

META INSTITUTE FOR PERSONAL GROWTH

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James W. Ewing, Ph.D. Dr. Ewing is the Director of the “Along Life’s Journey Program” of the META Institute for Personal Growth. He has provided educational services for U.S. Navy Chaplains for the past 18 years through the Pastoral Counseling Graduate Programs at United States International University and more recently, through supervisory responsibilities with the Chaplains Religious Enrichment Development Organization (CREDO), San Diego and the Naval Medical Center, San Diego. He has held various pastoral counseling responsibilities as Executive Director of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors and Professor of Pastoral Care, Eden Theological Seminary. He holds graduate degrees from the University of Chicago, Eden Theological Seminary, and St. Louis University. An ordained minister with the United Church of Christ, Dr. Ewing has provided consultation and supervisory services for pastors, chaplains, and mental health professionals. While retired from his professorship at USIU (now Alliant International University) he has continued teaching graduate courses in geriatric studies and dissertation support for doctoral students.

E. Joyce Gillespie

Mrs. Gillespie, a voting member of the Board of Directors of the META Institute for Personal Growth, received a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology and a Master of Science degree in counseling from San Diego State University. Now retired, she was a Bereavement Counselor at Grossmont Hospice for seven years after clinical internships at OZ San Diego and Grossmont Hospice. Prior experience includes three years as a Marriage Encounter Love Circle group co-facilitator and nine years as a facilitator of Transactional Analysis based personal growth groups.

John A. Gillespie

Mr. Gillespie, a voting member of the Board of Directors of the META Institute for Personal Growth, received a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics from San Diego State College and a Master of Science degree in counseling from San Diego State University. Retired from private practice after twenty-five years of providing individual, couple and group psychotherapy, he maintains his Marriage and Family Therapist license and is a clinical member of the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists. Prior experience includes over thirty years in information technology and management in the County of San Diego County, as well as eight years in aerospace scientific and engineering application software development. He served for six years as a volunteer psychotherapist and clinical supervisor in an adjunct of the San Diego County Child Sexual Abuse Treatment Program and has served as an Expert Examiner for the California Board of Behavioral Science.

Felix C. Villanueva

Mr. Villanueva is co-founder and President of the META Institute for Personal Growth and co-creator of the “Along Life’s Journey” Program. He holds a Bachelor Degree in Biology from the University of Puerto Rico, a Masters Degree in Divinity from the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico, and a Masters Degree in Pastoral Counseling from Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey. He retired from the U.S. Navy in 2003, after twenty-one years of service to his country. At time of retirement he held the rank of Captain. Mr. Villanueva has over 12 years experience in leading personal growth, marriage enrichment, leadership and team building workshops, and has written a manual on the subject of personal growth. In addition, he has worked in the hospice field and has experience working in the area of bereavement.

Sherry Villanueva

Mrs. Villanueva is co-founder of The META Institute for Personal Growth and is currently serving on the Board of Directors as its Marketing Director. She holds a Liberal Arts Degree in Education and is currently in the process of obtaining her Masters Degree in Social Work at San Diego State University. She is also the co-founder of “The Samaritans,” an outreach program that assists members of the local community through short-term crisis intervention. Sherry has experience in personal growth programs both personally and professionally. Mrs. Villanueva is a volunteer in her community, working with families in crisis and with a local hospice service.

Charles Wilson

Mr. Wilson is a voting member of the META Institute for Personal Growth. He has over 12 years experience in leading personal growth and marriage enrichment workshops. He is an active duty, U.S. Navy Chaplain, and a Ph.D. candidate at Capella University. He is the eight of nine children, who in 1991 created a scholarship fund in honor of their deceased parents: The David and Dovetta Wilson Scholarship Fund [501(c) 3]. The Scholarship Fund provides academic scholarships to high school graduates. In addition to his military responsibilities, Mr. Wilson serves as: Pastoral Care Specialist with the American Association of Pastoral Counselors (AAPC); member of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Professional Consultation Committee of VITAS Hospice, San Diego; member of the Military Chaplains Association (MCA); member of the Navy Chaplain Foundation; Navy Branch Head Representative, Church of God in Christ Military and Institutional Chaplains’ Department, Incorporated; and Chaplain to the Montford Point Marines Association, San Diego Chapter.