Bishop Judith Craig, the third woman bishop in the United Methodist Church, was born on June 5, 1937 in Lexington, Missouri (died Jan. 18, 2019, Columbus, Ohio). She attended William Jewell College, Eden Theological Seminary (Master of Christian Education, 1961) and Union Theological Seminary. She was ordained in 1972 and served congregations in the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church.


Bishop Craig, in retirement, was bishop in residence and visiting professor of leadership at Methodist Theological Seminary in Ohio and established the Bishop Judith Craig Children’s Village in Liberia to house and educate orphans of that country’s civil war.

Bishop Craig was a mentor to many during her time at Methodist Theological School in Ohio and UMC bishop, especially to LGBT and women students and pastors, including Eden’s own Professor Kristen Leslie.