Jesus Christ was expressed through service across the local church, the New York Conference, the Northeastern Jurisdiction, and the General Church. A resolution recommending this award was unanimously passed at the 2011 New York Annual Conference.

Parris served in virtually every capacity possible at Union UMC in Brooklyn, including as the lay member of annual conference until 2008. She also served as district lay leader and conference lay leader—the first woman to do so in both capacities. She was elected six times as a lay delegate to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences from 1984 to 2004. She led the delegation twice, and in that role served as a member of the Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee. She also served on several NYAC committees including Finance and Administration, the Episcopacy Committee, Board of Laity, Parish Development Committee, and the Board of Ordained Ministry.



She chaired legislative section 3 at the NYAC for many years, guiding the deliberation of many challenging and divisive issues with grace and patience.

Parris loved preaching, and as a district lay speaker filled the pulpits in most of the churches in the Long Island West District, and beyond including both Baptist and Episcopal churches. She was a popular Bible study and workshop leader, both locally and in other conferences.

Her sense of humor and unapologetic love of God were well known, as were her love of music and singing and familiarity with the hymns of both the British Methodist and United Methodist churches.

Nominees are lay persons who have demonstrated a consistent pattern of faithful, uncompensated service and tireless devotion to Jesus Christ and The United Methodist Church connection. Past recipients of the Parris award include:

2018: **Edna Rouse**, Vanderveer Park UMC, Brooklyn, Long Island West District

2016: **Marilyn Wakefield**, Reservoir UMC, Shokan, Catskill Hudson District

2015: **Magdalene Russell-Tattnall**, Vanderveer Park UMC, Brooklyn, Long Island West District

2014: **Barbara Edwards**, St. Paul's UMC, Jamaica, Long Island West District

2013: **Beth Capen**, Rondout Valley UMC, Stoneridge, Catskill Hudson District

2012: **Lucille Dockery**, UMC of Hyde Park, New York/Connecticut District

Nominations for the 2019 award are to be received no later than **May 15, 2019**.

The nomination form can be found on the second page of this document, as well as online at www.nyac.com/laity. Any questions and the completed nomination forms should be directed to Roena Littlejohn, conference lay leader.

2019 Shirley Parris Service Award Nomination Form

Nominee's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Cell #: _____

Email: _____

Church/Charge: _____ District: _____



Nominees eligible for this award are **lay persons** known for their outstanding contribution of personal time and energy working as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Each nomination should include a descriptive resume of that individual's service to his or her 1) local church, 2) district, 3) annual conference, 4) jurisdiction and/or 5) the general church. Please be sure to include information about service to at least four of the five church levels above.

Please provide the following information for each nominee:

1. How long has this person been a member of The United Methodist Church? _____
2. Nominee is a: Adult Lay Person _____ Youth Lay Person _____
3. What objective factors represent the nominee's loyalty, honesty and devotion to serving without compensation in roles within the local church, district, conference, jurisdiction and/or the general church?
4. Describe how this person embodies the joyful spirit of giving oneself in service to others.
5. Provide a brief biography of this nominee, including a description of how this individual exemplifies the unwavering Christian service as shown by Shirley Parris during her life.
6. Please add any other comments, information, or letters of recommendation you believe would be helpful in the selection process.

Nominated by: _____ Position: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Completed nomination forms must be received by **May 15, 2019** in order to be considered for the 2019 award. Nomination forms may be mailed to **Roena Littlejohn**, conference lay leader, 91 Laurel Place, Bridgeport, CT 06604-1717, or emailed to her at Roena.Littlejohn@nyac-umc.com.