



The Shirley Parris award honors laity who have served the local church, district, the New York Conference, the Northeastern Jurisdiction and/or the General Church of The United Methodist Church.

Past Award Recipients continued

2016 Marilyn Wakefield (cont.)

Marilyn also served for eight years on the Board of Ordained Ministry as a lay person. Those years gave her the opportunity to interact with the candidates for the ministry as they were worked to be commissioned and ordained, an experience she cherishes.

Marilyn now spends her time in her local church and is the chair of the mission committee and treasurer of the local UMW. These days she also has time to share with her 3 children, 8 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Looking back on her volunteer work in the church, Marilyn commented, "More blessings than I expected came my way each day as I worked with true followers of Christ and shared decision making with them. I give thanks to God for a love-filled life."

**2015 – Magdalene Russell-Tattnell
Vandever 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, Hyde Park
New York/Connecticut District**



Shirley I. Parris

July 31, 1933 - June 13, 2010

**SHIRLEY PARRIS
AWARD**

Spring 2018





Who was Shirley Parris?

Shirley served in virtually every capacity at Union UMC, including as the member of annual conference until 2008. She also served on both district and conference levels, holding the position of district lay leader and conference lay leader—the first woman to do so in both capacities. She was elected as a delegate from the New York Conference to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences in 1984, 1988, 1992, 1996, 2000 and 2004. She led the delegation twice and in that role, she was a member of the Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee. Shirley served on several conference committees including the Committee on Finance and Administration, the Episcopacy Committee, Conference Board of Laity and the Parish Development Committee and was a lay member of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry.

She chaired Legislative Section 3 for many years, guiding the section in their deliberation of many challenging and divisive issues with grace and patience.

Shirley loved preaching and as a district lay speaker she filled the pulpits in most of the churches in the Long Island West District, as well as beyond the district and The United Methodist Church, 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 her familiarity with the hymns of both the British and The United Methodist Church.

Past Award Recipients

**2016 – Marilyn Wakefield
Reservoir UMC
Catskill Hudson District**

Marilyn has been a member of the Reservoir UMC in Shokan, NY for over 50 years and has played a role in the merger of three churches forming the current church in Shokan. At the local church level Marilyn has served as member or chairperson of almost all committees. Her membership with the unit of United Methodist Women in her home church laid the foundation for future opportunities to serve the Lord and to seek more ways to be in mission.

Attending The New York Conference Cooperative School of Christian Mission was the first step Marilyn took out of the local church. Spiritually fed by the experience, Marilyn returned summer after summer to the School of Mission until she eventually became Dean of the School of Mission for two sessions.

Marilyn also became president of the New York Conference of United Methodist Women and relished the lessons learned from the diverse membership and leadership. Following her term as president, Marilyn traveled as a member of the Appalachian Network to places in Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee participated in awarding grants a challenging, even difficult process as there never seemed to be enough for each project that was presented.

Marilyn represented the New York Conference at Judicial Conferences and served once as a delegate to General Conference. (continued on back)

Nominate a Candidate

Ms. Shirley Parris' lifelong devotion to Jesus Christ was expressed through her service to the local church, the New York Annual Conference, the Northeastern Jurisdiction and the General Church. A resolution recommending this award was unanimously passed at the 2011 NYAC Annual Conference.

Nominations for the 2018 Award are to be received no later than May 1, 2018.

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.

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 **four** of the **five** church levels above.

Nomination Form

The nomination form is available online at:
<https://www.nyac.com/laity>
Completed nominations should be forwarded to:
Roena Littlejohn
Conference Lay Leader