

M. Kent Mayfield, M.A., M. Div., M.R.E., Ph.D.

St. John's On The Lake,
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Milwaukee, Wisconsin
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Trained as an educator and public theologian, Kent Mayfield's career has been in the ministry, higher education, both baccalaureate and post-graduate adult, particularly in diverse, multicultural settings in the US and abroad. Since 1975, he has combined churchly and academic appointments with research and consultant roles in the non-profit sector, often focused on the design and accreditation of adult professional education.

He was the founder of the Academy of Health Information Professionals (AHIP) and, with Fred Roper at the University of North Carolina, piloted the first advanced degree program for librarians, blending on-campus and online learning options for distance students. As a consultant to industry, he created National Building Materials Distributors Foundation and its two component "universities" of distribution management and industry innovation.

Moving to Wisconsin in 1989, Mayfield served the Executive Minister at the First Unitarian Society of Madison where he focused attention of the development of CONNECTIONS, a community-wide effort to counter social isolation and build enduring cross-sector relationships until his retirement in 2000. There and into retirement, he acted as chief bioethics officer for Elder Care of Wisconsin, Wisconsin's first integrated-care network for elders, built on San Francisco's acclaimed On-Lok model. He headed The ARC of Wisconsin, played a leadership role in the establishing of Community Connections, a free-health clinic in Southwest Wisconsin, Grassroots Citizens of SW Wisconsin, and consulted with the Wisconsin Medical Association in the implementation of an evidence-based advanced care planning initiative based on the principles of Respecting Choices (LaCrosse). He was active on the board of directors of the Outreach LGBT Community Center (Madison) and the New Harvest Foundation (Dane County), which channels charitable contributions exclusively to organizations that support LBGTQ rights, services and community development in Central Wisconsin. Mayfield was the Artistic Director for the Rural Musicians Forum, Spring Green, from 2008-2014.

Dr. Mayfield moved to St. John's On The Lake with his married partner of 40+ years in 2013. There he chairs LifeStreams, the resident committee charged with creating and maintaining St. John's robust program of intellectual and cultural activities. He has been the architect of St. John's Symposia on Aging, which annually assembles nationally recognized speakers, artists and researchers to explore new paradigms in health care, wellness, spirituality and social justice among older adults.

He is the chair of the Advisory Committee to the St. John's Institute on Aging, whose

purpose is leverage St. John's resources to create lasting solutions to the negative consequences of poverty, discrimination and chronic health conditions among older adults in the wider Milwaukee community. The Institute is engaged currently in two community-based action research initiatives, one in partnership with Brandeis University and Hebrew Senior Services in Boston, focused on community-based spiritual/emotional support, the other working in tandem with Loyola University – Chicago addressing issues of social isolation and loneliness. In this connection, he is the principal liaison for St. John's with an array of community organizations, including MICAH, Common Ground, Eastside Senior Services, Greater Galilee Community Development, St. Ann Intergenerational Center, America's Black Holocaust Museum, United Community Center and Milwaukee Christian Center, among others. He sits on the Older Adult Advisory Committee of the Milwaukee LGBT Center.

Mayfield is a member of the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, regularly attends services at Mt. Zion Baptist Church and Greater Galilee Baptist Church. He continues to serve as pulpit guest in rural churches in SW Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa and mentors students at James Madison High School regarding careers in health care and work with older adults. He is an actor and sings with the Plymouth Chorale. He is a long-time enthusiast and breeder of Egyptian Arabian horses and presently is the treasurer of the Pyramid Foundation, devoted to the historical and scientific research on the Arabian Horse.