

Rev. John M. Blanchard, Jr.- Board member

John has served our community as a Board member since 2021. John retired from active ministry in 2016 after serving almost 15 years in the Baltimore/Washington Conference where he was ordained by Bishop John Schol. John retired as a United Methodist Pastor. He prefers to go by John and not Rev. or Pastor. Prior to Mount Zion UMC in Lothian, MD, John served as senior pastor at Glen Dale UMC in Glen Dale, MD. And Ebenezer UMC on Capitol Hill. He also served as associate at Linden Linthicum UMC in Clarkesville, MD. John served as associate pastor in the NJ conference at St. Paul UMC in Willingboro and Broadway UMC in Camden, NJ.

During his pastorate at Ebenezer in Washington, DC John served on the board of Capitol Hill Group Ministries; establishing and maintaining relations with neighborhood schools, reaching out in ministry to and with the marginalized on “the Hill” and fostering ecumenism within the faith community. Also while at Ebenezer, a historic African American congregation, John worked diligently to define the scope of its relationship with its sister congregation, Capitol Hill UMC (a largely Anglo congregation) as a cooperative parish. In this context and with the help of a grant from the denomination, Ebenezer and Capitol Hill struggled faithfully and intentionally on issues of racial healing and reconciliation.

Prior to going into ministry John worked for more than 25 years in finance and accounting management in the corporate realm at several Fortune 100 companies (more than 10 years at Exxon) and served on various agency boards. John took his financial and administrative skills from the corporate environment to the not-for-profit arena and served Chief Financial and Investment officer for more than 10 years at The American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker service and relief organization. It was here John developed a keen interest in social investing and corporate responsibility as part of his commitment to social and economic justice.

John is a native of Philadelphia. He received his undergraduate degree from Delaware State University and the Master of Divinity Degree from Wesley Theological Seminary. John and his wife Joan (an Alumnus of Howard University) have been married for over 40 years and served together in the prison ministry in the states of LA, TX, and NJ for more than 10 years. They are the proud parents of two daughters, Joy Grace and Stephanie Camille. Also, they are the proud grandparents of Joshua Judah and Skylar Lynn.