

FUMC Dallas Chancel Choir – Bios

The Chancel Choir sings each Sunday for the 11:00 worship service at the First United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas and performs major works with orchestra annually. All of the singers are volunteer. They have toured to England, Canada, Austria, the Czech Republic, Italy, France and Scotland, giving concerts in such hallowed spaces as St. Paul's Cathedral in London, Durham Cathedral, York Minster, Notre-Dame Basilica in Montreal, St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, St. Nicholas Church in Old Town Prague, and Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris. The Chancel Choir was honored to sing for the national convention of the American Choral Directors Association in 2013. The singers in the touring choir are representative of the more than 100 voices in the Chancel Choir.

Dana Effler has served as Director of Music and Arts Ministries at First United Methodist Church of Dallas since 1994 where she oversees the graded choir and handbell program, the Rotunda Theatre series, and Goodrich Gallery series. She conducts the Chancel Choir, First Men's Chorus, First Women's Chorus, Vox Nova and the Variations Youth Choir. Under her direction, the Chancel Choir has toured Canada, England, Austria, Czech Republic, Italy and France, and has sung for both Southwestern division and National ACDA conventions. Beyond the church, Dana enjoys her work as a singer, guest conductor and clinician for organizations including American Choral Directors Association, Texas Choral Directors Association, Choristers Guild, The American Guild of Organists and The Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts. She earned her bachelor's degree in music education from Furman University and master's degrees in choral conducting and in vocal performance from Southern Methodist University. Dana is inspired and energized by the wealth and diversity of talent represented in the FirstChurch family and is continually amazed at the beauty of God's creation in and through it.

Tim Effler is the Organist/Associate Director of Music at First United Methodist Church where he serves as organist for all worship services, weddings, and memorial services. Tim also administers the handbell program and directs the Alleluia Ringers and Celebration Ringers. In addition, he serves as accompanist for the Chancel Choir and Variations Youth Choir, and is the co-director of Vox Nova. Tim holds a bachelor's degree from Furman University in organ performance, and master's degrees in accompanying/vocal coaching and vocal performance from Southern Methodist University. Tim has served as President of the Greater Dallas Handbell Association and the Executive Board for the Dallas Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.