

Children of the World Learning Center Board

Lindsey Moss, MSW, LCSW--Chair

Lindsey has a background in early childhood development and clinical social work. She has worked within early intervention and child welfare for 15 years. Her career has been focused on supporting healthy development for young children and their families.

Laura Handler, Ph.D.--Vice Chair

Laura is an adjunct professor and educational researcher at UNC Charlotte. She received both her Master's in Teaching English as a Second Language and her doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction (focusing on urban elementary education) from UNCC. Laura taught in CMS for nine years, focusing on family outreach and community partnerships. These experiences drive current research interests in educational equity, school choice and the Latinx community. Her three-year-old son attends Children of the World Learning Center.

Dick Woods--Treasurer

Dick Woods earned a BS degree in Electrical Engineering from Duke University in 1965 and worked in engineering and construction management before retiring in 2014. Dick is a member of Central United Methodist Church where he has served in many different capacities. He also serves on the Board of Directors of Wesley Community Development Corp., an organization of the United Methodist Church's Western NC Conference, which builds affordable housing for seniors and works with the Western NC Conference to remission and manage church buildings.

Kim Becnel, Ph.D.--Secretary

Kim is an associate professor of Library Science at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina and a former youth services librarian. She earned her Ph.D. in literature and language from the University of South Carolina and currently teaches and researches in the areas of youth literature and literacy and the intersection of technology and pedagogy.

Maria Antonietta Cardarelli--Program Administrator

Maria has been the Program Administrator of COTWLC since August 2018. She was born in Venezuela to an immigrant family from Italy. She received a degree in Psychology with a specialization in family and children's therapy. Since she has been in the USA, Maria has worked in programs that support the Latino community. She feels blessed with the opportunity to open her arms and be one of the leaders of the first multicultural, dual language preschool which embraces diversity, inclusion and equity through education.

Julie Babb

Julie spent 35 years working in the Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools, as a teacher, principal and director for the Pre-K program both in CMS and NC Pre-K. She has served on the state advisory board for NC Pre-K and the Mecklenburg County Early Childhood Education Executive Committee. Julie volunteers with multiple organizations to promote opportunities for all children to participate in high quality, authentic, child centered preschool where classmates have diverse backgrounds, learning evolves from play, and interactions are rich and plentiful.

Rev. Pamela Blackstock

Rev. Pamela Blackstock was appointed to Central United Methodist Church in July 2018, and came to us from Union Memorial United Methodist Church in Greensboro, North Carolina. She is an elder in the Western North Carolina Conference. Pamela received her Master's of Divinity from Duke University and a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education from Winston Salem State University. She is committed to helping the lost and hurting accept the love of Christ while leading them to a deeper relationship with Jesus.

Beau Cannon

Beau Cannon has been a resident of Charlotte since 1988 and graduated from Garinger HS in 1990. He graduated from UNC Charlotte in 1997 with a B.A. in Elementary Education and went on to get his Masters from Gardner-Webb in Executive Leadership in 2013. Beau has worked in the education field for 22 years where he spent 13 years as a 5th grade teacher. He currently serves as the assistant principal for Bain Elementary.

Karen Carpenter

Attorney Karen Carpenter is a longtime member of Central United Methodist Church, where she has served in many capacities from church administration to children's ministries. Mother of two, she also has been heavily involved in scouting, sports and band programs. Before practicing law, Karen worked as a newspaper and catalog editor, and in public relations and marketing.

Carmen Concepcion

Carmen earned her B.S. in Elementary Education, M.S. in Educational Computing and Technology, and Certification in Educational Leadership from Barry University. She has been committed to Title I schools throughout her career, leading the highest performing Title I school in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg district for four consecutive years. Recently, Carmen opened the newest Dual Language Immersion School in the district, Charlotte East Language Academy. Carmen coaches new principals and is a Teacher's College, Columbia University 2017 Cahn Fellow.

Verónica Corral

Veronica is originally from Chicago, Illinois, where she grew up in a Mexican-American neighborhood before calling Charlotte home in 1998. She has a B.A in Child and Family Development with a B-K License and has served as a preschool assistant and teacher both for CMS as well as for a private bilingual preschool. She was an early interventionist in Mecklenburg county before beginning her career at Charlotte Mecklenburg Library as a Bilingual Outreach Specialist.

Don Irons

Don has been in advertising for 34 years. He is currently the chairman of the administrative council at Central United Methodist church, where he has had various duties and roles.

Magbis Love

Magbis is originally from Maracaibo Venezuela. She earned her bachelor's degree in Psychology from Rafael Urdaneta University and Master's Degree in Human Resources Management from Rafael Maria Baralt University in Venezuela. Magbis also holds certifications for leading education, alignment developing, upward potential programs associated with the Latin American Chamber of Commerce of Charlotte. Magbis works as a Community Outreach Coordinator for Levine Cancer Institute. She is also part of the Leadership System Resource Group Unidos.

Rev. Susan Suarez Webster

Rev. Susan Suarez Webster has served in the role of Assistant Pastor at Central UMC for eight years. Her commitment to God's work and love for children compels her to support the Children of the World Learning Center.

Julie Wentz

Julie works with Myers park UMC as the School Partnership and Local Outreach Coordinator. Julie partners with several area schools as well as gives leadership to the summer Freedom School. Julie also serves on the NC Public policy team for NAEYC where she advocates with elected officials for early childhood education. Her love for children, dedication to Christ, and experience in Early Childhood Education make her a real asset to the Board of Directors of the Children of the World Learning Center.

Louise Woods

Louise earned her BA in Religion at Duke University and her MSW at UNC. A passion for east Charlotte and for equitable, diverse public schools led to her leadership on the League of Women Voters' Education Committee, her service on the Committee of 25 (CMS's first Equity Committee), her election to the CMS Board of Education and service on the NC School Board

Association. Louise is passionate about Central's outreach ministries, particularly the Children of the World Learning Center.