

SPEAKERS

Bee Moorhead, Executive Director

Bee has been Director of Texas Impact since 2000, managing every aspect of the organization's work and answering to a 45 member board of directors. The Texas Impact Board is made up of representatives from the state's many faith communities.

Under Bee's leadership, Texas Impact has moved from fewer than 1,000 members to more than 20,000 members and earned recognition as a national leader in interfaith education and community leadership development.

Bee spent eight years as a senior fiscal policy analyst for former Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, John Sharp. Bee was responsible for the Comptroller's attention to public policy issues related to health and human services. She was the chief architect of Family Pathfinders, a unique program linking Texas congregations and civic organizations with families on public assistance.

She holds a B.A. in Drama from the University of Texas in Austin, and an M.A. of Public Affairs from the Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas.



Scott Atnip, Engagement Director



Scott rejoined the Texas Impact staff as Engagement Director in 2012 after a stint as a Texas Impact intern in 2002-2003. Scott connects Texans of faith with opportunities to engage in the policy process through Texas Impact programs like Weekly Witness, Rapid Response, Legislative Engagement Groups, and Faith in Democracy.

He received his B.A. in Political Science from Sam Houston State University and an M.A. of Public Affairs from the Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas and is a Certified Lay Servant in the United Methodist Church.

In addition to his work with Texas Impact, Scott has spent a lifetime of service in the United Methodist Church. He was elected to the Texas Conference delegation to General Conference in 2012 and 2020 and served as a District Lay Leader and Associate District Lay Leader from 2008-2016.

He has served as a Board Member for the General Board of Global Ministries and with U.M. ARMY and JUMMP and at the local church level as Outreach Committee Chair and has received recognitions from district and conference United Methodist Women groups.

Joshua Houston, Advocacy Director



Josh is an attorney and registered lobbyist whose experience in state government spans three decades. His responsibilities include legislative strategy; legal and policy research; direct lobbying; media relations; and grassroots strategy. A policy generalist, Josh has specific expertise in the policy areas of electric and water utilities, consumer finance, criminal justice, and child welfare policy; as well as election, First Amendment, civil rights, administrative, and nonprofit law.

Before coming to Texas Impact/Texas Interfaith Center in 2010, Josh worked for the Texas House of Representatives during the 81st Legislative Session, and as a legislative consultant for the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission during the 79th Legislature. He also interned at the Travis County District Attorney's Office.

He earned his Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Texas School of Law in 2010, a Master of Theological Studies from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in 2007, and a Bachelor of Arts in History with a minor in Philosophy from Texas A&M University in 2004.

Reverend Diane McGehee, Senior Pastor, Bering Memorial

Rev. McGehee is the senior pastor of Bering Memorial United Church of Christ where she has served for 4.5 years. She is wife of attorney Jack McGehee; mother and mother-in-law of Jonathan, Laura, Ben, Summer, Danny, Sarah, David, Tory, Paige, and Jennifer; grandmother of Luke, Colin, and Pierce. She is a graduate of the Harvard Law School and Perkins School of Theology, and the Nine Gates School, with 20 years of experience as a trial lawyer in the civil courts; 5 years as pastor of the Asian-American congregation of Bellaire UMC, and 7 years as the Director of the Center for Missional Excellence of the Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Diane is the founder and co-director of *Together in Hope* - a 501(c)(3) non-profit seeking to empower the poor in the Philippines.



She is a former founding board member of Justice for Our Neighbors, which provides free and reduced immigration legal services as a ministry of the United Methodist Church; member of the founding Advisory Board of the Duke Center for Reconciliation; a leader of contemplative prayer retreats; an American Leadership Forum (ALF) Senior Fellow; a social justice advocate on behalf of the LGBTQ community, immigrants, refugees, returning citizens, foster children, and all who need to know that they are beloved children of God and of infinite worth just as they are.

Cara Cook, MS, RN, AHN-BC, Director of Programs, ANHE

Cara Cook, MS, RN, AHN-BC is the Director of Programs for the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments. In her role, she leads ANHE environmental health programming to engage nurses, nursing organizations, and the profession in advancing health advocacy, education, and practice change.



Prior to joining ANHE, Cara was a Local Care Coordinator with Healthways-Sharecare, Inc., coordinating care for high-risk patients in partnership with their primary care providers as part of an insurance-based Patient-Centered Medical Home program.

She has experience in critical care nursing working in both medical and trauma intensive care. Cara holds a Master's in Community/Public Health Nursing through the University of Maryland.

Isa Peterson, Hunger Advocacy Fellow

Isa is spending a year-long fellowship with Texas Impact through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). In this fellowship, Isabella will experience a year-long transformative experience combining leadership development and faith formation with impactful advocacy engagement.

Isabella works to increase Texas Impact's advocacy network, research and development efforts, and represent the equitable values that Texas Impact embodies. Isabella graduated from The University of Texas at Austin with a B.A. in Government and Sustainability Studies. Before joining Texas Impact she spent her undergraduate years working for environmental nonprofits in Austin, such as Rainforest Partnership and the Shoal Creek Conservancy, advocating for environmental change and urban conservation. Isabella hopes to continue their career focused on the intersection of environmental and social policy during their time with Texas Impact and beyond.



Colin Leyden, Political Director, Texas



Colin is responsible for coordinating and promoting EDF's political engagement in Texas - from the local level to the state's congressional delegation. Working with program staff in Texas, Colin works to ensure that there is cohesion and strategic focus in the way that EDF's legislative and political priorities are pursued with stakeholders, policymakers and elected officials. Colin is also managing our electric power grid work in Texas as we push for reforms to make the electric system more resilient and less carbon intensive.

Paul T. Martin, Vice-President for State Relations Reinsurance Association of America

Paul T. Martin works as the Vice President – State Relations for the Reinsurance Association of America (RAA). In his role at the RAA, he monitors legislation and regulations affecting reinsurers in 27 states. He graduated from The Webb School in Bell Buckle, Tennessee. He earned a degree in Public Policy Studies from Vanderbilt and a law degree from the University of Miami.

He is admitted to practice law in Tennessee, Florida and Texas. In addition to having successfully tried a number of jury and non-jury cases to verdict, he has also worked as in house counsel for a Fortune 50 insurance company. Prior to joining the RAA, Paul served as Senior Regional Vice President for the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies (NAMIC).



Cyrus Reed, Ph.D. Conservation Director, Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter



Cyrus Reed has served as Conservation Director for the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club since 2008, and has also served as interim director on several occasions. Cyrus has a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Texas at Austin, with a focus on water policy and the dispute over the Rio Grande water with Mexico.

He has also served for many years as the chapter's main lobbyist at the legislature, while also being active on issues before the Utility Commission, ERCOT, the Railroad Commission and TCEQ. Cyrus also served on the City of Austin's Electric Utility Commission. Cyrus has also worked as a journalist and has spent considerable time in Mexico, Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Cyrus is married with three soccer-playing kids, and has been active in church, girl scouts and boy scout activities.

Beaman Floyd, President Texas Impact

Beaman Floyd is an independent contract lobbyist and public affairs strategist with more than 30 years of experience in legislative and public affairs consulting. Since 1997, Beaman has run his own firm with a diverse set of clients, including insurance and financial services companies, public education associations, higher education concerns, and faith groups.

Mr. Floyd has been highly involved in several major policy issues Texas, including property and casualty insurance reform,



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catastrophe policy, workers' compensation reform, healthcare, public school finance, and higher education policy. He frequently represents clients in both the print and electronic media, both in Texas and nationally.

He is also a regular guest lecturer to college faculty groups, in college classrooms, policy forums, and other political and educational settings. Mr. Floyd works with several organizations to advance the understanding of public affairs advocacy, and is currently working with international officials in emerging democracies to establish ethical lobbying practices. He is a Charter Member of the Professional Advocacy Association of Texas.

Jennifer Waisath Harris, Texas State Director, the COVID Collaborative



Jennifer Harris is Director, External Relations and leads COVID Collaborative's conservative and faith-based engagement efforts to combat vaccine hesitancy and increase vaccine uptake. In addition to her work with COVID Collaborative, Jennifer advises corporate and non-profit clients on strategy and messaging for state and federal public affairs.

Previous to her consulting work, she held director-level communications positions in state government and state politics, advising elected and appointed officials in media relations and communications strategy. Jennifer holds a BA with Honors in Government and MA in Journalism from The University of Texas at Austin.

Peter J. Hotez, M.D., Ph.D., Baylor College of Medicine

Peter J. Hotez, M.D., Ph.D. is Dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine and Professor of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology & Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine where he is also the Co-director of the Texas Children's Center for Vaccine Development (CVD) and Texas Children's Hospital Endowed Chair of Tropical Pediatrics. He is also University Professor at Baylor University, Fellow in Disease and Poverty at the James A Baker III Institute for Public Policy, Senior Fellow at the Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs at Texas A&M University, Faculty Fellow with the Hagler Institute for Advanced Studies at Texas A&M University, and Health Policy Scholar in the Baylor Center for Medical Ethics and Health Policy.



Dr. Hotez is an internationally-recognized physician-scientist in neglected tropical diseases and vaccine development. As co-director of the Texas Children’s CVD, he leads a team and product development partnership for developing new vaccines for hookworm infection, schistosomiasis, leishmaniasis, Chagas disease, and SARS/MERS/SARS-2 coronavirus, diseases affecting hundreds of millions of children and adults worldwide, while championing access to vaccines globally and in the United States.

Jamie Olson, Director of Policy & Advocacy

As Director of Policy & Advocacy, Jamie focuses on federal and state policies around food, nutrition and economic development. Previously Jamie worked as Policy Analyst and as Supply Chain Manager for Feeding Texas and as Senior Program Associate at the Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation. Along with a diverse background in both the non-profit and public sectors, Jamie holds a Master of Global Policy Studies with a specialization in Energy and Environmental Policy from the University of Texas at Austin and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Temple University.



Heather Malkawi, Seminary Intern



Heather Malkawi has recently joined Texas Impact in 2021 as an intern from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She is a dual degree student working on both her Master of Divinity and in the process of applying to The University of Texas for her Master of Science in Social Work.

Heather graduated from the University of Michigan – Flint with a B.A. in Sociology. Before coming to Austin, I spent a few years as a social worker before finding her passion in insurance. In her free time, she is the parent of two teenagers.

Cathy Morgan, University Presbyterian Church, Austin

Cathy was born and raised in Austin, Texas, and was the first baby baptized at Tarrytown United Methodist Church, Austin. She became a teacher after graduating from the University of Texas, Austin. She has retired from teaching after 29 years at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Her last 17 years were spent as a high school mathematics teacher. She has two children and 3 fabulous grandchildren. Throughout her adult life, Cathy has been active in many political campaigns as well as spending much of her time and energy on voter registration. Cathy is an active member of University Presbyterian Church and coordinates the church’s Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, and Chocolate program.



Kendal Gladish, University Presbyterian Church, Austin



Kendal Gladish is a lifelong Presbyterian, and has served as a deacon, elder, and Sunday School teacher, most recently as a member at University Presbyterian Church in Austin since 2009. As chair of their Social Witness Committee in 2018-2020, she led the Vote by Mail drive in partnership with Texas Impact to help seniors and the homebound secure absentee ballots during the initial months of the COVID pandemic and is activating the same effort in 2022. In her professional life, Gladish served as a senior staff member at the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* based at the University of Chicago from 2006 until her retirement in 2017. Prior to 2006 she led editorial and development programs at Indiana University Press, Benchmark Press, and the University of Virginia. She is a native of Toledo, Ohio, and has been married to Ken Gladish since 1978.

Bobby Watson, Immigration Advocacy Fellow

Bobby graduated from Trinity University 2021 Cum Laude with a BA in Political Science and minors in Spanish and Russian. He was a recipient of the Benjamin A. Gilman Scholar award for his Russian studies in 2019. Bobby has over 5 years of work experience with non-profits and is currently the Immigration Advocacy Fellow at Texas Impact.



Harriett Jane Olson CEO, United Methodist Women



Harriett Jane Olson has served as chief executive officer of the United Methodist Women's national administrative and policymaking arm since 2007. United Methodist Women is a nearly 800,000-member organization within the United Methodist Church in the United States. United Methodist Women members give about \$15 million a year for work with women, children and youth in the United States and around the world.

A Harvard Law School graduate, Ms. Olson practiced real estate and environmental law (1983-96) at a N.J. law firm that is now part of Day, Pitney, before working for the church full-time. From 1996-2007, Ms. Olson was senior vice-president for publishing, editor for church school publications and United Methodist Church book editor at the United Methodist Publishing House in Nashville, TN. Ms. Olson has a bachelor's degree from Houghton College in Houghton, N.Y., where she serves on the board of trustees.

