



THOM WHITE WOLF FASSETT

A Brief Personal Profile:

As emeritus General Secretary of the international public policy organization of The United Methodist Church, The General Board of Church and Society, Thom White Wolf Fasset brings a rich and varied background of experience as he works in the field of faith, politics and issues of justice.

Receiving advanced degrees from Colgate Rochester Divinity School and The American University, Dr. Fasset's experience includes teaching high school English; local pastorates in United Methodist congregations; founding Minister of Urban Mission in Rochester, N.Y.; Urban Affairs Officer for United States Operations, the Xerox Corporation, in which he developed national strategy plans for corporate social responsibility; Special Assistant to the United States Senate and House of Representatives conducting investigations into Federal/Indian policy with the American Indian Policy Review Commission; executive for programming of the General Board of Church and Society; Superintendent of The United Methodist Church in Alaska, District Superintendent in Central New York, and General Secretary of The General Board of Church and Society with headquarters on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., and United Nations offices in New York City.

In these positions or along with them, Fasset has worked extensively in radio and television hosting three radio programs and co-hosting a daily television series that ran for six years during the NBC "Today" program. He has also been extensively involved in civic organizations including service as Executive Chairperson of the Indian Manpower Planning Consortium sponsored by the Seneca Nation of Indians. Fasset has written and published extensively authoring *Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival*, co-authoring four other books with over 200 articles appearing in periodicals and scholarly publications. He has also served as adjunct faculty member of Colgate Rochester Divinity School, Bexley Hall Seminary and Crosier Theological School and has received numerous honors and appears in various international biographical publications. His most recent appointments include serving as a founding board member of the Institute for the Study of Harassment of African Americans in Washington, D.C.; Advisory Council, Americans for Humanitarian Trade with Cuba, and advisor to the President's Commission on Race. He is also a life member of the NAACP as well as a life member of the National Congress of American Indians.

An internationally recognized champion of human and civil rights and an outspoken defender of Native and indigenous rights, Fasset has traveled throughout the world to assist those whose voices need to be heard--to Zimbabwe and Mozambique as part of a team investigating human rights; to Guatemala as a leader of the International Justice Forum; to Copenhagen, Denmark as delegate to the United Nations Summit on Social Development, and to other nations around the world as

well as countless American cities to speak and write for justice and reconciliation.

Dr. Fassett is well known for his activities in conflict resolution/management and mediation and has participated in White House negotiations resulting in the peaceful “invasion” of Haiti by the U.S.; traveled to Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland on a peace mission with the President of the United States; negotiated Cuban principles of religious freedom face to face with Fidel Castro, and played the determining role in breaking the impasse between the United States and Cuba in the case of Elian Gonzalez.

For more information or to authorize a copy of a full vita, contact:

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Rev. Eric H. F. Law, an ordained Episcopalian priest, is the founder and executive director of the Kaleidoscope Institute, the mission of which is to create inclusive and sustainable churches and communities. For more than 20 years, he has provided transformative and comprehensive training and resources for churches and ministries in all the major church denominations in the United States and Canada. He writes a weekly blog called *The Sustainist: Spirituality for Sustainable Communities in a Networked World*. He is also a photographer, playwright and composer of church music.



Bishop Felton Edwin May was born in Chicago. After receiving a B.A. from Judson College, he was ordained deacon in the Northern Illinois Conference by Bishop Charles Wesley Brashares. He served two appointments in Chicago: St. James Church and Maple Park Church, a new church start. He then transferred to the Peninsula Annual Conference where he served as associate executive director of the Methodist Action Program in Wilmington, Delaware. In 1970, he was ordained an elder by Bishop John Wesley Lord after receiving an M. Div. Degree from Crozer Theological Seminary. In the Peninsula Conference, he also served as pastor of Ezion-Mt. Carmel Church, Wilmington, superintendent of the Easton District and director of the Conference Council on Ministries.

He was a delegate to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference from 1972 to

1984, and a delegate to General Conference from 1976 to 1984. After his election to the episcopacy in 1984, he was assigned to the Harrisburg Episcopal Area where he served until 1996. In 1996, he was assigned to the Washington Episcopal Area. After retirement in September 2004, he accepted the position of Dean of the Harry R. Kendall Science and Health Mission Center at Philander Smith College, Little Rock, Arkansas.

In 1990, he served as Bishop-on-Special Assignment to organize and coordinate the United Methodist Bishops' Initiative on Drug and Alcohol Abuse and Violence in Washington, D.C. Bishop May has served as a member of the General Council on Ministries, the General Board of Global Ministries, and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. He has also served as chair of the National Shalom Zone Committee, the Special Program on Substance Abuse and Related Violence, the Commission on Pan-Methodist Cooperation, the General Board of Global Ministries' Finance Committee, the Northeastern Jurisdiction Board of the Multi-Ethnic Center, the Advance for Christ and His Church Committee, and the Council of Bishops' Emerging Issues Committee.

In 1999, Bishop May served as a member of the White House Presidential Mission on Children Orphaned by AIDS, which traveled to Africa. The mission's study of HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa led to a Clinton Administration recommendation that U.S. spending in response to the crisis of AIDS worldwide be increased by \$100 million. He was also a participant in the White House's Faith Leaders for One America Initiative, the UN Millennium World Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders, and the Camp David Presidential Retreat Interfaith Chapel Committee.

Bishop May's articles have appeared in the New York Times, Christian Social Action and Parents Magazine as well as other publications and curriculum. He has received honorary degrees from Lebanon Valley College, Lycoming College, Wesley College and Rusk College.

Phyllis Henry and Felton Edwin May were married on June 22, 1963. They have two children, Daphne Endrea Snead and Felton May II and eight grandchildren.