

VIII. REPORTS

A. COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The purpose of the Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) is “to develop, maintain, and administer a comprehensive and coordinated plan of fiscal and administrative policies, procedures, and management services for the annual conference” (§ 612.1, *2016 Discipline*). CFA has adopted this theme for its work:

EMPOWERING FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP

A core identity for United Methodists is connectionalism. By working to further our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world and our communities, we are able to accomplish far more than any one congregation might be able to, no matter what size the church. General Church apportionments are used to support the World Service Fund, the Episcopal Fund, and other key areas of the United Methodist connection. Through apportionments, the CFA connects worldwide with other United Methodists to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Other examples of the uses of apportioned dollars are noted throughout the Program and Reports book in the CFA's areas of ministry, including:

- Leadership Development – with programs and initiatives for clergy and ministry professionals (Navigating Change in the Local Church workshop Spiritual Renewal Initiative, Peer Learning Initiatives, Great Ministry in the Second Half workshop, Preaching cohorts, financial planning resources, and other directed programs) that reach a substantial number of ministry professionals each year, as well as a Facebook page, Twitter, website, and monthly newsletter which resources all clergy on a regular basis;
- Church Vitality – with grants for new church starts, mission congregations, and new faith communities, as well as coaching and resources for many local churches to assist them in reaching out to their respective communities;
- Mission Engagement – equips groups and local churches to be in the mission of God through resourcing, communicating and collaborating;
- Campus Ministries – in North Carolina, colleges and universities other than our United Methodist institutions of higher learning are supplied operational grants to further their work with young adults in college;
- Equitable Compensation – grants that ensure a minimum level of compensation for local church pastors;
- Conference Support areas – including communications, information technology, benefits administration, treasury services, and our capable conference staff, which serve as advocates and resources for our pastors, lay leaders, and churches.

As you hear from and read through those reports, take note of the many ways the CFA's apportionment dollars reach local churches, laity, and communities.

Therefore, the CFA urges every local church to support the connectional nature of its ministry by striving to pay 100 percent of funds apportioned. The CFA commends and expresses its appreciation to those churches in the conference who have fully supported the connectional ministry of the church in 2017, sometimes at great sacrifice. The CFA encourages the other churches to take a step in faith toward full support in the coming year. Paying 100 percent of apportioned funds moves the conference from a mindset of mere maintenance to fulfilling the mission to which our Lord calls us.

In support of that mission, the CFA commends to the Annual Conference the 2019 budget which is focused on accomplishing the vision of the Conference, with the ultimate focus of developing vital churches. At a total of \$16,166,481, the 2019 conference apportioned budget represents a decrease of 0.26 percent.

Even with the minimal decrease in the 2019 conference budget, the CFA is confident that we will be able to provide for growth in the ministries of the Conference. This budget represents the best efforts of the conference staff and ministry teams of the Western North Carolina Conference to achieve the goal of cultivating vital churches fully engaged in accomplishing the mission of God. In this conference budget, the CFA, in association with its conference staff and ministry teams, seeks to continue to practice good stewardship by aligning resources and staff with the vision, mission, and ministries of the Conference.

The degree to which the CFA accomplishes this goal depends upon local churches' support of the conference budget. Receipts on all funds for 2017 were \$14,479,741, or 88.27 percent of the total apportioned, an increase of 0.38 percent over 2016 receipts, which totaled \$14,427,235, or 87.89 percent of the total apportioned. As already noted, the 2019 apportioned budget totals \$16,166,481. This budget continues to focus on The United Methodist Church's mission priorities of congregational vitality, leadership development, and young adult ministries in order to strengthen each of its members as disciples of Jesus Christ who then share the Good News of Jesus Christ with communities and the world.

PROPOSAL: 2019 CONFERENCE FUNDS AND FINANCIAL POLICIES**(Petition 1)** *Approved June 23, 2018*

The Council on Finance and Administration proposes:

1. That each of the funds described in the section of this report headed "Conference Funds for 2019" be approved and that the traditional decimal formula be used in determining the apportionments for 2019 for each chartered church/charge for these funds. (New church starts will participate in the apportionments after three years.):

District Operations Fund
 Equitable Compensation Fund
 Intentional Interim Ministry Fund
 Medical Leave Benefit Supplement
 Conference Support Fund
 Mission and Ministry Fund
 District Mission Engagement Fund
 District Benevolence Grants Fund
 District Church Vitality Fund
 Africa University Fund
 Black College Fund
 Episcopal Fund
 General Administration Fund
 Interdenominational Cooperation Fund
 Jurisdictional Administration Fund
 Ministerial Education Fund
 World Service Fund

The decimal formula shall be based on the average of the amounts paid by each mission or chartered church/charge during 2015, 2016, and 2017 on the following items:

Items from Table Two of the Year-end Statistical Reports

Total Conference Apportioned Funds Paid (29a)
 Pastor(s) Pension Premiums (39)
 Pastor(s) Health Insurance Premiums (40)
 Salaries, Housing, Utilities, Travel, and Other Cash Allowances Paid to Pastor and Associate(s) (41-44)
 Compensation of All Other Church Employees and Diaconal Ministers (45)
 Local Church Expenses for Program (46)
 Other Local Church Operating Expenses (47)

2. That the following policy be approved and observed:
 At the beginning of the calendar year, the Council on Finance and Administration shall determine which portions of the Conference Support Fund (Fund 505) and the Mission and Ministry Fund (Fund 508) are "fixed costs" (salaries, benefits, etc.) and shall thus be authorized to be paid at 100 percent of the approved budget. On the basis of prior year receipts to these funds, the CFA shall then determine a percentage of the approved budget to be authorized for expenditure in the remaining items of each budget, so that expenditures shall not exceed income.
 - a. Each church is expected to support all funds at 100 percent of the apportioned amount. (¶ 247.14 of the 2016 *Book of Discipline*)
 - b. The churches are requested to make payments thereon aggregately, with the understanding that the conference treasurer will allocate such payments according to the appropriate percentage due the fund according to the Conference Budget.
3. That an Unrestricted Fund Balance Account be maintained by the annual conference at a level of 30 percent of the current total of the Conference Funds and that any undesignated interest income plus unused balances in budget accounts be transferred to the undesignated fund balance at the end of the fiscal year.
4. That all apportioned funds, pension and health benefits costs, both receipts and disbursements, be managed through the office of the conference treasurer and that all districts, boards, agencies, committees, and commissions use the conference treasurer as fiscal agent.
5. That the group medical insurance plan be continued and that all churches be required to participate, based on the eligibility requirements of the plan, through the payment of premiums to the office of the conference treasurer.
6. That local churches should be aware that, for apportioned funds for bishops (Episcopal Fund), district superintendents (District Operations), and the Equitable Compensation Fund, the church has an obligation to observe the rule of proportional payment (¶¶ 622 and 639.4, 2016 *Discipline*), and that ¶ 639.4(c) be observed by the statistician in reporting these apportionments. The rule of proportional payment requires that each local church/charge makes payments for these apportioned funds in the same proportion as payment for the support for the clergy appointed to the charge, i.e., if a church pays its clergy on a monthly basis, then these apportioned funds are to be submitted monthly.

7. That for 2012 and beyond, the Conference Staff Relations Committee (CSRC) sets the salary and benefits (including clergy housing allowances) for district superintendents, and district and conference staff within the approved total salary budget. The salary of the District Superintendents for 2019, as recommended by CSRC, is to be set at \$111,293.
8. That the amount of compensation designated as housing allowance for ordained staff members and district superintendents be set by an annual resolution of the conference Council on Finance and Administration after consideration of a statement of amounts to be used during the year.
9. That church-related travel expenses of all members of conference boards, agencies, committees, and commissions; conference and district staff; and local church clergy be paid by voucher on a mileage basis at the amount allowed by the Internal Revenue Service. This will be considered as a church-related business item and will not be factored into any compensation package by the Cabinet.
10. That the governing boards of:
 - Aldersgate United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc.
 - Arbor Acres United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc.
 - Givens Estates United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc.
 - Crossnore, Inc.
 - UMAR-WNC, Inc.
 - The United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc.
 - Methodist Youth Camp of Western NC Conference, Inc. (Camp Tekoa)
 - Guilrock United Methodist Camp, Inc.
 - Mount Shepherd Retreat Center
 - Bennett College for Women
 - Brevard College
 - Greensboro College
 - High Point University
 - Pfeiffer University
 - Western North Carolina Conference Brotherhood/Sisterhood
 - Western North Carolina Conference Historical Society
 - Sanctuary Counseling Group, Charlotte
 - Chrysalis Counseling Center, Greensboro
 - Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries of NC, Inc.
 - NETworX
 - New Faith Communities Fund, Board of Congregational Development
 - Campus Ministries to include: Appalachian State University, UNC-Asheville, NC A&T, UNC-Charlotte, UNC-Greensboro, Western Carolina University, Winston-Salem Wesley Foundation

be granted the privilege of soliciting and receiving funds from churches, individuals, and other sources (but not from conference-wide offerings except as indicated in the list which follows) in keeping with *The Book of Discipline*; no capital campaigns be approved for 2019; and that the following, and only the following, conference-wide offerings be approved for 2019:

Human Relations Day.....	General Conference
UMAR Sunday	Annual Conference
UMCOR Sunday.....	General Conference
Native American Awareness	General Conference
Medical Mission Teams.....	Annual Conference
Mother's Day (Aldersgate, Arbor Acres, Givens).....	Annual Conference
Disciple Bible Outreach.....	Annual Conference
Project AGAPE	Annual Conference
Peace with Justice	General Conference
Children's Home Sunday.....	Annual Conference
World Communion.....	General Conference
United Methodist Student Day.....	General Conference

11. That clergy be reimbursed for moving expenses in the following manner, effective upon adjournment of the 2018 conference session:
 - a. IN-CONFERENCE MOVES: The conference shall pay a moving allowance, plus \$2.50 per mile, one way, on those moves which are required from one appointment to a new appointment. If an appointment requires a move from one parsonage/home into another parsonage/home, the moving allowance will be set at \$500. If the appointment does not require a move from a parsonage/home, the moving allowance will be set at \$150.

- b. MOVES INTO THE CONFERENCE: The conference shall pay on the same basis as in item 11a above. The moving allowance will apply to the number of miles on the most direct route traveled from the conference boundary to the pastoral appointment.
 - c. MOVING AT RETIREMENT: Retiring clergy, surviving spouses of active clergy who died during the year, and clergy who go on medical leave during the year shall receive a moving allowance of \$750, plus \$2.50 per mile, from the pastoral appointment to the retirement residence or the conference boundary. A retiree who moves to a parsonage and serves a pastorate in retirement is eligible for an in-conference moving allowance upon approval of the district superintendent.
 - d. MOVES OUT OF THE CONFERENCE (moving to another conference, withdrawing from conference membership, leave of absence, or not receiving an appointment, etc.): No allowance will be paid.
 - e. SABBATICAL LEAVE: No allowance is granted when the leave begins; however, an allowance will be given when the leave is completed and the clergy person is again available for appointment by the bishop. The amount will be consistent with items 11a and 11b above.
 - f. In many instances, the moving allowance will not cover the total expense of the move. This reimbursement is given to help with the over-the-road cost of the move. Each church/charge receiving a new pastor is strongly urged to pay any out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the new pastor as a result of the move. The district superintendent will negotiate the request with the church/charge well in advance of moving day.
 - g. The district superintendent is asked to make a very special appeal for each church/charge to be especially sensitive to both parsonage families during this stressful time. The appeal should include assistance with meals, packing, unpacking, loading, and unloading where helpful and appropriate for the parsonage family.
 - h. Due to the recent Federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, clergy should be aware of new provisions of moving reimbursements that may impact their tax situation and are urged to consult with their tax advisor.
12. That the president, vice-president, and secretary of the conference Council on Finance and Administration, the chairperson of the Audit Review Committee, the conference treasurer-director of administrative services, a Cabinet representative, and one lay member of the CFA constitute the executive committee of the conference Council on Finance and Administration. The principal duties of the Executive Committee include: annual review, compensation and benefits of the Conference Treasurer, and review and recommendation to the CFA all Statements of Relationship for ministries relating to the Conference.
13. That the Council on Finance and Administration be authorized to appoint a conference auditor.
14. That each local church make a very special effort to undergird the meal, transportation, and lodging expenses of annual conference members attending annual conference by adding a minimum of \$100 to the church budget for each lay and clergy delegate. The district superintendents are asked to encourage such support at each charge conference.
15. That conference funds not be permitted to carry over unspent funds from one conference year to another unless specifically authorized by the Council on Finance and Administration. Agencies receiving funds from sources other than apportioned funds, such as fee-based events, may carry over such unspent funds into the next year.
16. That 3:00 P.M., Tuesday, January 8, 2019, be the cutoff time by which all payments from local churches must be in the office of the conference treasurer in order to be applied to the 2018 year.
17. That each conference board, agency, or institution receiving or disbursing funds not managed by the conference treasurer maintain adequate financial records and prepare and submit annual audit reports to the conference treasurer and the conference Council on Finance and Administration. All treasurers should be properly bonded.
18. That the conference fiscal year begins on January 1, 2019, and ends on December 31, 2019.
19. That the conference Council on Finance and Administration be responsible for designating depositories for conference funds.

P. Glenn Kinken III, President
R. Mark King, Treasurer

WNCC 2019 APPROVED BUDGET

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Western North Carolina Conference Budget 2019						
Fund	Fund Name	2017 Approved	2017 Actual	2018 Approved	2019 Proposed	
Conference Funds						
504	District Operations	\$ 2,620,571	\$ 2,442,126	\$ 2,516,130	\$ 2,559,478	1.72%
	<i>District Superintendents</i>	1,108,524	1,157,443	1,138,467	1,179,015	
	<i>Salaries</i>	829,928	845,506	863,125	890,344	
	<i>Related cost (including housing)</i>	278,596	311,937	275,342	288,671	
	<i>District Administrative Personnel</i>	872,047	647,067	737,663	740,463	
	<i>District Office Operations</i>	640,000	637,616	640,000	640,000	
509	Intentional Interim Ministry	75,000	67,414	75,000	-	-100.00%
505	Conference Support (Schedule 1)	4,100,205	3,664,307	4,039,586	4,109,460	1.73%
	<i>Conference Services Support</i>	699,316	310,160	677,600	688,350	
	<i>Conference Staff Support</i>	2,506,489	2,516,826	2,494,986	2,661,410	
	<i>Conference Administrative Support</i>	894,400	837,321	867,000	759,700	
506	Equitable Compensation	200,000	75,669	150,000	150,000	0.00%
507	Clergy Medical Leave Benefit Supplement	545,600	365,756	500,000	450,000	-10.00%
508	Mission & Ministry (Schedule 2)	3,003,740	2,319,817	2,940,000	2,996,640	1.93%
	Total Conference Funds	10,545,116	8,935,089	10,220,716	10,265,578	0.44%
General Church Funds						
513	Africa University	89,985	79,317	92,154	90,797	
514	Black College	402,085	351,886	411,777	405,715	
503	Episcopal Fund	883,816	792,539	905,121	891,794	
515	General Administration	354,378	295,453	362,921	357,578	
516	Interdenominational Cooperation	78,833	67,366	80,734	79,545	
517	Jurisdictional Conference Administration	58,000	53,515	46,890	46,980	
519	Ministerial Education	1,008,007	870,971	1,032,306	1,017,107	
520	World Service Fund	2,984,445	2,438,196	3,056,387	3,011,387	
	Total General Church Funds	5,859,549	4,949,243	5,988,290	5,900,903	-1.46%
	Grand Total of all Conference- Apportioned Funds	\$16,404,665	\$13,884,332	\$ 16,209,006	\$ 16,166,481	-0.262%
Increase (decrease) in budget from 2017 to 2018; 2018 to 2019				(195,659)	(42,525)	
				-1.19%	-0.262%	
District Apportioned Funds						
521	District Mission Engagement	\$ 521,616	\$ 516,839	\$ 532,000	\$ 498,000	-6.39%
522	District Benevolence Grants	735,831	697,158	641,800	701,800	9.35%
523	District Church Vitality	662,737	625,133	678,700	643,500	-5.19%
		\$ 1,920,184	\$ 1,839,130	\$ 1,852,500	\$ 1,843,300	-0.50%

WNCC 2019 APPROVED BUDGET

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Western North Carolina Conference Budget 2019						
Fund	Fund Name	2017 Approved	2017 Actual	2018 Approved	2019 Proposed	
Schedule One						
Conference Support						
Conference Services Support:						
	Cabinet Support	62,500	53,017	55,000	55,500	
	Archives & History	12,600	9,353	14,100	14,350	
	Resource Center	54,800	35,534	55,000	54,000	
	Committees Support	17,500	7,660	16,000	16,500	
	Annual Conference					
	Conference Sessions	83,000	82,914	87,500	102,000	
	General & Jurisdictional delegate expenses	-	-	-	6,000	
	Ministers Moving Fund	150,000	108,013	150,000	140,000	
	Contingency	318,916	13,669	300,000	300,000	
	Total Conference Services Support	699,316	310,160	677,600	688,350	1.59%
Conference Staff Support:						
	Salaries	1,817,191	1,711,714	1,811,247	1,827,728	
	Related costs (including housing)	689,298	805,112	683,739	833,682	
	Total Conference Staff Support	2,506,489	2,516,826	2,494,986	2,661,410	6.67%
Conference Administrative Support:						
	Office Operations					
	Episcopal Office	9,000	3,626	6,000	6,000	
	Assistant to Bishop	6,000	3,057	5,000	4,000	
	Treasury Services	19,500	16,755	17,000	20,000	
	Communications	100,000	58,554	95,000	96,000	
	Ministerial Services/Conference Secretary	18,200	4,549	18,000	19,000	
	Information Technology	178,000	136,736	172,000	165,000	
	General Support					
	Liability & Property Insurance	41,500	51,367	65,000	38,200	
	Legal	62,500	133,847	50,000	62,500	
	Audit	75,000	84,089	80,000	80,000	
	Staff Travel/Education	152,700	133,927	152,000	154,000	
	Episcopal Residence	10,000	20,559	10,000	10,000	
	Conference Office	222,000	190,255	197,000	105,000	
	Total Conference Administrative Support	894,400	837,321	867,000	759,700	-12.38%
	Total Fund 505 - Conference Support	\$ 4,100,205	\$ 3,664,307	\$ 4,039,586	\$ 4,109,460	1.73%

WNCC 2019 APPROVED BUDGET

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Western North Carolina Conference Budget 2019						
Fund	Fund Name	2017 Approved	2017 Actual	2018 Approved	2019 Proposed	
Schedule Two						
Conference Mission and Ministry						
Connectional Table						
	Connectional Table	-	-	7,000	7,000	
	Connectional Ministry	\$ 92,500	\$ 55,379	92,500	116,760	
	Conference Camping Ministries	200,000	165,175	108,000	100,000	
	Youth Ministry	18,000	14,581	18,000	-	
	WNCC Council on Campus Ministries	600,000	510,705	600,000	615,000	
	Ordained Ministry	301,400	\$ 226,136	301,400	286,000	
	Board of Laity	12,000	3,243	7,270	12,450	
	Total Connectional Table	1,223,900	\$ 975,219	1,134,170	1,137,210	
Church Vitality						
	Revitalization Ministry & Grants	200,000	125,444	125,000	-	
	New Faith Communities Ministry & Grants	500,000	310,917	575,000	724,000	
	Total Church Vitality	700,000	436,361	700,000	724,000	
Mission Engagement						
	Ministry & Grants	125,000	103,586	125,000	170,250	
	Mission Church Grants	250,000	223,500	250,000	250,000	
	Mission Response Center	54,840	48,096	58,330	58,930	
	Total Mission Engagement	429,840	375,182	433,330	479,180	
Leadership Development						
	Ministry & Grants	375,000	316,964	375,000	352,000	
	Total Leadership Development	375,000	316,964	375,000	352,000	
Justice and Reconciliation						
	Ministry & Grants	125,000	103,591	147,500	164,250	
	Total Justice & Reconciliation	125,000	103,591	147,500	164,250	
Mission/Ministry Grants						
	Partnership Fund with WNCC-UMC Colleges, Retirement Communities, Crossnore & UMAR	150,000	112,500	150,000	140,000	
	Total Mission & Ministry Grants	150,000	112,500	150,000	140,000	
	Total Mission & Ministry Fund	\$ 3,003,740	\$ 2,319,817	\$ 2,940,000	\$ 2,996,640	1.93%

B. CONFERENCE MINISTRIES

1. CONNECTIONAL TABLE

The WNCC Connectional Table creates space for generative conversation across all WNCC ministry initiatives and promotes collaboration among these initiatives, so that faithful disciples and fruitful leaders are equipped to participate in vital congregations where disciples of Jesus Christ are engaged in the transformation of lives, local churches, communities, and the world.

As the Connectional Table enters the second year of ministry together, evidence shows increased partnership and collaboration among ministry teams. In March 2018, the first unified mission and ministry budget was presented to, and accepted by, CF&A. This effort is evidence of work to align resource utilization with the mission of the WNCC. Ministry representatives worked collaboratively to reflect on and adjust their ministry plans so that conference resources, human and financial, might have the most significant impact possible on the Christian witness.

It is the ongoing work of the Connectional Table to evaluate and reflect on ministries of the conference. It is indeed a time to celebrate God's presence and movement. One of the highlights of the Connectional Table's work together was to affirm the Northern Haiti Mission Connection, a featured initiative of the 2018 annual conference, as a conference mission emphasis.

It is with the highest expectation that the Connectional Table move together into God's preferred future for the WNCC.

Jane Boatwright Wood and Caroline Wood, Co-Chairpersons

2. CHURCH VITALITY TEAM

On July 1, 2017, the Church Vitality Team welcomed the Rev. Dan Pezet as the Director of Church Development. The Church Vitality Team continues its work of strengthening existing congregations and creating new worshipping communities.

In the area of new church starts, the Church Vitality Team is working to create systems and structures for supporting new churches. These systems include creating a pool of planter candidates, preparing partnership churches, assessing possible locations for new churches, and creating funding structures for various types of new church starts. In 2017, the Church Vitality Team continued to provide financial support to 14 new faith communities and began two new church starts for a total investment of \$454,144.82.

In 2017, the Church Vitality Team invited the Rev. Luke Edwards to serve as the WNCC Coordinator of Fresh Expressions. Fresh Expressions of Church are small faith communities that do not look like conventional church models. More than 260 people participated in informational sessions called Vision Days, and 13 Fresh Expressions meet regularly across the conference.

In addition to planting new faith communities, the Church Vitality Team is helping to strengthen existing congregations. In 2017, the Church Vitality Team began preparations to offer a conference-wide initiative to help churches go from where they are to wherever God is calling them to go next. This ministry, named the Nehemiah Project, partners with local congregations to help each church focus on up to five recommendations for the church's future, and coordinates coaches and guides to work with the church to help them accomplish their goals. The Church Vitality Team plans to have two pilot churches in this process in 2018, and at least ten churches participating in 2019.

Mike Fongemy, Chairperson
Dan Pezet, Director of Church Development

3. JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION TEAM

The WNCC Justice and Reconciliation Team (J&R) continues to be active and is grateful for the support of conference staff, Bishop Paul L. Leeland, and the tireless efforts of our staff liaisons, the Rev. Dr. Stephanie Moore Hand and Mrs. Kim Shockley.

The J&R Team functions in various ways with 10 entities within this framework to include the ministries of social justice, environmental creation care, peace with justice, matters of religion and race (CORR), the ministries of the Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW), as well as supporting the North Carolina Council of Churches (NC COC) and some of the work of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships (CUIR). This framework also includes the ministries of the Native American, African American, Hispanic/Latino American, and Asian American ethnic caucuses. The team is strengthened by working closely together, as sharing funding and resources, while endeavoring to make whole the WNCC. The team also seeks other collaborative partnerships with the United Methodist Women Social Action, United Methodist Men, United Methodist Youth, Board of Ordained Ministry, and the Board of Laity.

The team has worked over the past year on reformatting the "playbook" which was developed based on questions from Patrick Lencioni's *The Advantage*, into a more developed Ministry Action Plan (MAP), with the help of Congregational Vitality Strategists, Kim Shockley, the Rev. Dr. Hand, and additional guidance from the Rev. Rene Wilt.

The Vision – "Empowered by Christ," the Justice and Reconciliation Team exists to repair that which has been broken. The mission is to listen, evaluate, initiate, advocate, train, educate, offer grants, and celebrate through acts of God's love so that the whole church reflects the diversity of each community with an intentional effort to include all constituencies with respect and equity also being inclusive of the work of environmental and social concerns. Our core and aspirational values are to practice genuine listening, mindfulness, encouraging others to lean into discomfort, serving as a catalyst for equity in change by compassionate acts, practicing inclusive language with humility and discipline, speaking and receiving wholeness through Christ. Near term objective/top level goal: the Justice and Reconciliation Team will work to build the voice, influence, access, resources and spirit among caucuses and conveners so that the WNCC will reflect the diverse body of Christ.

Native American Ministries – Neffie (Connie) Locklear, serves as the current convener and is interim director of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Association of Native American Ministries (SEJANAM). The Native American Summer Conference at Lake Junaluska celebrates 30 years, beginning June 29-July 1, 2018, with the theme *Keeping the Dream Alive and the Flame Burning*. Keynote speaker is the Rev. Dr. Sam Wynn, Bible Study leader is the Rev. Joel G. Locklear, and Youth Leaders Kerry Revels and Tony Jacobs. All are invited to participate in this enriching experience Lake Junaluska.

African American Ministries – convener, the Rev. Ronnie Roseboro, along with a committed group of clergy and laity in consultation with cabinet members, has been working since last year to launch a Black Vital Church Master Plan. The group has diligently met constructing the Ministry Action Plan (MAP) for this work with the Vision of Strengthening the black churches in the Conference, through leadership development, revitalization, and Christian/spiritual formation. The mission is to use resources to train clergy and laity in the African American context of what it means to be a vital church in the community and world, to make disciples for the transformation of the world. A number of strategies include cohorts among all Ethnic Caucuses and Anglos that foster working relationships, by holding multi-cultural activities and events, which teach and require engagement of cultures to promote inclusiveness within the congregations. Ten clergy were supported to attend the Carolinas Black Clergy Leadership Retreat sponsored by the annual conferences of Western North Carolina, North Carolina, and South Carolina, May 21-25, 2018, with the theme: *In Mission from Anywhere to Everywhere: Strengthening the Beloved Community*. National leaders, directors, and General Church Agencies led the workshops. The retreat ended with Holy Communion.

Both clergy and laity travelled to Sacramento, Ca., for the 51st National Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) General Meeting, held March 13-17, 2018, with the theme, *The Journey Continues: Celebrating our Faith, Hope, and Renewal*. This event included a panel discussion on *Unpacking the Prison Pipeline*, as well as reports on the *Commission on the Way Forward*. Daily activities were filled with worship, bible studies, workshops, and fellowship. A group of clergy and laity travelled to Atlanta, Ga., October 19-21, 2017, for the SEJ BMCR Annual Meeting, with the theme *Communion: Holy or Unholy? The Messy Truth!* undergirded by 1 Corinthians 11:18. This event included a Town Hall-style setting, with a panel focusing on the uncomfortable conversation of *White Privilege* led by three UMC Bishops - Leonard Fairley, (North Carolina), Sue Hauptert-Johnson, (North Georgia), and David Graves (Alabama-West Florida), who shared their personal stories of challenges and inclusion followed by an insightful Q & A session. Doris Ferree, spouse of Dr. James W. Ferree, was remembered at this event as she was the immediate past SEJ BMCR coordinator and the sitting communications chairperson. She passed away suddenly in September 2017 and will be greatly missed by all. The J&R Team supported BMCR youth to SEJ Harambee held June 25-29, 2017, at Claflin University, Orangeburg, SC. With the theme, *God Will Work it Out*, this conference helps youth develop their spiritual, leadership, and interpersonal skills, as they build meaningful relationships with God and each other, and explore the meaning of pulling together and working together in Christian love, hence the name of the conference *Harambee*. They also learn how to bridge the gap from generation to generation. WNCC BMCR Youth received the award for the highest number of attendees. The young ladies also created a rap song based on "See All the People" an initiative of Discipleship Ministries UMC.

Hispanic/Latino Ministries – conveners, the Rev. Susan Suarez-Webster and the Rev. Frank Ramos, have led this caucus in a most admirable way to become the Hispanic/Latino Conference Committee. The committee has met regularly throughout the year, to include worship and fellowship with the vision – they are a united and diverse community that experiences God's transformation through embracing our neighbors. Values are mutuality, commitment, love, hope, and empowerment with the mission being to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. A retreat was held April 22-24, 2018, at the Trinity Center in Pine Knoll Shores, N.C., with the theme *"Immersed in the Heart of the Good Shepherd."* Sponsored by the Duke Divinity Hispanic House of Studies, the Sumérgete (submerge oneself) Retreat is in its seventh year of bringing pastors who are in ministry with the Hispanic/Latino community together for a few days of deepening their ties with Christ and each other. Both the Western North Carolina Conference and the North Carolina Conference were invited to attend. Daily activities included praise, worship, and theological reflection from ministry colleagues with a focus on God's word and the challenges of ministry in the Hispanic/Latino community, as well as a presentation on re-entry after being released from detention. The keynote speaker, Dr. Justo L. Gonzalez, led the participants through the writings of Luke, both in the gospel and the Acts of the Apostles. The committee also held a community engagement activity with Hispanic/Latino, Anglo, and African American representation, as well as a community listening session. In the Metro District, Basic Lay Servant training was offered in Spanish to coincide with the English class. The committee desires for this to become a conference-wide offering in each district. The Hispanic/Latino youth group planned and hosted a conference-wide shindig (Tertulia gathering) in Charlotte, N.C., with college representation, bands, lunch truck, snow cones and the works. Support for the travel of five Hispanic youth leaders to attend the Hispanic Youth Leadership Academy (HYLAUMC) held at Boston University, in partnership with United Methodist Universities, seminaries, and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church, seeks to help high school youth and college young adults exploring their call to ministry. HYLA is committed to assisting Hispanic/Latino youth discover and embrace their relationship with God while encouraging them as they complete their education and refine their leadership skills. Youth involved in HYLA consider issues such as Christian Discipleship, vocational development, leadership in the church, college prep assistance, and a variety of other issues important to the continued development of Hispanic youth and young adults in The United Methodist Church.

Asian American Ministries – May Vang continues as convener. The regularly scheduled meetings include clergy and laity, Koreans, Hmong, Cambodians, and Caucasians. The first Asian American gathering and celebration to bring congregations together to greet, meet, and unite was hosted by First Hmong UMC at The Vine UMC Charlotte, N.C., on February 18, 2018. Ice breakers were led by Pastor Joseph Kim and Pastor In-Yong Lee. After much laughter, bonding, and even light exercise, the second ice breaker allowed participants time to sit with others and ask questions about each other, getting to know one another. The youth from First Hmong UMC led in praise and worship. Pastor Jae Lee shared a wonderful devotion on the parable of the latecomers Matthew 20:1-16. Very talented ladies from the Greensboro Korean UMC danced and sang for the gathering. Korean Chul Hee Lee Missionary to

Ecuador shared a presentation. Everyone left with the thought that no matter what color and ethnicity, all are one and in support of each other. Everyone is beautiful in their own unique ways and put together for a purpose by God to complement each other. Based on the success, other celebrations and gatherings will be planned.

Commission on the Status and Role of Women – convener Polly Pearson led the WNCC COSROW in planning and hosting a healing retreat at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory, N.C., October 6, 2017. The day included a presentation by the Rev. Michelle Chappell, chairperson of the WNCC Ethics Committee. The Rev. Chappell reviewed the role of the committee relative to policy updates and quadrennial mandatory training. The Rev. Chappell encouraged COSROW to continue offering healing events and advocacy resources. The committee and COSROW are natural partners with a complementary mission. COSROW celebrates that the Board of Ordained Ministry has made sexual ethics the heart of its quadrennial ethics training which is mandatory for all clergy under appointment or eligible for appointment. Karen Kling (retired educator and now personal trainer/coach), another presenter of the day, offered some practical advice on how to tend to minds, bodies, and spirits. Ms. Kling shared tips that can help heal those who have been wounded, and gave resources to be a healing agent for others. The Rev. Gary Kling, director/pastoral psychotherapist at Chrysalis Counseling and Consultation Center, offered five steps for people who have been victims of abuse in his presentation. The Rev. Kling stressed the importance of conference clergy taking seriously their own mental and emotional health. The last activity of the day was a Service of Healing led by the Rev. Jennifer Hege. WNCC COSROW is grateful for the letter to all clergy in October 2017, sent by Bishop Paul L. Leeland, about how sexual harassment is contrary to the Good News of the Gospel and undermines the work of the church.

Commission on Religion and Race – conveners, the Rev. Emmanuel Boakye-Yiadom and the Rev. George Melvin Coates, presented on behalf of the J&R Team to the Worship Planning Team the results of diversity monitoring of the 2017 annual conference. The conveners organized the planning team for the 2018 WNCC Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration. Through a collaborative effort of J&R Team members, along with the Rev. Miller Carter, coordinator, and members of WNC Black Methodists for Church Renewal, the theme selected was *50 Years Later: Reclaiming God's Time*, suggesting that time itself belongs to God and is under HIS divine control. Therefore, if anyone 'reclaims' or 'claims' any victory during the past 50 years (time), it is "God's Time" and not the "people's time." This historical WNCC MLK, Jr. Celebration marked the 50 years following the death of Dr. King, with the highlighted scripture Nehemiah 6:1-9 shared in the different languages of the ethnicities represented. Held in the Global Learning Center on the campus of Bennett College, Greensboro, N.C., with over 340 in attendance, the spirit was harmonious, even being led by the Bennett College Ensemble. Greetings from Bennett College President Dr. Phyllis Worthy Dawkins, and others, thought-provoking videos; vigorous table discussions about modern immigration policies, led by the Hispanic House of Study from Duke Divinity School and the Duke Neighborhood Seminary; recognition of and awards presented to the *Bennett Belles* involved in the *Greensboro Civil Rights and Sit-In Movement(s)*. WNCC CCYM is also a wonderful partner in the celebration to include a youth perspective to the day. In the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel where Dr. King himself spoke 50 years earlier, the team was led by the Bennett College Choir, and the Greensboro Korean UMC choir capped with the keynote address by the Rev. Dr. William "Bobby" McClain, *Professor Emeritus*, Wesley Theological Seminary and Interim Pastor of Union UMC, Boston Mass. The offering for this event benefited the Bennett College Scholarship Fund and was given in memory of the late Mrs. Doris Ferree, a faithful Bennett Alumna and a true *Bennett Belle* in every way. The culmination of a great worship experience could only be heightened by the sharing of Holy Communion with Bishop Paul Leeland as the Communion Celebrant. Evaluations of this celebration continue to indicate a desire for it to be held the Saturday just prior to the MLK, Jr. Holiday. The next celebration is scheduled to be held at University City UMC in Charlotte, N.C., on January 19, 2019. WNCC CORR conveners, the Rev. Emmanuel Yiadom and Lazelle Free, longtime WNCC BMCR member, attended the Bishops Convocation on Race and Reconciliation at Annandale UMC, with Bishop Sharma Lewis, her cabinet and the Virginia Annual Conference's Commission on Ethnic Minority Concerns and Advocacy. Materials, guidelines, and format were provided in part by the General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR). Observations were that most of those in attendance were white people who were receptive of the fact that racism and white privilege does exist. The keynote speaker, Romal Tune, shared from his book *Love is an Inside Job: Getting Vulnerable with God!* (Matt. 22:36-40). A video presentation was also shared by Dr. Robin DiAngelo *Deconstructing White Privilege*. Levels of institutional racism in the church were examined in the materials. The Rev. Annalee Allen attended the Facing the Future 2018 conference, sponsored by The General Commission on Religion and Race with the theme *In the Midst of the Storm*, May 7-9, 2018, in Newark, New Jersey. Participants engaged in learning and networking rooted in biblical and theological frameworks, and featured peer-to-peer learning, and deep self-reflection. Leaders from across the connection led worship, plenary sessions, and workshops gave participants opportunity for prayer and reflection, dialogue and learning, and, relationship and capacity building. Kim Shockley attended the Duke Summer Institute for Reconciliation June 4-8, 2018 at Duke Divinity School.

Environmental Concerns and Efforts – convener and WNCC Earthkeeper, the Rev. Jonathan Brake, has partnered with UMW District Social Action Coordinators in several districts to offer Climate Justice Workshops. Creation care is an essential part of the discipleship as Christians. Earthkeepers are keenly aware of the ecological challenges in the world today and feel called to be part of a movement to transform the world. Jonathan beautifully weaves scripture Hosea 4:1-3, Matthew 7:12; 22:37-39, and Wesley's Three Simple Rules into the presentation. The Rev. Brake also offers many resources and opportunities for congregations to rediscover the call to tend the garden and become more loving. WNCC now has three UMC Earthkeepers; two others besides Jonathan, also Jonathan Lemas in Morganton and Kim Richmond in Winston-Salem. These dates are also offered for those willing to answer this call: Creation Care Summit at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minn., July 26-29, 2018, <http://www.umcreationcaresummit.org> and UMC Earthkeepers in Detroit, Mich., September 27-30, 2018. The Rev. Brake may be contacted at creationcarewncc@gmail.com.

The J&R Team gave financial support to the following, in addition to what has already been mentioned above; Crossroads Church – Charlotte Team and Crossroads Youth Ministry, to assist with local outreach in partnership with Carolina Cross Connection, with a heavy emphasis on building relationships with people experiencing homelessness. This effort was also to bring light to injustices that those experiencing material poverty face daily in an urban environment; Boundless Impact to provide assistance for planning, designing, facilitating, evaluating, and training new facilitators for the TRUTH Café program which creates spaces for dialogue and deep listening, developing cultural humility and relationships and more; St. Paul UMC, Winston-Salem, to provide assistance for transportation to the Mandela Quilt Exhibit, as continued support of Community Outreach to Title I schools in the local area. This program makes an impact upon the children living in concentrated areas of poverty and the enhancement of their academic success.

The J&R Team gives yearly financial support to the North Carolina Council of Churches (NC COC), which is a statewide ecumenical organization promoting Christian unity and working towards a more just society with the motto: *Strength in Unity, Peace through Justice*. The Council enables denominations, congregations, and people of faith to individually and collectively impact the state on issues such as economic justice and development, human well-being, equality, compassion, and peace, following the example and mission of Jesus Christ. NC COC addresses social justice issues through a faith lens some of which include: gun violence; race, privilege, and power; care of creation; immigration and refugees; personal health as an issue of faith; fair and respectful treatment for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity; voting rights; farm workers and immigration; economics; LGBTQ; physical and mental health; and public education. The WNCC continues to be a major judicatory member of the NC COC, since its beginning in 1935.

Two causes were announced denominational-wide and for congregations in WNCC. Marcha Giving Sunday, November 5, 2017, for the sustainability of the mission of MARCHA (Methodists Associated for the cause of Representing Hispanic Americans), seeks to advocate on the behalf of Hispanic/Latino members of The United Methodists Church and The United Methodist Church in Puerto Rico. Since 1971, it has honored the contributions and cultural values of Hispanic/Latino persons and serves as a movement that promotes respect of human rights as well as a commitment to peace, justice, liberty, and equality. BMCR Sunday was promoted, February 4, 2018, in order to strengthen the value for diversity within The United Methodist Church by advocacy, inclusiveness, justice, and leadership development. BMCR raises up prophetic and spiritual leaders who will be advocates for the unique needs of Black members of The United Methodist Church. It embraces its rich 50+ year legacy and serves as a necessary catalyst in the effort to develop strategies that address issues of inadequacy in the Church and community. Both of these desire to become self-sustaining with the help of congregations across the denomination.

J&R Team co-vice chairperson, Pastor Ray McKinnon, attended Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington, D.C., April 18-21, 2018, with the theme *A World Uprooted: Responding to Migrants, Refugees and Displaced People*. This weekend advocacy event drew together nearly 800 people, a full quarter of which were age 35 or younger. This was immediately following the annual meeting with UMC Peace with Justice coordinators from across the denomination at the United Methodist Building on Capitol Hill.

The J&R Team co-vice chairperson, the Rev. Brandon Wrencher, led a delegation of clergy and laity to the Christian Community Development Association (CCDA) national conference in Detroit, Mich., on Oct. 4-7, 2017. All studies show that by 2040, ethnic minorities will comprise the majority of the US population. The J&R Team seeks to amplify this reality through a concerted effort toward organizing and promoting the missional ministry of under-resourced, ethnic minority, and ethnically diverse congregations and communities. Of the many models of such missional ministry, the team believes that the Christian Community Development Association (CCDA) is a valuable partner that could help begin to fill this gap within the WNCC. For the past 25 years, CCDA and 1,000 associated organizations have been pursuing a common vision to see under-resourced communities holistically restored with Christians and the local church fully engaged in the process of transformation. In pursuing this vision, Christian Community Development practitioners have distilled the philosophy into eight key components. John Perkins, African American missionary, civil rights icon and founder of CCDA, articulated the “three R’s” of Christian community development: relocation, reconciliation, and redistribution. Since Perkins’ early strategy, CCDA has added to these: local/indigenous leadership development, empowerment, holistic approach, church-based, and listening to the community.

The J&R Team in 2017 embraced a proposal from the Dismantling Racism Task Force led by the Rev. Dr. In-Yong Lee to work together on eradicating racism in the WNCC. The Board of Ordained Ministry, The Board of Laity, and the Bishop’s Office have offered support for this work, as well. The Task Force and the Team met for a joint training event at the Beloved Community Center in Greensboro, N.C., September 9, 2017. The Center’s mission statement is – organizing for justice, equality, dignity, worth, and the enormous potential of all people. Led by Nelson, Joyce Johnson, and Wesley Morris, who provided ample opportunities to hear personal stories of the Civil Rights Movement in Greensboro and the reconciliation processes, they employed to bring their vision into focus for the community. A progress report of the work of the Dismantling Racism Task Force follows this report.

The J&R Team chairperson was invited and participated in a Dismantling Racism panel discussion on November 18, 2017, at The Plaza Church in Charlotte, N.C. Other panelists included Leon Threatt and Robert W. Lee. It was sponsored by the Charlotte Post and moderated by Tiffany Capers.

The WNCC Justice and Reconciliation Team has partnered with the WNCC Commission on Archives and History, in planning ways to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the merger of The United Methodist Church at the 2018 Annual Conference. A video project, among other highlights for the Conference, will lift significant history at this pivotal moment in the life of the church. The Conference Communications Team has also been a helpful partner with numerous projects throughout the year.

Pamela Shoffner, Chairperson

Dismantling Racism Task Force

The Dismantling Racism Task Force convened in 2017 to continue the hard work of eradicating racism in the Western NC Conference, and the Justice and Reconciliation Team embraced a proposal from the task force to further this work together. It is made up of 23 clergy and laity, women and men, throughout the conference, of different ages and races that desire to serve in a more racially just and equitable conference.

The members of the team are Eileen Ayuso, Miller Carter (deceased), Kimberly Clarke, Duane Corle, Carter Ellis, Stephanie Moore Hand, Rodvegas Ingram, Brandon Lazarus, In-Yong Lee, Connie Locklear, Joel Locklear, Joey Lopez, Jonathan Marlowe, Ed McKinney, Kelly McRell, David Ortigoza, Sonny Reavis, Pam Shoffner, Joel Simpson, Benjamin Sloan, Daphine Strickland, Jonah Vang, and Emmanuel Yiadom for a total of 23.

Why was DRTF convened? Guided by *Ephesians 2:14-16*, the Mission of the Dismantling Racism Task Force is to eradicate the systemic forces of racism that exist in the WNCC. This is done by living out the reconciliation accomplished through Jesus on the cross, beyond the dividing walls of hostility, by living out the baptismal vows of resisting evil, injustice, and oppression, and by becoming the church of every nation, tribe, people, and language. The team believes that people in the conference continue to struggle to have open conversation around the issues of race, culture, and diversity for several reasons. Some feel that racism does not exist, or they are not aware of it; some are fearful of having the conversation because it may lead to a loss of privilege; some just do not know how to have the conversation; and, some want to preserve the status quo, the current power structure, and lack of diversity that exists in the conference.

The goal of the task force's work in the initial years will lead to longer-term planning to integrate racial justice and equity into the culture, systems, and practices of the WNCC.

The Bishop and Board of Ordained Ministry stand alongside the Task Force and strongly support the efforts to end racism in the conference.

The Task Force's main objective for the two-year period of 2018-2019 is to help the WNCC have in place the mandatory dismantling racism training for all ordained/licensed clergy, all candidates for ordination/licensing, key lay leaders in congregations, and all conference staff members. That work will include bringing the legislation to the 2019 Annual Conference. The team has prepared four trial trainings this fall, so that the training model is enhanced to fit the conference's context better through evaluation.

Trainers from MeckMin will charge \$6,000 for a two-full-day training. There will be 40 participants in each. The fee for a participant will be \$180, but it will not be the sole responsibility of the participant. The cost will be borne through budget, grants, and people/church paying portions. Every effort will be made to keep the personal cost to a minimum.

The task force is asking everyone to join in, get involved, participate in one of the programs that are and will be offered throughout the conference. As brothers and sisters in Christ, it is time to love and worship and serve the Lord in the only way that Jesus taught us: together.

Guiding Scripture Passage (*Ephesians 2:14-16, NRSV*)

For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it.

4. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM

The Apostle Paul said that we will all be changed (1 Corinthians 15:51). Of course, he wasn't referring to the postmodern, technological age, but the Scriptural pun works for these days in which we live. The Leadership Development Team (LDT) works to increase the capacity of ministry professionals to interpret, adapt to, and lead in times such as these when everything is changing at an ever-increasing pace.

Most visibly, the LDT curates and disseminates leadership resources digitally, at www.wnccumc.org/leadershipdevelopment. Subscribe to the monthly magazine, *eLEAD*. Articles, essays, and lists will be delivered to one's email inbox. Each edition focuses on one aspect of leadership development for ministry. After several years of producing this magazine, the LDT's website now has quite the library of good reads and collective wisdom. Next, by liking the LDT on Facebook or following on Instagram, one will receive daily leadership wisdom, development opportunities, and testimony from a wide range of both faith-based and secular resources.

Most valuably, the LDT finds leadership development opportunities provided by coaches, organizations, and workshops, and makes them available to WNCC ministry professionals at a reduced cost. The LDT also provides confidential assessments to help individual leaders tailor a leadership development plan to suit their needs and context. Sometimes this function is provided by an organized program such as "Called and Gifted to Lead." Other times this function is simply providing a book on a topic. The LDT can organize peer learning groups around a context or challenge, or arrange meeting time with coaches. Grants of up to \$1,000 are available for the pursuit of one's own leadership development from the LDT.

Most effectively, the LDT collaborates with other WNCC entities to make the greatest impact. The LDT channels its work based on interaction with and feedback from other voices. This past year, in light of this feedback, the LDT has focused on providing leadership development through organizing preaching cohorts. These cohorts bring a small group of preachers together with a trusted leader to study, practice, and grow their leadership through preaching together. The LDT has also continued a particular focus around

spiritual formation. A menu of spiritual formation opportunities was presented in the fall and the spring with up to \$500 provided by the LDT for individuals to increase their spiritual leadership capacity. This year, the LDT also started a new program designed for mid-career clergy entitled, "Great Ministry in the Second Half of Life." The LDT is also starting a new collaboration with the Missional Wisdom Foundation and Fresh Expressions.

Most comprehensively, the LDT seeks to create a culture of continuous learning for leaders in the WNCC. Following Jesus is the work of leadership. The LDT wants to encourage anyone who draws a paycheck as a ministry professional (educators, musicians, clergy, counselors, and administrators) to follow Jesus with all they've got, not simply to get by. The LDT wants to challenge itself, and all ministry professionals, to employ all talents to the utmost.

Dan Hester, Chairperson

5. MISSION ENGAGEMENT TEAM

The Mission Engagement Team (MET) of the WNCC had a strong year, as we lived into a solidified infrastructure to support mission. This is a process that began the prior year and will continue as we use best practices to broadly support conference mission efforts. As we have widened our scope, we have also sought opportunities to collaborate and strengthening relationships with local churches and existing partnerships along mission affinity groups and by location. Mission innovation is an emphasis as we try to be future forward to engage the church and world in a way that will not only develop discipleship but will also provide pathways and entry points into the church for people wanting to serve with others and make a difference in the world. Using MET core values as a framework, we have begun to look at adaptive challenges in an effort to practice John Wesley's simple but profound words "Do good. Do no harm." The Mission Engagement Team exists to equip the local church to be in the mission of God, focusing on communication, resourcing and collaboration.

Brian Mateer, Chairperson

a. ADVANCE SPECIALS FOR 2018-2019

(Petition 3) *Approved June 22, 2018*

Churches are at liberty to support Advance Specials according to the wishes of the individual churches. The following ministries have been vetted and are approved as Annual Conference Mission Specials:

- Carolina Cross Connection
- Congregations 4 Children
- Mission Church Fund
- Mission Response Center
- Northern Haiti Mission Connection
- Open Arms
- Project AGAPE
- VIM Mission Connection Teams
- WNCC Committee on Relief
- Youth Service Fund

Advance Specials may be found on the Web at the following link: <https://www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/The-Advance>

b. Committee on Relief

The Committee on Relief is the humanitarian relief and development arm of the Western North Carolina Conference, relating directly to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). The mission is to alleviate human suffering and advance hope through humanitarian relief, sustainable development, and global missions. The Committee on Relief is comprised of three units: **Humanitarian Relief** (also known as Disaster Response) is coordinated and chaired by Rick Hill. This unit responds to disasters within and beyond the conference boundaries through Early Response Teams that assists communities affected by natural disasters. **Missions Operations** is coordinated and chaired by Frank Greene. This unit offers preparedness and volunteer mission training, provides essential relief supplies through the Mission Response Center located in Terrell, and supports long-term mission and sustainable development operations throughout the conference. **Global Missions** is coordinated and chaired by the Rev. Sarah Howell-Miller. This unit equips the conference for global mission that alleviates human suffering.

During this past year, several communities in the conference were affected by tornadic activity, bringing about severe damage to hundreds of homes in several of the districts, including significant damage to Mount Hermon United Methodist Church. The Humanitarian Relief unit also responded in various ways to the multiple hurricanes that hit Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Georgia, and Puerto Rico. The conference donated \$40,000 to the Texas Conference, \$20,000 to the Texas Rio Conference, \$40,000 to the Florida Conference, \$50,000 to the Puerto Rico Conference all for hurricane relief, and \$5,000 to the Blackfeet Native American Reservation in northwest Montana for blizzard relief. The Missions Operations Unit collected and sent more than 3,000 UMCOR Cleaning Buckets totaling \$180,000 worth of supplies, and more than 11,000 UMCOR hygiene kits, totaling over \$136,000, to affected areas. This unit is also developing a major strategic plan to expand and revamp the mission operations to state-of-the-art capacities. Additionally, this unit has trained more than 200 people for various mission engagements in the last year, including Early Response Teams. At every step, we are trying to place the primary emphasis of the humanitarian relief and mission operations toward empowering local communities and address the underlying causes of suffering and poverty. This shift is most widely evident in the Global Missions unit led by Sarah Howell-Miller, with the goal of shifting all of the conference mission work from harmful mission practices to sustainable and life-giving community building. The work of the Committee on Relief is vast and complex, as it seeks to equip the Western North Carolina Conference to ethically and effectively transform the world. The team is thankful to the many leaders who coordinate, organize, and volunteer their time to the important work. The team is especially

grateful to the Rev. Ken Anderson, past coordinator and chairperson of Humanitarian Relief (Disaster Response), who recently had to step back for medical reasons. The team is all grateful for the dedication and diligence to bringing about the grace of and to the cabinet and bishop for their support and continuous availability. The work never ends, thus continual financial support enables the team to immediately respond when disasters strike and help strengthen communities worldwide. Thank you.

Steve Cheyney, Chairperson

c. Central Congo Partnership

Mpasa Medical & Nutrition Center

2017 overflowed with blessings for the people of Mpasa, an area that historically has been home for millions of refugees from Angola, Sudan, and East Congo. The long-awaited pediatric building was completed and dedicated in June 2017. The new building provides significantly improved conditions for safe patient care, especially in clean and well-furnished operating rooms. The operating rooms now include cabinetry for storage of the new surgical instruments, sterile supplies, and medications. Additionally, the partnership purchased specialized equipment for improved quality, such as an incubator for newborns, an ultrasound machine and a suction machine for surgery. Now that the medical center has two new solar powered refrigerators, the government has committed to stock them with blood for transfusions. The absence of blood products has contributed to deaths from hemorrhage during surgery and childbirth in the past. Also, a room designated for children allows for sequestering from adults with communicable diseases. An improved laboratory also has improved the provision for accurate and quality diagnostics. The third phase of the project included the installation of solar power. The medical center now experiences electricity twenty-four hours a day, for the first time.

Cape Lodja Farm in Diengenga

The Cape Lodja Farm in Diengenga has become a model farm for central Congo. Through animal traction, the farm continues to increase the amount of land it can cultivate and harvest providing food for the malnourished as well as jobs as it moves towards becoming more self-sustaining. Four fish ponds provide a good yield and new crops provided a market for the farm: rice, corn, soy beans, maniac, bananas, 4500 pineapple plants, four varieties of beans, and many new vegetables are now yielding fruit. The fresh water well located on the farm enables the planting of a large vegetable garden year-round. In the past, because of the dry seasons, they were only able to plant and harvest six months yearly. It also greatly helps serve the growing animal population: cows, goats, chickens, pigs, and sheep.

Miriam's Table

In February 2018, Miriam's Table, the second nutrition program and location of the newest United Methodist congregation, has a brand new fresh water well. With the help of Rotary International grants program, this well provides water not only for Miriam's Table, but for the entire community. Thousands of people are now able to drink and cook with uncontaminated water. Water-borne diseases bring sickness and death to the children and their families.

d. Project AGAPE

Project AGAPE continued its vital ministry in Armenia for the 24th straight year. This continues to be the only humanitarian relief group in the 1,300-square-mile Kashatagh region of Nagorno-Karabakh. Donations through the years have been one of the few bright spots for many that call this area home. The area served is still recovering from the 1993 war with Azerbaijan and the breakdown of the Soviet Union. Armenia is the oldest Christian nation in the world, preceding Rome by 20 years.

In 2017, the people of Kashatagh received the following help from United Methodists in North Carolina:

- 5,176 Christmas Shoe boxes for children;
- humanitarian aid for 1,200 families (5,505 people); and,
- classes taught at the Christian Education Center for 91 children.

The financial donations continued to make a difference. With your help this past year, the project continued to support:

- two orphanages/children's homes;
- distribution of the food, clothing, school supplies, Christmas Shoe Boxes, medical relief, and financial aid, all of which comes from the people of North Carolina, to families;
- the Cattle Project, which helped 25 new families (137 people) in the area earn a living; and,
- the Chicken Project helped 62 new families (371 people) in the area.

Total value of all projects and aid was over \$495,302.

In 2017, a new mission endeavor was commissioned, the Garden Project. This project will help families with the tools and supplies to plant gardens in and around their homes. This will help families dealing with food shortage issues, and also help families have a more sustainable life by providing much needed income.

Two teams traveled from the WNCC to make a difference in the lives of the people of Berdzor. In June-July, the first WNCC VIM Team renovated a house in Berdzor. The mother, father, and four children were finally able to have a house with a bathroom, kitchen, and multiple bedrooms. The second WNCC Team from Myers Park UMC arrived in September and renovated a house in Berdzor and the Christian Education Center at the AGAPE compound, which had not been renovated since its construction in 2000. The labor and funds provided by the team helped to renovate the worn-out two-story building, making it a better and safer place for the children and youth of the area to gain the education and vocational skills needed to have a better future. The CEC has been

the enlightener of thousands of children and young people educating several generations and empowering them to recognize and use their potential and resources.

Once again, due to the generous support of WNCC churches and individuals, the Project AGAPE Board was able to maintain the 2017 budget at \$82,000 (\$41,000 per conference). This continues to allow the Project to keep open the Christian Education Center that enriches the religious, cultural, and educational life of the community. Classes in art, chess, computers, embroidery, rug knitting, ESL, sewing, and other children's and teenagers' after-school programs continue to flourish at the center.

All aspects of Project AGAPE's assistance to and programs for the people of the Kashatagh region are under the stewardship of Nara Melkonyan, the very capable resident project director. The on-site leadership increases the effectiveness of the WNCC donations and volunteer service exponentially. Nara can be contacted at nmelkonyan@yahoo.com.

Project AGAPE is so thankful for the past support of individuals and churches throughout the conference. Please encourage the church and individuals to give generously so that Project AGAPE can continue to bring humanitarian aid, as well as many of the classes for children and youth, to Kashatagh. One can do so by becoming a member of the Fellowship of 1,000 or making a donation to Project AGAPE. Go to <http://mission.wnccumc.org/project-agape> for more information about the WNCC ministry in Armenia and Artsakh and details of how to support it.

Allan Van Meter, Project AGAPE Board Chairperson

e. Mission Response Center

In 2017 churches in the Western North Carolina Conference continued as a reservoir of benevolence for those who experienced disasters, dislocations, and devastating losses in the country and around the world. Much of this relief effort flows through the WNCC Mission Response Center (MRC) in Terrell, NC.

A significant part of the MRC mission is to serve the residents of the Nagorno-Karabakh area of Armenia through the WNCC ministry Project AGAPE. Two containers of humanitarian aid were sent to Armenia in 2017, which included 3,739 children's Christmas boxes. The MRC also collected and trucked 11,136 United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR) kits and 3,080 cleaning buckets to Sager Brown UMCOR Depot and to other cooperating depots, which were distributed to needy families in the U.S. and in other countries.

Local communities in North and South Carolina were not neglected as they received \$2,343 in donated goods from the MRC.

As a "Cooperating Depot" of the UMCOR network, the MRC serves as a regional warehouse for UMCOR relief supplies. In addition to UMCOR items from WNCC churches, the MRC received kits and cleaning buckets from other nearby UMC conferences. Due to an emergency fall collection, the MRC finished 2017 with an inventory of 21,022 UMCOR kits and 5,001 cleaning buckets.

Worth noting are the gifts received from church related and non-ecclesiastical sources such as:

- new and used clothing donations from NASCAR racing teams and from Belk company;
- reduced cost shipping to Armenia, courtesy of Armenia Artsakh Fund; and,
- shipments to Sager Brown, La., with costs shared by UMCOR.

Overall, the Mission Response Center collected and sent out goods in 2017 valued at \$581,241.

The MRC committee sincerely thanks everyone who has responded with generous gifts and donations to the MRC.

The MRC hosted 98 work team visits in 2017. These work teams are folks who make the shipments happen: some coming on a regular basis and others as needed. The MRC committee is grateful for all of the people who volunteer.

All of this work is directed by Church and Community Worker, Dwaine Morgan, who plans the work of the teams, arranges for receipt of donated goods and shipments out of the MRC, and organizes chaotic piles of goods into some semblance of order.

Emergencies will arise and human needs will be ongoing. The MRC will continue its mandate to minister to "the least of these." In the words of Dwaine Morgan, "We don't always know where we are going, but if we are following God's direction, when we get there we will know it is Home."

Barbara and Ed Gross, Co-Chairpersons
Dwaine Morgan, Church and Community Worker

f. Wesley Community Development Corporation

The past year has been one of exponential growth and outreach for Wesley Community Development in both its church advisory work as well as in the affordable housing arena. In both areas, Wesley seeks to impact communities, churches, and individuals by exercising its experience and talents in the field of real estate to grow and advance the work of the church.

Over the past two years, Wesley has been expanding its work with local churches as it investigates how to engage existing campuses to better connect with their communities and grow their individual ministries. Wesley's staff brings a depth of real estate experience that covers all components of the field, and approaches each relationship with a developer's eye, but the church's heart. It is seeing great work done by congregations, and is honored to be a part of that change in several partnerships. Wesley's *Seeds of Change* program continues to work with pastors and laity to explore different ways the church campus can be used as outreach; some currently associated with churches, and some not. In individual church work, Wesley brings a unique understanding of both the life and dynamics of churches, an understanding of the requirements of *The Book of Discipline*, and an understanding of campus utilization. All three of these must be addressed for any project to be successful.

In 2017, Wesley began developing deeper partnerships with a number of groups doing great things, in communities and within the conference. It is through these partnerships that Wesley works to expand the opportunities and impact to each local church it serves. Through the strong relationship with The United Methodist Foundation, a joint writing of a new Building and Loan Manual is now available to all within the conference. This manual addresses by category the various transactions churches would embark on, and adds the real estate, lending and church governance impacts required by each activity. In this manual churches will find the order of decisions, inclusion of charge conferences, the district office, the District Board of Location and Building and lender considerations. Churches will find this to be a useful tool in navigating details of real estate activities at the local level.

After the last annual conference, Wesley was honored to be awarded the development responsibility for the new conference center. It has listened carefully to the comments made from the floor and in the days that followed, and came away with a better understanding that this new building needed to make a statement about Methodist commitment to God's creation. Wesley revisited the original design and through the commitment and hard work of many, began the process to LEED certification. At this writing, Wesley is confident of achieving LEED, but will not know the final level until July. Wesley also entered into an agreement with Energy United, the power provider to the building, to create a commercial net metering pilot project. The new conference center will include an expansive solar array on the roof, using that energy to offset its need to draw grid power. Energy generated on off days will be sold back to the grid, reducing the demand on other forms of power generation. It is intended that this new conference center will send a message about United Methodist values as a people and a denomination. It has been exciting work to bring this from vision to reality.

Roy J. Helm Jr., President

Randolph H. Harry, Chairperson, Board of Directors

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF WESLEY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

(Petition 4) *Approved June 22, 2018*

The Board of Directors of Wesley Community Development Corporation proposes that the following persons be confirmed by the annual conference as members of that board:

Willetta Ar-Rahmaan
Ricky Lefft

George Coates
Randolph H. Harry

David Hiatt
Richard Woods

6. CAMP AND RETREAT MINISTRIES OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

Since the 2017 Annual Conference session, Camp and Retreat Ministries of the Western North Carolina Conference continues to move forward to ensure they are vital places of ministry. It is the mission of the Conference Committee on Camping and Retreat Ministry to work with the conference coordinator to support each camp in its ministry initiatives, and develop opportunities for the camps to not only remain connected, but also increase their connection with the local churches of the Western NC Conference. This report will give a general update on camp properties. It will also explain how the committee and the conference coordinator have been working to accomplish the goals of continued connectivity with the conference, and support ministry initiatives of each camp.

Camp Property Updates

As of April 2018, the time of the report, the Elk Shoals property remains unsold. The brokers and property managers hired by the conference are working diligently to market this property appropriately. They continue to work closely with the conference trustees to develop effective marketing strategies to increase its visibility with potential buyers and brokers.

Camp McCall officially closed its gates January 2018. At the time of this writing, a prospective buyer is assessing the property and evaluating their interest. The broker hired by the Western NC Conference is working closely with the conference trustees and the prospective buyer to answer questions and work through the process with efficiency. Consideration for the wishes of the former board of directors of Camp McCall is being carefully considered.

Maintained and Increasing Connectivity with Western NC Annual Conference

Each year, the annual conference designates a portion of the budget to Conference Camp and Retreat Ministry. This money is then allocated by the Conference Committee on Camp and Retreat Ministry. The committee allocates portions of the money to each camp, but also holds a certain amount each year to help with other initiatives related to camping and retreat ministry.

One initiative is in the form of camper scholarships. The committee stands firm in their commitment that no child should be excluded from the sense of community, and leadership and faith formation that comes from the camp experience. Camper scholarships are given to any camper who requests them through the camp of their choice.

Thanks to the generosity of the former board of directors of Camp McCall, a new camper scholarship endowment fund has been created. The endowment is being held at The United Methodist Foundation and managed by the board of directors of Camp Tekoa. The money from this fund is made available to any potential camper who meets the following criteria:

1. A former summer camper from Camp McCall
2. A camper from Rutherford County or Burke County
3. A camper from the Blue Ridge District

If a potential camper meets any or all of these criteria they are eligible for a scholarship to any WNCC UMC summer camp of their choosing.

Another initiative the camping committee encourages is the ability for camp and retreat centers to offer a discount to any first-time church that wishes to hold a retreat at any one of the WNCC UMC retreat centers. Each camp and retreat center may offer a discount and apply to be reimbursed by the Conference Camping Committee.

Continued Support of Camp Ministry Initiatives

The Conference Camping Committee continues to support each camp and retreat ministry center by providing board development training and workshops. The committee also provides funding for yearly professional development for each camp director. Finally, as other ministry needs and initiatives are explained and funds requested, the committee is able to provide some financial support.

To date, the four WNCC UMC camp and retreat centers are Camp Tekoa, Tekoa Foothills, Camp Guilrock, and Mount Shepherd Camp and Retreat Center. Each of these centers strives to live up to the potential of their uniqueness. They each have their strengths and challenges as it pertains to being a thriving, vital place of ministry. While some are challenged more than others, each board of directors and camp staff remain committed to continuing their work towards being a sustainable model of vibrant faith formation and partnership with the Western NC Conference.

Carroll Harris, Director

PROPOSAL: BOARDS OF DIRECTORS FOR WESTERN NC CONFERENCE CAMPS

(Petition 5) Approved June 22, 2018

Camp Tekoa/Tekoa Foothills

2021

Brad Cunningham
Bill Porter
Open
Open

2020

John Fletcher
Mary Michael
Jimmy New
Kevin Osborne

2019

Jennifer Hampton
Dan Lyons
Keys Pendleton
Candis Walker

Ex-Officio Members (with vote)

WNCC UMC Coordinator of Camp and Retreat Ministries: Carroll Harris

Ex-Officio Members (without vote)

Executive Director: James Johnson Assistant Director: John Isley Business Manager: Karen Rohrer

Mount Shepherd Camp Retreat Center

2018

Jay Councilman
Wendy Kinlaw
Jerry Crouse
Leslee Wray

2019

Cheryl Freeman
Katherin Robinson
Parker Haynes
Jerry Bohnsack
David Blackenburg
Jon Hunter
Patricia Jolly
Mel Smith

2020

Fred Jordan
Gifford Del Grande
Dennis Carrol

Ex-Officio Members

Director: Josh Britton

WNCC UMC Coordinator of Camp and Retreat Ministries: Carroll Harris

Camp Guilrock

(terms not specified)

Cheryl Lewis
Rhonda Lee
Dennis Scheer
Bobby Jones
Mark Burton

Chris Gann
Tommy Matherly
Doris Windsor
Mary Etta Richardson

Lenora Graves
Hil Peel
Lori Buck
Doug Berlin
Stan Hollis

Ex-Officio Members

Director: Jason Boggs

WNCC UMC Coordinator of Camp and Retreat Ministries: Carroll Harris

Camp Tekoa

This wonderful, Christ centered place called Tekoa continues to impact thousands of lives. Tekoa's donors, volunteers, trustees, seasonal staff, full-time staff, and many more all strive to share the light of Christ with all who come here.

2017 Summer Theme: Breathe. The summer theme was based on Matthew 11: 28-30, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

<i>Daily Themes</i>	<i>Scripture</i>	<i>Concept</i>
Monday/First Breath	Genesis 2:7	Everyone's breath comes from God.
Tuesday/Exhale	Luke 23:46	Let go.
Wednesday/Breathe In Peace	John 20:22	Receive the Holy Spirit.
Thursday/Breathe Out Praise	Psalms 150:6	Offer constant praise to God!
Friday/Breathe Life	Matthew 5:9	We breathe life to others.
Saturday/Be the Breath of God	Matthew 11:28-30	Through God's love we change the world.

Total number of campers for 2016: 2,323

Total number of campers for 2017: 2,436 (Record Number!)

- Plans are underway for Tekoa Foothills 2018. The plans are to offer 2 weeks of summer camp, 2 weeks of mission camps, and outreach to rental groups. Camp Kesem will be coming to Tekoa Foothills in August for one week. Kesem is a nationwide community, driven by passionate college student leaders, that supports children through and beyond their parent's cancer. Kesem is the largest national organization dedicated to this unique population – supporting children with innovative, fun-filled programs that foster a lasting community.
- Camp Tekoa was a vendor at the 2017 Youth Specialties National Conference in Memphis, TN. This was a great marketing venue for Tekoa to promote retreats, mission camps, and the summer programs.
- The Tekoa trustees voted to begin the completion of Lakeside Lodge located at Tekoa Foothills. Total cost to finish the building: \$175,000.
- Two new projects are underway at Camp Tekoa; A new forty foot climbing tower and a new storage/maintenance facility. Both projects will be completed by April 2018.
- Let's Grow Outside (Tekoa's after-school program) won first place in the 2017 Apple Festival parade
- Third Annual Trails and Treats was held in October with over 600 people in attendance. Several schools, local businesses, and the Henderson County Sheriff's Department participated in the event. All donations received went to local elementary schools.
- Summer Offering: Tekoa chose **Rise Against Hunger** as the recipient for the summer offering. Campers and staff donated throughout the summer and raised a total \$6300. Approximately 21,816 meals were packed.

James Johnson, Director

Guilrock United Methodist Camp, Inc.

Camp Guilrock has experienced a wonderful year of continued growth as the camp strives to live out the mission "Discover Creation, Experience God, and Grow in Faith" in new and meaningful ways. This growth includes a commitment to strengthening traditions and exploring new camp ministry opportunities. Operation 336 is one of the traditions that has been strengthened through a new commitment of living out the mission. They serve the surrounding community for a third summer and has expanded to include multiple weeks and areas of focus. Operation 336 is now serving urban, suburban, and rural areas through work projects, as well as relational ministry in neighborhoods, partner ministries, and adult care facilities. One new opportunity for 2017 and beyond is day camp. Through building relationships with families and local faith communities, Guilrock hosted two weeks of camp for kindergarten through fifth grade students. These weeks were filled with daily opportunities for all to grow in faith through innovative experiences in the outdoors and times of worship and devotion. It was an amazing time of growth for both camper families and camp as they began to live into the mission through camp provided programs. Day camp is expanding in 2018 to include six more weeks, countless new church and community supporters, and nearly twice as many campers. The camp looks forward to an exciting year of growth and continued strengthening of relationships with local churches and the Western North Carolina Conference.

Jason Boggs, Director

Mount Shepherd Retreat Center

2017 was a momentous year for Mount Shepherd. This year saw the transition of leadership from the Rev. Kent Shrader's remarkable 28 year ministry to the Rev. Josh Britton. Additionally, the center is thankful for the leadership of board members new and old who have made a considerable impact on the ministry. In 2017, new strategic partnerships were made and old ones were strengthened.

In June, a conservation easement was completed that will protect 275 acres of the iconic Shepherd Mountain for perpetuity. This process helped to vivify the commitment to creation care and environmental stewardship. Thanks to some generous contributions, this easement also brought a considerable financial gift to the ministry. This gift, which has been invested with the United Methodist Foundation, offers a promising opportunity to enhance the ministry.

The summer program continues to reach children with God's grace. One student was simply grateful for warm meals and a safe place to sleep for a week, while others reflected on the spiritual blessing they received during summer camp.

The powerful work of offering holy retreats also continues. After one particular youth retreat, an adult leader reflected, "I had not realized how stagnant my relationship with God had become until I came on this retreat. I haven't connected with God like that since I was a teenager!" The adult leader returned to his church reinvigorated. This represents the experience of so many other participants.

Ministry for youth and children in small-membership churches

In April, a new ministry that targets youth in small-membership churches was started. Through a conference grant, a group of 31 participants from five churches was welcomed for a weekend retreat. While none of these churches has all the resources required for a conventional youth ministry, this program offers an opportunity to build critical mass. Nearly none of the attending students had ever participated in a retreat before this weekend, and all were touched by the power of corporate worship, Bible study and their adventure experiences at Mount Shepherd.

This program for youth will continue to be offered once a year and for third-fifth grade children once per year. This ministry is thankful for the conference's generosity. The hope is that this event will help churches connect with other churches in offering intentional programming for young people.

Partnerships for summer ministry

This summer looks promising, as the missional network has partnered to provide a program called "Jovenes Para Cristo" for Latino youth in the community. 60-80 students are anticipated in a program sustained through various grants. This program will offer the hope of the Gospel to the participants, and it will also connect the churches to dozens of families in the community.

Additionally, partnerships with organizations like Angel Tree and local DSS agencies will help us to expand the reach in 2018. The life changing ministry is being brought to children who need it the most. The ministry is grateful for the continued support of the annual conference, and look forward to collaborating in the sacred work of making disciples for the transformation of the communities and world.

Josh Britton, Director

C. CONFERENCE RESOURCE CENTER

The WNCC Resource Center is proud to be a free lending library for all churches in the Western North Carolina Conference. The mission of the Resource Center is to provide a deep well of engaging, relevant books and media supporting the mission of the local church in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The Resource Center continues to purchase new, quality resources recommended by staff, pastors, and laity for use by churches and individuals for the education, leadership training, and spiritual formation of children, youth, and adults. The Resource Center's two 24-foot canvas labyrinths continue to be used often, especially during Lent and for retreats.

Circulation rose eight percent from 2,331 resources checked out in 2016, to 2,516 in 2017. As of April 2018, the Resource Center boasts 6,943 resources on its shelves, including books, DVDs, worship aids, vacation Bible school starter kits, stewardship campaign programs, Stephen Ministry support, and curriculum for all ages and stages of life.

Pastors and lay people alike can turn for help and guidance in selecting resources. Resource Center staff and volunteers are happy to recommend resources to meet specific needs. Stop by the Resource Center display during annual conference to set up a free patron account, update contact information, browse the catalog, and reserve resources today. Following annual conference, email the Resource Center at resourcecenter@wnccumc.org, call 704-714-2350, or browse www.wnccumc.org/resourcecenter.

Resource Center materials are managed and supported by Surpass, a system used in public schools and libraries. The online catalog, <http://wncc.mysurpass.net>, is open to all for browsing, but you must have a patron account to make reservations. The Surpass app for smart devices, *Library Trek*, makes the catalog even more accessible. Finally, be sure to "like" the Resource Center's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/wnccresourcecenter, for seasonal recommendations and to stay up-to-date on the newest resources as they are catalogued.

Havaleh Havelka, Training and Resource Specialist

D. HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS**1.a. BENNETT COLLEGE FOR WOMEN PRESIDENT'S REPORT****I. Students (as of fall semester 2016)**

A. Full-time students	502
B. Part-time students	81
C. Full-time equivalent enrollment	536
D. Full-time North Carolina students	222
E. Full-time United Methodist students	10
***This number may be higher considering that 83 percent of full-time students chose not to disclose their religious preference. Furthermore, 7 students identified as Methodist and 3 identified as United Methodist.	
F. Resident students	322
G. Non-resident (day) students	261
H. Male students	8*
***There are no male degree-seeking students. There were 8 male part-time non-degree seeking students.	
I. Female students	575
J. Foreign students	1*
***This count does not include teaching assistants from our global studies program who are taking classes.	
K. Number of students receiving financial aid	503

II. Faculty (as of fall semester 2016)

A. Number of full-time faculty	47
B. Number of part-time faculty	14
C. Full-time equivalent faculty	52
D. Degrees of full-time faculty:	
Doctorates	29
Masters	18
E. Average salary of full-time faculty	46,428
F. Average compensation of full-time faculty	58,035

III. Operating Finances (7-1-15 to 6-30-16)

A. Operating income	\$	16,262,313
1. Student fees		9,104,305
2. Endowment income (unrestricted)		266,015
3. Church sources		669,754
4. Auxiliary enterprises		2,585,727
5. Student aid (restricted)		626,786
6. Other		5,172,917
B. Operating expenses		17,378,815
1. Instructional		5,495,883
2. Administrative and general		6,288,645
3. Library		177,887
4. Physical plant (included throughout other areas)		
5. Student aid	\$	2,163,191
6. Auxiliary enterprises		1,861,654
7. Other		3,554,746
C. Operating deficit at beginning of 2015-2016		
D. Operating budget for 2015-2016.....	\$	14,837,459
E. Expenditures per student (2015-2016)		29,809
F. Amount per UM student provided by WNC Conference (2015-2016)		1,741

IV. Other Financial Information

A. Market value of physical plant (7-1-16)	\$	90,144,701
B. Capital indebtedness at 7-1-16		27,762,972
C. Net increase in physical plant from preceding year		1,816,615
D. Market value of endowment at 7-1-16		11,471,858

Phyllis Worth Dawkins, President

1.b. BENNETT COLLEGE CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

The Chaplain's Office encourages spiritual growth and development through the following opportunities:

Student Christian Fellowship – organized to promote and enhance spiritual growth and development, unity and sisterhood. The ministry coordinates community service projects and relationships with other young women, on and off campus.

UM Students – organized to serve as a “community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand the concept of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.” Young women have the opportunity to network with college students, helping to bridge cultural, socio-economic and ethnic boundaries. Black College Fund welcomes new Bennett College Ambassadors.

Spirit of David Dance Ministry – Liturgical and Mime – The mission is to share the gospel of Christ through dance on campus, in the community, and through the church. This year, the ministry celebrated its 18th anniversary during a reunion concert.

Belles of Harmony Gospel Choir was organized in 1973. The choir sings on campus, in churches in Greensboro, and other cities across the eastern region of the United States.

During the weekly **ACES (Academic Cultural Enrichment Series)**, students were introduced to TMS (Train – Mobilize – Serve) Global that exists to mobilize and deploy the body of Christ globally to join Jesus in His mission, especially among the least-reached peoples. They train cross-cultural workers and churches in the US and around the world.

Featured speaker Romal Tune is the Senior Advisor to the President, Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives for the ministry. He shared a copy of his recently released book, “Love is an Inside Job: Getting Vulnerable with God” with students attending the event.

TMS plans to network with the students regarding leadership and mission opportunities across various disciplines and the chaplain's office is in collaboration to host a workshop in the fall.

The Rev. Tune was joined by the Rev. Max Wilkins, President and CEO of TMS and the Rev. Regina Moore, North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, who coordinated the visit.

UMC Social Justice Program: Through the resources of the UMC, Bennett College has established the Sandi Neely Smith Social Justice Scholarship and Internship Program. Smith was a 1976 graduate of the College and a member of the Communist Workers party. She was one of five people killed during a conflict with Ku Klux Klan and American Nazi Party members in Greensboro in 1979. Over the course of the funding, students have engaged in very meaningful research and community enrichment projects, including:

- support of youth in a summer reading program;
- work with youth in the juvenile justice system and development of the Peer-to-Peer Mentoring support group for the young people in the program;
- work to encourage migrant workers to unionize; a student presentation on the living conditions and treatment of migrant workers was titled *Modern Day Slavery*; and,
- student serving as ESL instructor for women released from human trafficking.

Current interns will serve agencies committed to:

- environmental justice concerns in Oregon;
- Pan-Africa Community Action grassroots community organization and Institute for Policy Studies multipurpose think tank in Washington, DC; and,
- the NAACP Hollywood Bureau that is charged with holding the entertainment industry accountable for advancing diversity in front of and behind the lens.

Special Celebration: The Office of the Chaplain collaborated with Bennett Special Projects Coordinator and College Archivist and Museum Curator to present “In Memory and Celebration: The 60th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Speech and Conscience of the Human Spirit: The life of Nelson Mandela (quilt exhibition).

- the event featured audio of Dr. King’s speech along with reflections and their impact; Voices of the movement included those present for the speech: Alumna Lola McAdoo’58;
- a local Civil Rights historian; and
- a South African professor who made the connection between the struggles with Apartheid and Civil Rights Movement which was a natural bridge for the Mandela quilt exhibition overview.

The chaplain's role is to nurture students as members of the various ministries and to offer opportunities for all students to discuss their understanding of faith. Also, the chaplain encourages students to remain connected to their faith community in order to worship, serve and grow.

Natalie V. McLean, Chaplain

2.a. BREVARD COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**I. Students**

A. Full-time students	656
B. Part-time students	21
C. Full-time equivalent enrollment	664.25
D. Full-time North Carolina students.....	363
E. Full-time Methodist students	40
F. Resident students	531
G. Non-resident (day) students	146
H. Male students	373
I. Female students	304
J. American Black	86
K. Hispanic.....	43
L. Native American.....	11
M. Asian American	8
N. Foreign	28
O. Number of students receiving financial aid	669

II. Faculty

A. Number of full-time faculty.....	51
B. Number of part-time faculty	38
C. Full-time equivalent faculty	64
D. Number of faculty and administrative staff representing ethnic minorities.....	0
E. Degrees of full-time faculty:	
Doctorates (or other terminal degree).....	38
Masters.....	12
F. Average salary of full-time faculty	45,970
G. Average compensation of full-time faculty	56,715

III. Operating Finances

A. Operating income (total)..... \$	17,552,769
1. Student fees	18,522,730
2. Endowment income (unrestricted)	1,184,430
3. Church sources.....	24,000
4. Auxiliary enterprises	5,950,235
5. Student aid	(8,159,859)
6. Development funds	1,371,096
7. Other	316,194
B. Operating expenditures (total)	\$ 14,552,769
1. Instructional	5,251,130
2. All institutional support services	4,368,349
3. Library	1,142,170
4. Physical plant	6,290,309
5. Auxiliary services	4,107,551
6. Student aid	1,632,057
7. Other	0
C. Operating indebtedness at beginning of current year.....	1,081,499
D. Operating budget for current year	17,622,330
E. Expenditures per student for current year	25,000
F. Amount per student provided by Western North Carolina Conference	0.35

IV. Capital Funds

A. Value of physical plant at beginning of current year	\$ 32,230,202
B. Capital indebtedness at beginning of current year	8,043,784
C. Net increases to physical plant during preceding year	2,351,641
D. Market value of endowment fund at beginning of current year	27,731,723
E. Net increases to endowment principal during preceding year	3,027,686

Brevard College, a four-year liberal arts college founded in 1853, is the oldest of its kind in Western North Carolina and is the longest ongoing private institution in Brevard. The College has a diverse student body from across the United States and internationally. It is home to students from 25 states and 16 foreign countries. Brevard takes pride in its emphasis on experiential liberal arts education that strives to inspire students to artistic, intellectual, and social action and encourages personal growth. Brevard College is a place where academics, athletics, mountains, music, art, and small-town living combine to create an ideal environment for learning, experience, and growth.

Over the last couple of years Brevard College has also done more to offer local counties competitive scholarship opportunities with its Half-Tuition Scholarship. This academic year it expanded the scholarship even further west to include all of the WNC mountain counties in the hopes of making college more affordable for students from those areas.

Brevard's reclassification of its athletic programs from NCAA Division II to NCAA Division III became effective in the 2017-2018 academic year, shifting the priority for student athletes to their educational experience. Brevard boasts 18 NCAA DIII sports teams and three non-NCAA teams with nearly 60 percent of the current student population participating in athletics.

The Brevard College story is about more than the numbers. The distinctive learning experience is truly that. Brevard College's recruitment and retention philosophy is about identifying those students who will thrive in this environment and who respond to an interactive learning approach. Brevard doesn't just put a degree in its students' hands; it develops their ability and passion to make a difference in the world.

David C. Joyce, President

2.b. BREVARD COLLEGE CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

During the academic year, the Office for Spiritual and Religious Life, led by its College Minister, aimed to provide dynamic opportunities for learning, understanding, engagement, and discovery. It strives to offer creative and religiously diverse programming, service learning projects, cultural and religious immersion experiences, community engagement, mentoring and training, inspirational speaker series, and space for worship and reflection. The Office for Spiritual and Religious life seeks to provide profound experiences where inclusion, compassion, creativity, and possibility become palpable expressions of the human experience. It intentionally does this while remembering its rich Methodist heritage. Throughout the academic year, it has:

- Counseled more than 225 students, staff, and faculty.
- Been invited to pray more than 55 times for meetings, athletic events, Brevard College events, and the Brevard City Council.
- Facilitated 50 students on a Houses of Worship Tour (visited a Catholic Church, Jewish Synagogue, a Muslim Mosque, and Buddhist Temple).
- Visited/sat in on more than 40 Brevard College classes and athletic meetings during the academic year.
- Created an eight-week course with The Center for Spiritual Wisdom called "Listening for the Heart of Democracy" that had more than 125 weekly attendees.
- Been invited to share more than 30 sermons/presentations to religiously affiliated and civic organizations on and beyond the campus.
- Worked to form a student-led prayer group that prayed daily for themselves, their classmates, faculty, staff, and administration, Brevard's community, and the world.
- Taught courses on the Hebrew Bible, New Testament, and Interfaith Literacy.

Programs Created:

- An Emerging Religious Leaders Program (for students with vocational interests in religion).
- A workshop for seniors expecting to graduate, called "Only Steps Away: Listening for Life after Brevard College."
- A Religious Literacy Project in conjunction with The Center for Spiritual Wisdom to expand the campus and community understanding of religion.
- An Interfaith Council in conjunction with the Interfaith Youth Core.

Thank you so much for your generosity. Brevard College remains excited about ministry and all the things God is doing with, among, and through us.

Sharad Creasman, College Minister and Advisor to the President

3.a. GREENSBORO COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I. Students

A. Full-time students	792
B. Part-time students	209
C. Full-time equivalent enrollment	861.67
D. Full-time North Carolina students	543
E. Full-time Methodist students	55
***This number may be higher, considering that some full-time students chose not to disclose their religious preference.	
F. Resident students	757
G. Non-resident (day) students	188
H. Female students	504
I. American black students	287
J. Foreign students	56
K. Number of students receiving financial aid	946

II. Faculty

A. Number of full-time faculty	46
B. Number of part-time faculty	80
C. Full-time equivalent faculty	83
D. Degrees of full-time faculty:	
Doctorates	33
Masters	13
E. Ethnic minorities employed on faculty and administrative staff - Total	63
F. Average salary of full-time faculty	54,770
G. Average compensation of full-time faculty	53,811

III. Operating Finances

A. Operating income..... \$	31,192,258
1. Student fees	20,618,500
2. Endowment income (unrestricted)	1,864,797
3. Church sources	16,875
4. Auxiliary enterprises	4,530,953
5. Student aid (restricted)	2,076,198
6. Development funds.....	1,681,712
7. Other	421,223
B. Operating expenses	
1. Instructional	\$ 5,623,524
2. Administrative and general	6,669,662
3. Library	104,963
4. Physical plant	1,273,201
5. Auxiliary enterprises	4,467,168
6. Student aid	11,121,659
7. Other	
C. Operating deficit at beginning of current year.....	
D. Operating budget	18,113,566
E. Expenditures per student	33,416
F. Amount per UM student provided by Western NC Conference	19

IV. Other Financial Information

A. Market value of physical plant at beginning of current year..... \$	37,109,981
B. Capital indebtedness at beginning of current year.....	15,689,308
C. Net increases in physical plant from preceding year	1,827,761
D. Market value of endowment at beginning of current year	22,863,395
E. Net decrease in endowment principal from preceding year	280,810

Lawrence D. Czarda, President

3.b. GREENSBORO COLLEGE CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

The Greensboro College Religious Life office actively supports the spiritual life and faith development of students, faculty, and staff. Central to the life of the college is a weekly chapel service on Thursdays led by students, with music provided by the chapel band and gospel choir. This weekly service includes a variety of preachers from the campus and community.

Each week there are a variety of small groups, Bible studies, and structured times for prayer. The Greensboro College Religious Life office also provides a weekly Bible study for faculty and staff. In conjunction with the Wesley-Luther campus ministry at UNC-G, a Sunday night worship service for college students is provided in the area. The Religious Life office continues to collaborate with the Wesley-Luther Campus Ministry, Catholic Campus Ministry, Episcopal Campus Ministry, Ukirk (Presbyterian) Campus Ministry, and Hillel Campus Ministry in Greensboro. UNC-G's students have the ability to attend the weekly gatherings with these ministries, and a few host small groups on campus.

As a recipient of both the Young Clergy Initiative and the Rule 2 Grant from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Greensboro College Religious Life has implemented a few programs to help students discern their call to ministry. It has monthly lunch conversations called "Breaking Bread; Breaking Boundaries," where students are able to talk about matters of faith and a particular social issue in the world. Students also have the experience of being an intern at local United Methodist and Lutheran congregations to learn about ministry and ways in which they can serve the church as lay leaders and ordained clergy. The students have the opportunity to also attend Exploration 2017 and NEXT 2018, so that they may discern their call with other young people around the country.

In the fall, Greensboro College also hosted the 7th annual Reynolds Lecture on the Church and Higher Education with speaker Steven Cureton, associate professor of sociology at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro. This spring the 55th annual Ward Lecture on Christian education was held in Finch Chapel with speaker Andrew T. Draper, who serves as director of the Honors Guild and teaches theology in the Department of Religion and Biblical Studies at Taylor University. In April the college also hosted the 10th Annual Schleunes Lecture, "Catholics and Jews Before the Holocaust," by Richard Crane, Professor of History at Benedictine College. The public is invited to attend these events including the annual Lessons and Carols service now in its 53rd year. The website is the best place to find upcoming lectures and events: www.greensboro.edu.

Greensboro College is excited to begin a new Masters of Arts program in Theology, Culture, and Ethics and was approved by the University Senate as a United Methodist affiliated institution for another ten years.

The Religious Life office also provides service opportunities on campus and in the community. It works closely with the Boys and Girls Club of Greensboro, providing events on campus for their members each semester. It also sponsors an Alternative Spring Break trip. UNC-G's students also sustain and support a community garden on campus to feed the hungry in the community. This year West Market Street United Methodist Church collaborated with students to maintain and support this garden.

Finally, the Religious Life office and the Religion Department continue to work together to support students who are exploring their call to ordained and lay ministry. Currently, alumni are attending seminaries at Yale, Duke, and Emory. In conjunction with this effort, the college is explicitly recruiting students through significant scholarships for those interested in religious life, community service, and religion. Those scholarships can be found here: www.greensboro.edu/dept-rep-scholarships.php.

Greensboro College is proud to be connected to The United Methodist Church and seeks to continue to live into the words of Charles Wesley to join together "knowledge and vital piety." It does this through its classes, chapel services, lectures, and community service events so that its students might be faithful and informed citizens of the world.

Robert Brewer, Chaplain



4.a. HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I. Students (as of fall semester, 2017-2018)	
A. Full-time students	4,844
B. Part-time students	107
C. Full-time equivalent enrollment	4,885
D. Full-time North Carolina students	1,240
E. Full-time Methodist students	314
F. Resident students	4,203
G. Day (commuter students and adult learners)	748
H. Male students	1,994
I. Female students	2,957
J. American black students	315
K. International students	152
L. Number of students receiving financial aid	3,961
II. Faculty (as of fall semester, 2017-2018)	
A. Number of full-time faculty	305
B. Number of part-time faculty	157
C. Full-time equivalent faculty	357
D. Degrees of full-time faculty:	
Doctorates and other terminal	290
Masters	149
E. Number of ethnic minorities employed on faculty and administrative staff	57
F. Average salary of full-time faculty	70,494
G. Average compensation of full-time faculty	86,708
III. Operating Finances (for 2017-2018 fiscal year)	
A. Operating income (total)	\$ 195,623,005
1. Student fees	121,804,599
2. Endowment income	596,654
3. Church sources	24,844
4. Auxiliary enterprises	65,781,886
5. Gifts and grants	6,205,477
6. Investment income	0
7. Other	\$ 1,209,545
B. Operating expenditures (total)	156,459,731
1. Instructional	43,173,504
2. Administrative and general	51,647,336
3. Library	1,328,511
4. Physical plant	20,035,581
5. Auxiliary enterprises	40,274,799
6. Student aid	36,446,497
C. Operating indebtedness at beginning of current year	0
D. Operating budget for current year	176,885,145
E. Expenditures per student for current year	39,598
F. Amount per student by WNC Conference	5.56
IV. Capital Funds	
A. Value of physical plant (with depreciation) at beginning of current year	\$ 535,219,625
B. Capital indebtedness at beginning of current year	150,644,038
C. Net increases to physical plant during preceding year	63,209,538
D. Market value of endowment fund at beginning of current year	56,668,533
E. Net increase to endowment fund principal during preceding year	3,343,186

Nido R. Qubein, President

4.b. HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN'S REPORT**High Point University Chapel and Religious Life Introduction**

- The Chapel and Religious Life Office serves the mission of High Point University and The United Methodist Church by deepening the Methodist roots of its campus, forming lives committed to doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God (Micah 6:8). It does this by offering a central moment of worship on campus each week (Chapel), supporting multiple campus ministries, hosting unique spiritual formation initiatives (including its Pilgrimage programs) and emphasizing the importance of diversity and interfaith relationships as part of its United Methodist identity.

- **New Staff: The Rev. Andria Williamson:** In the summer of 2017, Brittani Hunt, Manager of Chapel Programs, transitioned within the University to become its first Director of Multicultural Affairs. The Chapel Office is proud to onboard staff members that help lead HPU in becoming a more inclusive institution of higher learning. The new Manager of Chapel Programs is the Rev. Andria Williamson, a recent graduate of Wake Forest Divinity School. The Rev. Williamson coordinates student leadership for its weekly Chapel service, led the fall Piedmont Triad Pilgrimage, and fosters multiple programs in spiritual formation.

Weekly Chapel – Fall 2017

- **Continued Social Media Outreach:** The Chapel and Religious Life Office continues to increase its online presence. Weekly Chapel is now streamed through [Facebook Live](#), a feature that allows HPU's weekly Chapel service to reach thousands of people weekly. See the following:
 - ♦ [Facebook.com/hpuchapel](#)
 - ♦ [Instagram.com/hpuchapel](#)
 - ♦ [Twitter.com/hpuchapel1](#)
- **Eighteen worship services** were hosted at Hayworth Chapel in the fall of 2017, including family weekend services and an Alumni Weekend worship service. Other highlights from the fall include:
 - ♦ **Matthew 5: The Second Mile.** A five-week series focusing on the teachings of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount. Students were able to get a contextual understanding of teachings such as “turn the other cheek,” “pray for those who persecute you,” and “if one forces you to carry his pack one mile, go two.”
 - ♦ **Faith and Mental Health.** Perhaps the most anticipated and well-received series of the fall was a three-part series on the intersections of faith and mental health. Executive Director of Counseling M.J. Raleigh joined the Rev. Davis each week to deliver messages. Messages examined the rise in mental illness, suicide ideation, and self-perception.
 - ♦ **The Three Prayers.** This series followed the implications of sincere prayer that begin with three phrases: “Thank you,” “I’m sorry,” and “Please.”
 - ♦ **Lessons and Carols (11/30).** The Chapel Choir led this annual candlelight worship service.

Other Fall 2017 Highlights

- **Social Entrepreneurship:** The Board of Stewards raised over \$15,000 (a record amount) through the weekly offerings and other partnerships to provide Christmas presents to the Salvation Army Angel Tree program. Students also had the opportunity to sponsor an angel by buying presents for a child.
- **Triad Pilgrimage:** The Chapel and Religious Life Office led a group of ten students on a fall pilgrimage in the Piedmont Triad. Students were able to get a closer look at major issues, such as food insecurity, gang violence, and other issues related to poverty and disconnection through the lens of their faith.

Spring 2018 Highlights

- **Palm Burning/Covenant Renewal Service:** During the first Chapel service of the semester, the congregation took last year's palm branches from Holy Week and burned them as a symbol of burning away the “chaff” that they may live more intentional, holy lives.
- **5th Annual Black Heritage Service:** The Chapel and Religious Life Office partnered with historic black organizations on campus to host this service to celebrate Black History Month. It offered this service on a Wednesday evening (in the natural rhythm of Chapel) instead of a Sunday. More students were able to appreciate the diversity of Christian witness on its campus.
- **Ash Wednesday Service:** Nearly 300 people attended an Ash Wednesday service to begin the season of Lent.
- **Chapel Series: Unafraid:** A three-week series on the rise of fear, both personal and cultural, and the Gospel's guidance through such fear.
- **Chapel Series: The Last Week:** The bulk of Wednesday Chapel services this spring focused on following Jesus through Holy Week. Each Wednesday night followed Jesus through the one day of his last week of mortal life.
 - + These included a reverse offering, a visit from renowned musician Chuck Bell, and a Holy Week communion service.
- **Guest Speakers:** High Point University has been fortunate to have wonderful guest speakers in Chapel this semester, including Bishop Will Willimon and the Rev. Dr. Michael Brown of Marble Collegiate Church in NYC.
- **Attendance:** Over the last year, chapel continues to average 200 attendees per service.
- **Chapel Citsse:** Over 60 students are signed up for chapel worship for credit this spring. This unique opportunity allows students to pursue faith formation for academic credit. It is one of the ways High Point University lives out its Christian Methodist heritage, encouraging spiritual development as part of its holistic education. Students' final essays, more-over, concerning their spiritual development and experiences of chapel provide invaluable insights into what has impact and what does not.
- **The Chapel Choir,** under the direction of Dr. Liz Doebler, is now comprised of more than 20 auditioned voices.
- **Collision Worship Band:** This student-led worship band has been under development over the last two years and has now become a cornerstone of weekly Chapel.

Other 2017-2018 Chapel Emphases:

- **Student Participation:** A continued emphasis has been placed on having students lead worship, while also promoting more interactive elements in weekly Chapel. Students have more opportunities to speak, lead music, and promote service projects during weekly Chapel.
- **Attendance:** Over the last year, chapel continues to average 200 attendees per service.
- **Chapel Citsse:** Nearly 100 students took chapel worship for credit this past academic year. This unique opportunity allows students to pursue faith formation for academic credit. It is one of the ways High Point University lives out its Christian Methodist heritage, encouraging spiritual development as part of its holistic education. Students' final essays, concerning their spiritual development and experiences of chapel provide invaluable insights into what has impact and what does not.

Pilgrimage/Trips

- **God in the City Pilgrimage: Houston:** The Rev. Preston Davis and the Rev. Andria Williamson led a group of 10 students on a seven-day pilgrimage to Houston. While there, students provided flood relief in the morning. In the afternoon they visited different faith communities to see how those faith communities are serving the most marginalized in Houston, particularly in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. These included Fondren Apartment Ministries (led by the Rev. Hannah Terry), ReVision (led by St. Luke UMC), St. John Downtown (the Rev. Rudy Rasums), and The Work of the People (Travis Reed).

Campus Ministries and Multi-faith Efforts

- **Christian Campus Ministries** have flourished this year. With the addition of Campus Outreach more students are being reached and are participating in the religious life activities.
- **Interfaith Dinner Club:** Interfaith Dinner Club has grown from 10 students (Fall of 2016) from various religious and cultural backgrounds to 40 students (Spring of 2018). In this once-a-month dinner club, students engage in reflection about their own spiritual and cultural heritage, as well as learn from the spiritual and cultural heritage of others.
- **Passover Seder:** Hillel, the Jewish student group on campus, led its fifth annual Passover Seder to celebrate the Jewish holiday on campus.

United Methodist Relationships and Connections

- The Rev. Dr. Al Ward, HPU Trustee and Alumni, joined HPU in the fall of 2017 to serve as its Clergy in Residence.
- Dr. Dennis Carroll, Provost, serves on both the Board of Ordained Ministry and now the UMC University Senate.
- The Rev. Davis and the Rev. Dr. Chris Franks continue to teach and preach at local churches in the area.
- The Rev. Dr. Carol Stoneking continues to serve as the Dean of the David R. Hayworth College of Arts and Sciences.

Preston Davis, Minister to the University

5. PFEIFFER UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

Greetings from Pfeiffer University!

It's been a year of growth and continued progress at Pfeiffer!

Demographic Information: Pfeiffer welcomed its largest entering class in more than 30 years in the Fall of 2017 with 330 new students! They joined returning students to start the year with an undergraduate student body total of 813 undergraduates. The entering class was 53.3 percent male and 46.7 percent female; 31.7 percent Baptist, 28.4 percent Unaffiliated and 11.9 percent United Methodist; 78.4 percent came from North Carolina; 57.4 percent were White, 24.3 percent were Black or African American and 7.5 percent were Hispanic or Latino; and five students were from other countries. The graduate programs include 13 degree offerings and graduate students took a total of 2,796 credit hours in the Fall 2017 semester. Going forward, Pfeiffer will be bringing new graduate programs on board in Sports Management, Occupational Therapy, and Physician's Assistant Studies.

Across the University:

- Several Pfeiffer academic programs achieved "best of or best in" honors this year: Master of Marriage and Family Therapy, Master of Health Administration, Bachelor's program in Healthcare Informatics, Master's in Organizational Leadership, and undergraduate programs in business, education, and nursing were among those recognized. The business program received national accreditation this past year from the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs.
- Pfeiffer continues its vocational exploration and Pfeiffer Journey programs with the assistance of a NetVUE Program Development Grant. Promoting the idea of vocation as one's call across the university helps Pfeiffer to live into its mission to prepare servant leaders for lifelong learning.
- Pfeiffer's Outreach into the communities in which it lives continues with programs such as STEM Winter Wonderland, held in cooperation with the Stanly County Family YMCA; the Stanly County Quizbowl; the Math 24 Competition;

overwhelming opportunities for service; the Montford Park Community Organization; and community mental health outreach by the Pfeiffer Institute Reach. Pfeiffer faculty member Dr. Robert Cox received a grant from the North Carolina Problem Gaming Program and has been involved in bringing an understanding of what problem gaming is and how to help those who need help.

- Pfeiffer continues its move into NCAA Division III athletics as part of the USA South Athletic Conference and experienced great success in its new conference. Track and Field and the Women's Basketball program have already competed in the postseason in the Eastern College Athletic Conference and it is expected that some Spring sports will be invited for postseason play as well.
- Pfeiffer officially opened its new Charlotte location in October 2017 at 1515 Mockingbird Lane (directly across the street from the former location). Because the programs in Charlotte are primarily late afternoon/evening, space is available for rental during the daytime hours for those who may have a need.
- More than 650 Pfeiffer faculty, staff, and students participated in 74 separate volunteer opportunities with the Francis Center this year, and another 16 opportunities were sponsored by other departments, classes, and clubs. Examples include:
 1. This year Pfeiffer started an AmeriCorps program where a recent graduate stayed for a year and created volunteer opportunities for Pfeiffer students to teach STEM activities to children at afterschool programs at Title I underserved elementary schools.
 2. The Francis Center has continued to grow its relationships with a few main program partners: Habitat for Humanity, the YMCA, Monarch, and the Community Table Soup Kitchen.
 3. The Hunger Relief Garden expanded to provide produce to food banks in three counties and expects to expand to five counties in Summer 2018.

Update from the Chaplain's Office at Pfeiffer: This year the Frances Center for Servant Leadership and Campus Ministries merged to create *The Frances Center for Servant Leadership and Faith Formation*. This new design allows students to explore and practice their emerging beliefs and values as well as engage in servant leadership opportunities on campus and in the broader community.

- As an ecumenical community, **Pfeiffer Chapel** is designed as a sacred space for students to explore and develop their beliefs and values through worship, conversation, and experiential learning. This year, students engaged in traditional, contemporary, and fresh expressions of worship as well as deliberate discussions about their faith within in the context of their local and global communities. Chapels have included: small group discussions on interfaith dialogue, experiential learning that connects the gospel to hunger relief and homeless, panel discussions on disaster relief, ecumenical guest speakers, and intentional traditional services honoring important events within the liturgical calendar.
- **Campus Ministries at Pfeiffer** continues to thrive and support students in their spiritual formation. In honor of the College's relationship to The United Methodist Church, many programs are designed specifically for Christian students. This year's programming included: Christians Engaged in Faith Formation, Athletic Ministries at Pfeiffer, CRU, and Praise Band & Gospel Choir. The chaplain's office also provided new opportunities such as small groups focused on call and vocation, Theology on Tap, Praise Karaoke, and two new denominational organizations: Catholics at Pfeiffer, and Metamorphosis, A Baptist Bible Study.
- A new **Beliefs and Values Initiative** began in the 2017-2018 academic year. This initiative welcomes students of all religious and philosophical backgrounds with a goal to build a community based on the principles of mutual respect, understanding, and dialogue. This year, students participated in side-by-side service with different interfaith communities throughout the Charlotte area, attended *Ripples*, an interfaith conference at Elon University, and experienced programs like *Spill Your Ink*, a tattoo storytelling event.
- A **Deliberative Dialogue Training** program started at the end of April in which local clergy were invited to learn alongside Pfeiffer students about this form of discussion aimed at finding promising avenues for action about shared concerns around particular issues.
- Dr. Kevin Taylor continues his popular monthly theological round table, Café-chesis, and manages theologycast.org, a podcast that focuses on theological discussions in theology, academics, and pop culture. Tune in for fun, engaging and thoughtful dialogue.

Clergy Health Institute: Pfeiffer continues its work with the Clergy Health initiative, welcoming eight female clergy in the 2017 cohort. These women leaders participated in an eight-day retreat at Lake Junaluska where a holistic health approach was provided: nutrition, cardiovascular health, healthy grocery shopping, exercise sessions, cognitive effects of exercise, bone health, work/life balance, stress management, and art therapy among them. At the three-month follow-up session, all but one reported weight loss and other positive health outcomes! The 2018 Clergy Health Retreat will welcome both a male and female cohort and we're looking for 14 clergy to participate. Sign up now! Contact Dr. Dana Martin at dana.martin@pfeiffer.edu.

Youth Theological Institute ... or PFEIFFER YeTI: Summer 2017 began the inaugural YeTI at Pfeiffer with three cohorts together for two weeks for one life-changing experience! Twenty-four participants started the program, ranging in age from 14 to 17, with 26 percent minority student participation. The group was overwhelmingly female (79 percent), from 21 faith communities and three faith traditions from North Carolina, South Carolina, and Kentucky. Participants, mentors, and leaders engaged in activities and discussion that served to expand the participants' understanding of ministry and invited them to consider their future in ministry. Immersion experiences took groups to an Intentional Community in Asheville, to study social justice in Washington, DC, and to study sports ministry in Charlotte. Pfeiffer students served as mentors. Registration is now open for YeTI 2018, so spread the word!

Homecoming is set for September 28-29, 2018. If you're a Falcon, or just want to experience Pfeiffer, please plan to attend! Remember #pfeifferishome.

Colleen Perry Keith, President
colleen.keith@pfeiffer.edu
www.pfeiffer.edu

NOMINATIONS OF COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY TRUSTEES

(Petition 6) *Approved June 22, 2018*

Brevard College

Term Trustees: Timothy J. Bailey, Betsy O. Barefoot, John S. Boggs, Douglas Brinkley, Ronald Burgees, Richard T. Gardner, James T. Harris, Reginald D. Heinitch Jr., Charles Henley, Barbara A. Hulse, J. Phillip Jerome, Peter Johnson, A. Edwin Jones, W. Brandon Lakeson Jr., Kathi L. Levine, Linda Martinson, Barbara M. Nesbitt, Jack Parker, Alfred F. Platt, Jr., David E. Shi, Connell Stafford, Jerry Stone, Elizabeth O. Taylor, Dona D. Vaughn, W. Heathley Weldon, Gilbert West

Lifetime: C. Harley Dickson Jr.

Emeriti: Ralph L. Abernethy, Jr., Douglas W. Booth, Leonard S. Bullock, Tommie L. Cassady, Robert I. Dalton Jr., F. Crowder Falls, Bernard R. Fitzgerald, Dyeann B. Jordan, Robert (Bob) S. Lawrence, Lizette Lewis Pryor, Ray N. Simmons, William C. Stanback (1923-2018)

Ex-Officio: David C. Joyce, Mark Lemel, Davis Whitfield-Cargile

(Petition 7) *Approved June 22, 2018*

High Point University

Elected: Elizabeth H. Aldridge, L. Paul Brayton, Michael B. Brown, Teresa B. Caine, Richard D. Callicutt II, Earl E. Congdon, Christine Cottrell, David F. Couch, Edward H. Covington, Robert G. Culp III, Jack Finch, Shirley T. Frye, Christopher L. Henson, Thomas E. Ingram, Miriam O. Kimsey, Peter A. Mahler, Katherine K. Maynard, Adnan M. Mjalli, Kevin P. Norton, Jeff Patterson, Anne Kerr Walker, J. Alexander Ward, Mark A. Webb, Douglas S. Witcher, Molly Millis Young

Ex Officio: A. B. Henley, Chairperson, Board of Visitors; Paul Leeland, Resident Bishop; Nido R. Qubein, President; Kristen Li-Barber, Faculty Representative; Jason Walters, President, Alumni Association; Hope Morgan Ward, Resident Bishop

Honorary: Jacob C. Martinson, Thomas B. Stockton

Lifetime: Robert J. Brown, Richard P. Budd, Thayer Coggin, Floyd T. Craven, David L. Francis, Thomas S. Haggai, Donald W. Haynes, David R. Hayworth, Ron L. Jones, Gene C. Kester, William V. Kester, Jr., Meredith P. Michener, J. Robert Stout, Robert E. Stroupe, Richard F. Vert, Fred E. Wilson, W. Vann York

E. COUNCIL ON CAMPUS MINISTRY

The WNCC Council on Campus Ministry mission is to support local campus ministries to make and grow disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. To that end, the council has taken several steps to live up to that mission.

The Conference Council on Campus Ministries hosted a training for local campus ministry boards on March 23 and 24 at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory. Twenty-five people were in attendance representing six of the seven campus ministries in Western North Carolina Conference. The Rev. John Weaver, Executive Director/Campus Minister at Middle Tennessee State University Wesley Foundation, led the board training. A variety of topics including how to recruit and develop a local board; fund-raising; and supporting a campus minister's well-being were discussed. Local board members took the opportunity to meet, get together in small groups to discuss their learning, and create plans of practice to implement what was learned during the training. All of the campus ministers had a time to meet together to share with one another the ways they had seen God move in their campus ministries over the last year, and to share their ideas for how they can partner together and learn from one another. The Council on Campus Ministry is charged with providing training that will equip local campus ministry boards to support local campus ministers. The council's intent is for an annual gathering.

The council held a planning retreat to help clarify its mission and responsibilities and to create a Ministry Action Plan (MAP) to help guide the council's work. The retreat was led by Jack Ewing. During the council's time together, they were prompted to define its mission, refine its vision, and align core values to enable the Conference Council on Campus Ministries to take the proper steps and strategies to help empower the campus ministries to grow disciples in their local settings.

This year the council, in conjunction with the communications office of the conference, has produced a promotional video for each of the campus ministries to highlight the unique ministries of each campus. These videos will be put on the conference website and Facebook page, and will be given to the campus ministries to use in the recruitment of perspective students.

In the last year the Conference Council on Campus Ministries worked diligently to ensure the growth of its seven campus ministries in both scope and size; they have now expanded to include over 1,500 active students across 12 campuses (not including the conference's five United Methodist colleges and universities, which operate independently from the council). By supporting these ministries with the council's prayers and apportionment funds, a new generation of students is being inspired to "Follow Jesus, Make Disciples, Transform the World." Thanks to the generous support of the conference, Methodism is alive and well on campuses in Western North Carolina. By strengthening the support for all of the current campus ministries and creating new ministries in new places, the council is committed to its mission and looks forward to what God has in store for the future of campus ministry in WNCC.

John F. Howard Jr., Chairperson

CAMPUS MINISTRY BOARDS

(Petition 8) Approved June 22, 2018

Appalachian Wesley Foundation Board of Directors 2018-2019

Class of 2019: Benny McFalls (FaithBridge, Alumnae), Martin Mickey (Deerfield), Ginna Edwards (Boone, Alumnae)

Class of 2020: Andrew Davis (Alumnus), MacGregor Knight (FaithBridge, Alumnus)

Class of 2021: Susan Boyer (West Jefferson UMC), Marshall Boyer (West Jefferson UMC), Katherine Christie (FaithBridge, Alumnae)

Student Members: Logan King, Rachael Gossett, Sam Carbone

Pastor of Local United Methodist Church: Ben Floyd (Blackburns Chapel)

Ex officio: Carl Arrington (Appalachian District Superintendent)

Campus Minister: Brad Farrington

Asheville Wesley Foundation

Class of 2019: Curtis Goforth

Class of 2020: Kayln Wiley (Chairperson), Andrea Lingle

Class of 2021: Dara Belohlavek, Dianne Johnston, John McCullough (Treasurer)

Student Member: Megan Odom

Ex officio: Beth Crissman (Blue Ridge District Superintendent)

Campus Minister: Jessica Dayson

Niner United at UNC Charlotte

Ian Binns, Anne Brown, Olanda Carr, Sandra Cline, Elizabeth Hardin, Mike Hoffman, Lyn Holt, Trey O'Quinn (Chairperson), Val Rosenquist, Taylor Simmons, Ethan Smith, Beth Whitaker.

Ex Officio: Stephen Cheyney (Campus Minister)

Wesley Foundation at East Market (North Carolina A&T State University)

Class of 2018: Harry Waddell, Albertina McGirt

Class of 2019: George Coates, Dottie Troxler

Class of 2020: Ron Cooper, Dr. Andrea Ofori

Student Members: Diron Chloe Jr., Jovan Lawless

Ex Officio: Beverly Copley (Northern Piedmont District Superintendent), Maria King

Director of the Campus Ministries: Diron Chloe

Wesley Luther at UNC Greensboro

Kim Record (West Market Street, Director of Athletics), Jessica Gregory (College Place UMC), James Esterline (Centenary UMC), Jill Alventosa-Brown (West Market UMC, Council on Campus Ministry), Tom Herin (Retired), Jay Hilbinger (First Lutheran), Mary Jones (West Market UMC), Mary Ann Vinson (Christ UMC), Don McCrickard (Christ UMC), Terry Dorsey (ELCA Synod), Carolyn Miller (Trinity Lutheran), Catherine Sevier (West Market UMC)

Ex Officio: Beverly Copley (Northern Piedmont District Superintendent), Beth Bernhardt (ELCA Synod Committee on Campus Ministry, Assistant Dean for Collection Management and Scholarly Communications)

Students: Haley Penk, Hannah York. *Director of the Wesley-Luther Campus Ministries:* Andrew Mails (College Place UMC)

Associate Director of Wesley-Luther Campus Ministries: Emily Saine (College Place UMC)

Western Carolina Wesley Foundation

Scarlette Pless, Lori Poston, Lynley Hardie, Beckie Barber, Bill Ogletree, Nathan Borchelt, Drew Virtue, Drew Carnes, Jay Ruebel, David Dunaway, Callie Moore, 2 vacancies

Wesley Foundation Student Representatives: Ashley Kairis, Joshua White, Sarah Woods, Alena Strahan

Ex Officio: Randy Harry (Smoky Mountain District Superintendent); David Reeves, Senior Pastor at Cullowhee UMC; Jay Hinton, Director/Campus Minister of the Wesley Foundation at WCU; Hannah Van Hooser, Wesley Foundation at WCU Associate Director

Winston-Salem Wesley Foundation

Roger Echols (Chairperson), Christy Buchanan (Secretary, Mt. Tabor, Winston-Salem), Elinor Starling (Maple Springs, Winston-Salem), Steve Felts (Armore, Lewisville), Jonathan Philpot (Personnel Committee Chairperson, Assurance, Huntersville), Nicklaus Ashburn (Advancement Chairperson, Hillsdale, Advance), Ryan Angi (Charlotte), Becca Woodaman (President, Wake Forest Wesley Foundation), Lamar Parker (Armore, Winston-Salem), Sara Miller (Treasurer, Winston-Salem), Preston Bowers (Treasurer, Wake Forest Wesley Foundation), Wesley Todd (Residence Life and Housing staff person, WFU, Winston-Salem), Melanie Crossen (First, Huntersville);

Ex Officio: Michael Bailey (Yadkin Valley District Superintendent)

APPALACHIAN WESLEY FOUNDATION

The Wesley Foundation has had a wonderful year in campus ministry serving the campuses of Appalachian State University and Caldwell Community College–Watauga campus. Its leadership continues to be focused on letting its campus communities know that they are beloved children of God. It has been diligent about extending the invitation to others to join its discipleship journey to follow Jesus together, and it works every day to help young adults faithfully live into God's call for their lives in college and beyond. This year three new students have become certified candidates for ministry, and the Wesley Foundation has five students who will begin seminary this fall, joining over a dozen AppWesley alumni who are currently enrolled in seminaries across the country. As the Wesley Foundation looks to the next season of campus ministry, it hopes to be more engaged in supporting mental health with young adults, connect its small group ministry with ongoing local missions, and continue to develop its campus ministry facility in order to maximize its ministry potential adjacent to the university. The Wesley Foundation thanks all of its alumni, parents, local churches, and friends for their support of its campus ministry, and it is always thankful to serve as a thriving extension ministry of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference. It believes that making disciples of Jesus on campus will change the world. Thank you for helping the Appalachian Wesley Foundation live into that God-given conviction year after year.

Brad Farrington

ASHEVILLE WESLEY FOUNDATION

In the Fall of 2015, the campus ministry at UNC Asheville was relaunched, seeking to help students connect with God, each other, and the world. Since then, the ministry has experienced much growth and has re-established a weekly gathering on campus, created several bible studies and small groups, and started an annual Fall Retreat for students. In the Fall of 2017, through the work of the Board of Directors and Campus Minister, Asheville Wesley launched a new leadership structure, creating more opportunities for students to step forward in leadership and grow in discipleship. This leadership structure included beginning a new "Student Ministry Internship" program. The ministry is anticipating continued growth as student leadership is enhanced and presence on campus continues to increase.

Jessica Dayson

NINER UNITED AT UNC CHARLOTTE

It has been a rewarding year at Niner United, the campus ministry serving UNC Charlotte. Niner United started the year with a wonderful Week of Welcome, welcoming its largest number of first-year students to our programs. It successfully connected with 1,135 members of the UNC Charlotte Class of 2021 and has made successful connections to 2,761 UNC Charlotte students. These students have attended at least one of Niner United's events, completed an interest form at a Niner United tabling event, or sought out the organization for pastoral care or nurture.

Niner United offers two weekly worship services and numerous small groups. In October, a team of students worked in Brunswick, Ga., in response to Hurricane Irma. In November, 15 students traveled to Portland, Ore., to discern a possible call into the ordained ministry.

In February, the campus ministry Board of Directors awarded Dr. Mary Lynne Calhoun, Dean Emeritus of the Cato College of Education, the campus ministry's highest honor, the Loy Witherspoon Distinguished Service Award.

In March, a team of students responded to multiple blizzards affecting northwest Montana's Blackfeet Native American Reservation. Since the first of January, the Blackfeet Reservation has seen an astonishing 240 inches of snow. The all-student Early Response Team from UNC Charlotte received and distributed five tons of wood pellets and three semi-loads of trees, cut and parceled in hundreds of pickup truckloads of firewood, that traveled as far north as the Canadian border. The team also received and distributed four shipments of food and supplies that originated in Helena, the capital of Montana.

Niner United continues to work with the Lilly Endowment, as they have sustained their support of its theological exploration of vocation initiative, the Faith and Leadership Experience. Its students continue to work closely with the Niner Food Pantry, the Charlotte Men's Shelter, the Charlotte Rescue Mission, the Urban Ministry Center, and Ascension Soup Kitchen. It is reaching more students than any time in its 54-year history. These students actively seek to participate in a consequential life of faith, serving with the compassion of Jesus and living a life of grace, peace, and hospitality.

Steve Cheyney

WESLEY FOUNDATION AT WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

The Wesley Foundation at Western Carolina University is grateful for all of the support it received from the WNC Annual Conference, The Smoky Mountain District, local churches, its Board of Directors, and its friends and alumni. This academic year the ministry helped college students connect with each other and the world around them in many ways. Students spend time with each other daily at the ministry and at Cullowhee United Methodist Church. They participated in thousands of hours of service work over the year, including splitting and delivering over 100 loads of firewood to local residents and delivering meals weekly via the Department on Aging Meals on Wheels program. Students also planned and implemented the 9th Annual Wesley Haunted House, which raised over \$2,500 for mission work and reached out to over 600 college students and local residents. Each week during the school year the student worship team and Wesley staff plan and hold worship for college students. Wesley staff members help college students learn how to plan and give a sermon almost every week of the school year. Staff members also provide opportunities for small group participation, worship with Cullowhee UMC, and fellowship and study with Cullowhee UMC members. The Wesley Foundation at WCU staff have planned their first ever student trip to the Holy Land which takes place in May 2018. There are three staff, six students, three alumni, and eight Cullowhee UMC members attending. Next year the staff plan to increase their focus on in-depth student leader development, Board development and student involvement, increased intentional student outreach, and student worship training. All of this would not be possible without the generous grant from the WNCC, the Smoky Mountain District, friends and alumni of the Wesley Foundation, and its own fund-raising efforts. One dream and prayer of the Wesley Foundation at WCU is to be able to have increased funding to continue to grow its staff in order to reach more college students.

Jay Hinson

WESLEY FOUNDATION AT EAST MARKET AT NORTH CAROLINA A&T STATE UNIVERSITY

Wesley Foundation at East Market (WFEM) is the Wesley Foundation to North Carolina A&T State University. Over the past year, WFEM has started two new discipleship opportunities that have reached an average of 27 people on a regular basis to fulfill its mission of making disciples of Christ. Additionally, it has developed a worship team that regularly worships with Metropolitan (Greensboro). WFEM has started a food pantry to reach the needs of the students and has helped approximately 65 students weekly. The pantry has been sponsored by both NC A&T and the Central Greensboro Missional Network. WFEM is continuing its relationship with Metropolitan (Greensboro) and developing more relationships with the faculty and staff of NC A&T.

Diron Chloe

WESLEY-LUTHER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA GREENSBORO

Wesley-Luther continues to grow and expand programming that creates opportunities for students to develop a deep, meaningful relationship with Christ, explore vocation, practice radical service of others, and to support the UNCG community through its campus food pantry which distributed more than five tons of food last year. Several years ago, a young transfer student in chemistry was invited by her lab instructor to a free meal at Wesley-Luther. Although she had been so deeply hurt by members of her home church that she had renounced her baptism, she went that evening and gradually became involved in a loving community that engaged her in service, worship, and Bible study. Three years ago, she renewed her baptismal vows and joined a UM church. She remained in touch with Wesley-Luther after graduation and last Fall traveled with eight other W-L students to the United Methodist "Explore" event in Portland. There she experienced God's call to ordained ministry and has now received a prestigious scholarship to attend a Methodist seminary. All of this has been possible because of the significant annual support for campus ministry by the WNCC.

Andrew Mails

WINSTON-SALEM WESLEY FOUNDATION

The Winston-Salem Wesley Foundation has had another great year of ministry. Primarily serving in this past year the campuses of Wake Forest University and Salem College, it has held weekly large group fellowship meetings where a free dinner, worship, preaching, prayer circle, and fellowship have occurred. At Wake Forest, student-led Bible studies take place weekly; the Rev. Jones leads the weekly Bible study at Salem College. Wake Forest Wesley has also had four spiritual retreats, social outings, intramural teams, and a very meaningful spring break mission trip with Bahamas Methodist Habitat. The Rev. Jones meets with over 30 students a week for mentoring sessions and "crisis" meetings as needed. The Winston-Salem Wesley Foundation also made a point to reach out to the Muslim Student Association to do some joint recreational and service opportunities in an effort to see the people and the commonalities behind the different belief systems. Fund-raising is also a very important part of the Winston-Salem Wesley Foundation's ongoing work; with the Conference supplying about 60 percent of its budgetary needs, fund-raising from parents, alumni, and local churches is very important. The Winston-Salem Wesley Foundation is also excited to report that it will have a full-time intern with a Wesley Foundation background to help with the ministry at Salem College and the UNC School of the Arts next academic year. Additionally, it has at least one graduating student who is exploring divinity school options after a gap year of traveling the world. Thanks to all for your continued prayers and support of campus ministry.

Larry Jones

F. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

1. ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST RETIREMENT COMMUNITY, INC.

Aldersgate's mission is "We honor elders and are committed to creating and fostering diverse, caring communities where everyone has a voice and value," and is the solid bulwark for its vision, to "... strive to give the elders we serve their best possible day, each day, by creating fulfilling life experiences while partnering with others to form vibrant communities." Together, these drive the strategic planning process, aligning closely to the core values of living in faith, practicing stewardship, serving with compassion, striving for excellence, respecting independence, embracing diversity and inclusion, and building meaningful connections.

Priority initiatives include:

- build and sustain Independent Living occupancy to 95 percent;
- establish home care off-campus;
- continue implementation of person-directed care initiatives;
- develop master site plan;
- increase philanthropy;
- touch the lives of more people through the Aldersgate mission;
- fulfill standards of excellence to maintain Eagle and CARF accreditations;
- evaluate/establish corporate structure to ensure Aldersgate UMRC, Inc. and other entities are operating most effectively from legal, financial, and missional perspectives;
- continue diversity and inclusion journey;
- evaluate, integrate, and expand capabilities through stronger offerings in technology;
- advance legislative agendas around elders' issues.

One of the most significant achievements of 2017 was the addition of the first Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, as well as implementing the role of Mission Advancement. Diversity and inclusion achievements include a wide-reaching service project focused around Martin Luther King Jr., and a resident and staff tour of the powerful K(no)w Justice K(no)w Peace Exhibit at the Levine Museum of the New South. Achievements in Mission Advancement include the addition of an Urban Farm spanning 6.7 acres of Aldersgate property that will address food access concerns for neighboring immigrant and lower income communities. Also, a partnership was formed with Charlotte Mecklenburg School Systems to bring an experiential learning program called Focus Garinger to campus that will provide 100+ students in 9th and 10th grade who are at risk of failing the opportunity to graduate with their high school diploma. Lastly, the afterschool immigrant program called Our Bridge for Kids has been successfully integrated into the campus, along with strong intergenerational programming. The Gateway Expansion objectives continue to progress, including opening a new 140,000 sq. ft. skilled nursing facility, and the opening of the Gateway Commons in December 2017. To better serve both the community and current residents, contracts were signed with Fresenius to provide dialysis services and with Hospice and Palliative Care of Charlotte to provide Hospice services in the new skilled nursing facility. Aldersgate at Home has continued to serve clients who live off-campus in Mecklenburg County.

Suzanne Pugh, President and CEO
Laurie Foster Nortz, Director of Development

**BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF
ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST RETIREMENT COMMUNITY, INC.
AND
ALDERSGATE AT HOME, INC.**

The boards of directors of Aldersgate United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc. and Aldersgate at Home, Inc. propose that the following persons be confirmed as members of the boards named below. (*denotes resident member).

(Petition 9a) *Approved June 22, 2018*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST RETIREMENT COMMUNITY, INC.

Class of 2019: Thomas R. Lawing Jr., William K. Springs, Patricia Garrett, Susan S. Keever, David J. Guilford, Joseph A. Lipe, Blake Morris, Stanley Watkins, Mary E. Wilson, Dr. Robert Dee Vaughn Jr., Christopher W. Davis, Martha D. Jones*, Joan Ramsey*

(Petition 9b) *Approved June 22, 2018*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ALDERSGATE AT HOME, INC.

Class of 2019: Thomas R. Lawing Jr., William K. Springs, Patricia Garrett, Susan S. Keever, David J. Guilford, Joseph A. Lipe, Blake Morris, Stanley Watkins, Mary E. Wilson, Dr. Robert Dee Vaughn Jr., Christopher W. Davis, Martha D. Jones*, Joan Ramsey*

NOTE: The addition of the Board of Directors for Aldersgate at Home, Inc., is due to the expansion of Aldersgate at Home into the community at large requiring it to stand as its own entity.

2. ARBOR ACRES UNITED METHODIST RETIREMENT COMMUNITY, INC.

*Through excellence, innovation, caring, and beauty, Arbor Acres cultivates
community, comfort, and well-being for Senior Adults.*

This past year has been a year of reflection and learning. The board has embarked on the process of developing a new strategic plan that will guide the work for the years 2020-2023. In order to accomplish this important task, Arbor Acres is taking a two-pronged approach: the development of a near-term strategy covering the years 2018-2019, and a focus on board education that will culminate in the development and adoption of the Arbor Acres 2020+ strategy. The emphasis of the near-term plan is on addressing well-known challenges that could have a significant impact on leadership's ability to turn its full attention to the Arbor Acres 2020+ strategy. While the senior leadership team focuses on the development of the near-term plan, the board has committed to a rigorous series of educational sessions that will deepen their awareness of key challenges and opportunities the organization will likely face in the near future. Issues such as changing workforce demographics, health care reform and integration, and changing customer demographics/expectations, are going to be explored in order to assist the board in identifying key strategic goals and opportunities.

As stewardship of resources is a key responsibility of any faith-based ministry, Arbor Acres continues to excel in this area. Arbor Acres continues to maintain its Fitch BBB+ rating while exceeding its budget targets for the year. Demand for the services of Arbor Acres remains strong, resulting in over 96 percent occupancy. In support of those wishing to become part of the Arbor Acres family, the board of directors approved plans to offer an Off-Campus Residency Program for individuals wishing to take advantage of the community's offerings while remaining at home.

Arbor Acres' philanthropic goals were met in 2017. Philanthropy efforts resulted in raising over \$448,526. The residents have also chosen to work with Crossnore School, which operates the former United Methodist Children's Home to support their mission and ministry. In 2017 Arbor Acres provided \$1,785,562 of community benefit, an amount equal to 5.88 percent of resident revenue.

In 2018, Arbor Acres is excited about the future, while remaining grounded in that which has sustained us for nearly forty years: courageous faith, wise stewardship, commitment to beauty, and service in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The following individuals are elected as members of the Board of Directors of Arbor Acres United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc.

Andrew W. Applegate, President/CEO
Susan Schwartz, Chairperson, Board of Directors

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ARBOR ACRES RETIREMENT COMMUNITY, INC.**(Petition 10)** *Approved June 22, 2018*

The following persons are proposed for election as members of the Board of Directors of Arbor Acres United Methodist Retirement Community, Inc.:

Arthur L. Bloom	Cynthia S. Graham	Richard C. Spangler
Marian Douglas	Lory Beth T. Huffman	Paul M. Wiles
Dale E. Driscoll	Kay B. Johnson	
	Class of 2020	
Welborn E. Alexander Jr.	David C. Hinton	Drewry H. Nostitz
Pamela H. Ball	Kathryn A. Nelson	James M. Ruffin
Scott J. Gerding	Danny R. Newcomb	William F. Sayers
	Class of 2021	
Nigel D. Alston	Florence P. Corpening	William J. McGuinn
Marsha E. Bledsoe	Susan C. Elster	Wanda S. Merschel
Dudley C. Chandler	Kaye P. Lambert	Steven L. Reeder
	Ex Officio	
Paul L. Leeland	Michael F. Bailey	W. Hampton Lefler
Resident Bishop	Yadkin Valley District Superintendent	President, Resident Council

3. CROSSNORE SCHOOL & CHILDREN'S HOME

The previous year has been challenging yet rewarding for Crossnore School & Children's Home. What began as two years of strategic planning by two separate child welfare agencies on how to serve more children and families in crisis culminated on January 1, 2017 with the merger of The Crossnore School in Crossnore, NC, and The Children's Home in Winston-Salem, NC. Obstacles were overcome, expectations were surpassed, and through it all, dedicated and determined staff on the two campuses worked tirelessly together integrating their services, teams, and cultures, while following God's call. What was a carefully laid blueprint by two centenarian organizations each with similar histories of healing thousands of hurting children is becoming the solid foundation for the premier provider of children's services in western North Carolina.

Crossnore School & Children's Home offers a full continuum of trauma-informed care across both campuses, including residential group foster care, community-based foster care and adoption, state-of-the-art education, aftercare (for young adults who have aged out or left the foster care system), and outpatient therapy. Growing its programs and extending its reach into more counties, Crossnore School & Children's Home is responding to the single greatest public health crisis facing children in America – the trauma of childhood abuse and neglect. In 2016, 687,000 children were served by the public foster care system (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services). Millions more go unprotected. Trauma has lasting effects that impact every aspect of a child's life. Fulfilling its mission to grow healthy futures for children and families by providing a Christian sanctuary of hope and healing, Crossnore School & Children's Home is breaking the vicious, intergenerational cycles of abuse, abandonment, poverty, mental illness, and addiction.

Providing trauma-informed interventions and expert support, Crossnore School & Children's Home is healing the minds and bodies of its children so they can grow into happy, productive adults. Overseeing the day-to-day operations of this vital work is the integrated Board of Trustees with day-to-day operations led by Brett A. Loftis, JD, chief executive officer, and the organization's executive leadership team: Kenny Cook, chief facilities officer; Caroline Hart, chief advancement officer; Teresa Huffman, chief financial officer; Meribeth Robinson, chief clinical officer; Angelina Spencer, chief program officer; and Jenny Taylor, chief people officer. Each officer leads a department of talented directors and staff who are committed to the Crossnore School & Children's Home mission and the vulnerable children they serve. The Trustees are led by Carolyn Moretz (Hickory, NC), board chairperson; Katheryn Northington (Winston-Salem, NC), vice-chairperson; Marilyn Williams (Orlando, FL), secretary; and Ted Laporte (Charlotte, NC), treasurer.

As newly renovated cottages continue to open on the Winston-Salem campus, more beds are becoming available for children in need of safety and shelter. Last year, 203 foster children, ages newborn to 21, from 24 North Carolina counties lived on both the Crossnore and Winston-Salem campuses. Thirty-five community-based foster care families licensed and supervised by Crossnore School & Children's Home opened their homes to 41 children. And more clients than ever, 562 including residential children and members of the community, received outpatient therapy services provided by therapists trained specifically in trauma- and behavioral-focused therapies. Outpatient referrals are accepted from local schools or Departments of Social Services. Crossnore School & Children's Home therapists help children and families learn new strategies to address challenges, break ineffective patterns, and evaluate difficult decisions in order to lead a more fulfilling life together.

An outpatient therapy experiencing sizeable growth is the Day Treatment program provided in collaboration with Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools. Crossnore School & Children's Home provides the only day treatment program in Forsyth County and is one of the largest non-residential day treatment programs in the state. Day treatment offers a trauma-informed therapeutic environment for the community's most at-risk children who struggle with mental, emotional, and behavioral challenges that make it difficult for them to succeed at school, as well as in their homes and communities. Day treatment youth are disproportionately affected by adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and are more susceptible to academic failure, social difficulties, and increased health risks. Day treatment addresses the educational and mental health needs of these children in a scholastic setting. Therapists, counselors, and state-certified teachers provide specialized instruction and encouragement, helping their students build self-confidence and physical awareness, as well as develop the skills needed for life-long resiliency in the face of trauma.

Another area undergoing considerable expansion is the foster care and adoption program. Crossnore School & Children's Home has recently opened an office in Hendersonville, N.C., extending the reach of these services to Henderson, Polk, and Transylvania counties located in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Tanya Blackford serves as regional director.

Though much has been achieved since the historic merger, Crossnore School & Children's Home has much to accomplish. For instance, more community-based foster care families are needed to provide safe and loving homes for the growing number of North Carolina children in foster care. Also concerning are the poor outcome statistics of young adults who leave the foster care system. Goals of the "Youth in Transition" support initiative, launched in 2016 on the Winston-Salem campus and 2018 on the Crossnore campus, are to empower young adults who have experienced foster care after the age of 14 and to see them become thriving, independent adults.

Crossnore School & Children's Home stands today as a testimony to what God can do using good people who willingly follow where He leads and who give unselfishly to serve His children. With two campuses, a satellite office, professional and passionate staff, and the support of numerous donors and volunteers, Crossnore School & Children's Home continues, as it has for more than 100 years, to be a sanctuary where lives are transformed and hope is restored.

Brett A. Loftis, Chief Executive Officer
www.crossnore.org

CROSSNORE SCHOOL & CHILDREN'S HOME

(Petition 11) *Approved June 22, 2018*

The UM Board members for the class of 2019 are Iris Sunshine, John Stone, and Redge Hanes.

4. GIVENS COMMUNITIES

Since inception Givens has grown to four campuses with 540 employees serving 1,200 residents. Throughout this growth, Givens has remained committed to its core values and mission, and had the courage to be a pioneer and to collaborate with like-minded partners to address the increasing need for senior housing with services.

Givens Gerber Park is an affordable senior living community in south Asheville providing supportive housing for seniors with limited financial resources. 40 Givens Gerber Park opened in November 2016 with 120 one and two bedroom HUD subsidized and tax credit rental apartments. 50 Givens Gerber Park opened in December of 2017 and offers 60 one and two-bedroom tax credit rental apartments. 60 Givens Gerber Park, which will open in spring of 2018, will offer 82 one and two bedroom rental apartments for middle income seniors. When complete, Givens Gerber Park will have a café, community rooms, wellness programming, art and educational activities, transportation, fitness center, on-site medical clinic, beauty salon, food pantry, library and computer room, and social services.

As the population ages, Givens believes that one of the most difficult challenges is providing supportive, quality, affordable housing for those with limited resources and for those with low and middle incomes. Providing housing with support services for everyone has the potential of eliminating, delaying, or minimizing the need for more costly health care. Givens remains committed to serving seniors from all economic levels. Rental subsidies and tax credits provide affordable housing for people with incomes below \$24,000 per year. Moreover, there is a group of seniors with incomes of \$24,000 to \$50,000 per year who are unable to afford the entrance and higher monthly fees of market-rate communities. Many of these seniors are in high maintenance homes where they become socially isolated and have limited access to necessary support services. Therefore, the 82 apartments in 60 Gerber Park are designed just for this group.

At Givens Highland Farms, future residents have reserved the 24 homes for Phase Two of Meadowmont, with completion and move-ins planned for spring 2018. Phase Three is underway, with 16 of the 22 homes reserved and move-in planned for fall 2018. Upon completion, this project will add 64 new residences to the campus.

Givens has been working on Master Planning for the Givens Estates and Givens Highland Farms campuses to be implemented over the next decade. Master Planning for the Givens Estates campus encompasses many improvements to the overall layout and existing structures. The plan includes adding 80 new independent living apartments, remodeling the health center, building 45 new assisted living apartments, and renovating and expanding Oxford Commons which houses the dining room, wellness center and other amenities. The plan also includes eliminating some outdated villas which will be necessary to build the more marketable new apartments.

Master Planning at Givens Highland Farms includes building 18 new cottages, a new kitchen, dining and activity areas, 48 new assisted living and health care accommodations, and 140 Independent new apartments. The plan also includes eliminating some antiquated homes and apartments. As with any long-term planning, Master Planning at both Givens Estates and Givens Highland Farms will remain flexible to unforeseeable changes caused by outside factors such as global finances, local environmental changes and market trends. The adaptable plans will allow Givens to improve upon communities that will best serve the needs of the current aging population.

Since 1975 Givens' mission and support of older ministries has evolved to address the ever growing needs of the region. Givens continues to embrace its long-standing relationship with the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Kenneth M. Partin, Chief Executive Officer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF GIVENS COMMUNITIES**(Petition 12)** *Approved June 22, 2018*

It is proposed that the following be elected as members of the Board of Directors of Givens United Methodist Senior Ministries:

Class of 2019

Annette P. Coleman
 Kathryn D. Durity
 Roger C. Hibbard
 Horace H. Hunt
 Ronald C. Leatherwood
 Doris P. Loomis
 J. Edgar McFarland
 David C. Whilden

Class of 2020

Kathryn M. Atkinson
 Donna A. Broadwell
 Jane H. Fuller
 Kenneth M. Hughes
 Horace S. Jennings
 Dorothy J. Johnson
 Josephine C. Pyatt
 Florence E. Schwein

Class of 2021

Ann H. Aldridge
 Joseph P. McGuire
 Clifton B. Metcalf
 Armin L. Wessel

Ex Officio

William B. Cagle (Honorary Life)
 Robert E. Shepherd (Honorary Life)
 Hal F. Starnes (Honorary Life)

Lucian C. Rice (Medical)
 Florence H. Shelor (GHF Resident Council Rep.)
 Alfred J. Whitesides Jr. (Honorary Life)

Clergy

Robert M. Blackburn Jr.
 R. Keith Turman

W. Michael Holder

W. Mark Ralls
 Christopher M. Westmoreland

Paul L. Leeland, Resident Bishop
 Elizabeth M. Crissman, Blue Ridge Superintendent
 Linda M. Kelly, Smoky Mountain District Superintendent

5. UMAR SERVICES, INC.*Empowering Adults With Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Since 1983*

In 2017, the Western North Carolina Conference, districts, and churches continued to play a key role in UMAR's services to adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Some churches and districts included UMAR in their annual budget and many took love offerings and held fund-raisers to benefit UMAR. Local churches took participants into their sanctuaries and into their hearts. From Sunday school classes to "Joy Proms," members provided opportunities for spiritual development, education, and social interaction. One hundred percent of UMAR residents participated in a worship service or sponsored activity in the past year.

These churches model the kind of inclusion that all would hope to see in the larger society; they are living out the Social Creed of The United Methodist Church to be committed to the rights of people with disabilities. Without the advocacy and support of the Western NC Conference – its districts, churches, and members – UMAR would be unable to provide the depth of opportunities and services it offers.

As a mission and ministry, UMAR promotes community inclusion, independence, and growth for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities through residential, employment, and cultural enrichment opportunities. Having grown from serving three people in High Point to now serving 379 people across western North Carolina, UMAR provides vital services for adults with a wide range of physical, mental, and emotional disabilities. Its mission easily translates into "live, work, and thrive" as it transforms lives through the following programs and services:

- **Live (Residential Services)** – UMAR operates 23 homes and nine apartments. Dedicated, trained staff provide residents with 24/7 support, meals, transportation, activities, and other quality-of-life enhancements – all while fostering independence and responsibility in a family-like setting.
- **Work (Vocational Services)** – UMAR helps adults with disabilities secure and maintain competitive employment with skills assessment, job coaching, placement, training, and support for as long as the individual is employed.
- **Thrive (Day Programs/Arts)** – UMAR day programs focus on art, recreation, social, and independent living skills. Because vocational services are not appropriate for everyone, day programming ensures participation in meaningful activities that foster learning and growth. UMAR day support includes three art centers located in Charlotte, Lincolnton, and Reidsville. At the UMAR Art Centers, community partnerships inspire a variety of art forms such as painting, pottery, photography, and gardening. Program participants create and sell art, with each earning a 40 percent commission for every piece sold.

As an outreach ministry, congregations can be engaged in the work of UMAR through hands-on mission, donations, and volunteering with participants. For more information on programs or to get involved visit UMARinfo.com.

Accomplishments/Highlights from 2017:

- 147 people were supported through Residential Services, living in their own community.
- Officially changed the organization's name to UMAR Services, Inc.
- Electronic health records have been implemented across the organization.
- Two participant-initiated micro-businesses started through the Charlotte Art Program.

- Assisted residents with 3,713 medical appointments.
- 113 adults found help through the Vocational Services program.
- 119 artists work in three art centers (Charlotte, Lincolnton, and Reidsville).
- Over 724,000 miles driven in service to the people UMAR supports.
- Over 300 volunteers shared their time and talents.
- UMAR Arts in Charlotte, Lincolnton, and Reidsville increased partnerships, gallery events, and classes which allowed artists with disabilities to increase their community involvement, income, and artistic expression.
- Clergy and lay leader teams within the Catawba Valley, Metro, Northern Piedmont, and Yadkin Valley Districts supported UMAR programs with donations, fund-raising, volunteers, and disability awareness/education.
- More than 1,100 donors provided financial support that changed lives. Of those donors, 112 were churches.

Goals for 2018:

- Launch a multi-year campaign to raise \$3.5 million to increase financial stability and sustain growth.
- Enhance training for all personnel that provide quality personal care for the aging adults with disabilities within the UMAR family.
- Three-year accreditation with The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).
- Expand residential living options, including the re-opening of a five-bed duplex in Charlotte.

Marilyn Garner, President and CEO

TRUSTEES OF UMAR SERVICES, INC.

(Petition 13) *Approved June 22, 2018*

It is proposed the following be elected as members of the Board of Trustees of UMAR-WNC, Inc.

Class of 2018/19

Theresa Hall
Gil Middlebrooks

Class of 2019/20

Donna Frye
Parks Hunter

Class of 2020/21

Patricia Mirabelli
Billy Morton

6. CHRYSALIS COUNSELING AND CONSULTATION CENTER

Chrysalis Counseling and Consultation Center, Inc. is the Methodist resource for counseling and consultation for the Northern Piedmont, Yadkin Valley, and Uwharrie districts of WNCC. It is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3), fee-based center providing mental health services for individuals, couples, families, and children who are experiencing emotional and spiritual issues.

Chrysalis provides quality confidential counseling for ministers and their families at an affordable cost. It also serves clergy as a referral source for congregants experiencing a range of emotional problems including anxiety disorders, addiction, depression, marital conflict, and relationship issues.

Ministers are invited to monthly “Lunch & Learn” seminars at Centenary UMC in Greensboro, which provide CEUs and a pathway toward Pastoral Care Specialist certification. Seven workshops were presented in 2017 to ministers, focusing on developing healthy boundaries, improved listening skills, conflict resolution, and building small group connections within congregations.

Chrysalis is growing. It added a new part-time counselor who will service a satellite location at Covenant Church United Methodist in High Point. In addition, it maintains and successfully fund-raises for the Chrysalis Samaritan Fund, which provides financial assistance for those with limited income and are without mental health insurance coverage. It held a fund-raiser in November 2017 that raised money for Chrysalis’ operating costs, including a \$2000 donation to the Samaritan Fund.

Chrysalis strives to be affordable for all who seek professional counseling services. In 2017, it began to track the reduction of its clients’ fees in light of these efforts. At year end, Chrysalis had reduced total fees by \$27,500 for its clients. Chrysalis takes pride in these results and the spirit of mission it represents.

Chrysalis expressions appreciation for its board members.

Since 1980, Chrysalis Counseling and Consultation Center, Inc. has provided services to faith community individuals and families. Chrysalis appreciates the trust evident in its efforts over the years to make a difference in the lives of people. It appreciates all financial support moving forward to meet the growing demands of the future.

Visit chrysaliscenters.org to learn more about the Chrysalis ministry.

Gary L. Kling, D. Min., NCLPC, Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CHRYSALIS COUNSELING AND CONSULTATION CENTER**(Petition 15)** *Approved June 22, 2018***Board Members**

Brian Allen, President
 Amanda Kirby, LPC, NCC, VP
 Diana Burns, LCSW, LCAS, CCS, MAC
 William "Bill" Heintzelman, MBA

Mary Lu Harmon, MBA, Secretary
 Billy Crumley, M. Ed., Treasurer
 Brian Pearce, JD
 Chris Judge, BSN, RN

Ex Officio

Gary L. Kling (executive director)

Harry H. Long, LMFT, *Emeritus*

Leigh Loftin (office assistant)

7. SANCTUARY COUNSELING GROUP (SCG)

Sanctuary Counseling Group (SCG) is an agency that offers counseling and psychotherapy, consultation to individuals, clergy, congregations, and districts on a variety of issues, clergy assessments and testing, and educational programs for church groups as well as congregations and districts. SCG is a specialized ministry extending the ministry of local congregations to persons who seek hope in the midst of their despair, light in their darkness, and God's healing grace. SCG provides certified pastoral counselors who meet persons where they are on their journey through life. In a high-tech society, its pastoral counselors bring a personal touch. While psychiatrists offer pills to treat life's problems, and psychologists offer limited sessions due to managed-care restrictions, SCG pastoral counselors offer a relationship that will last as long as the process of healing takes and at considerably less cost.

SCG serves as an important referral source for pastors, who often do not have the time or the specialized training to work with persons in local congregations who are hurting. Having qualified, respected pastoral counselors makes referral for parishioners much easier.

SCG area of service now encompasses the Catawba Valley, Metro and Uwharrie districts that cover an 11-county area. Two new sites have been added, one in Davidson at Davidson UMC and the other in Salisbury at First UMC. In the past year, SCG increased the ministry and provided 11,157 hours of individual, marital, family, and group therapy. It provided 1,059 hours of consultation with congregations and individuals, conducted 159 hours of workshops and educational events for congregations, and conducted 257 hours of psychological assessments. The SCG website is updated monthly, www.sanctuarycounselinggroup.org. SCG is a service center that is accredited by both the American Association of Pastoral Counselors (AAPC) and the Samaritan Institute.

SCG continues to face and embrace the changing climate of behavioral health. The attention to mind/body/spirit and seeking to relate to the whole person is one of the things that SCG believes distinguishes them in the marketplace. SCG is extremely grateful for the partnerships with various congregations within the annual conference and is especially thankful for those who provide space in which to engage in this life-changing ministry. Referring to licensed pastoral counselors who are able to provide caring, compassionate, and quality ministry provides a sound basis for helping and healing others through this arm of the annual conference.

To learn more about the SCG clinical services and sites, workshops, and consultations, as well as to make contributions to the Samaritan Client Assistance Fund to aid persons without the financial means who seek professional pastoral counseling, visit the SCG website at www.sanctuarycounselinggroup.org.

Martha Rick, Chairperson
 John V. Arey Jr., Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SANCTUARY COUNSELING GROUP**(Petition 14)** *Approved June 22, 2018*

The Board of Directors of SCG proposes that the following persons be confirmed by the annual conference as members of that board and/or the SCG Advisory Board:

Board Members

Colin Hood
 Martha Rick
 Anna Hollifield

Ginger Dickerson, M.D.
 Heidi Starnes
 Andrew Nesbitt

Mike Berryhill
 David Gilliam
 Victoria Davneek

Ex officio

The district superintendents of the three districts that fall in the SCG service area:
 the Catawba Valley District, the Metro District, and the Uwharrie District.

G. BOARD OF LAITY

There are 30 members of the Board of Laity who represent the Western NC Conference. Included on the board are the conference lay leader, district lay leaders, UMW president, UMM president, lay servant ministries, prayer advocate, and at-large members. The mission of the board is to model, assess, and advocate for lay leadership and engagement so that laity assume their role as active partners in fulfilling the WNCC's mission to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. It is humbling to serve in ministry to represent the more than 280,000 lay members of the WNCC.

For the 2016-2020 quadrennium, the Board of Laity focused on increasing lay engagement and leadership opportunities.

Four focus areas:

- **Accountability Groups** – Christ's Church is called to make disciples. The laity of WNCC is key to fulfilling this call. The Board of Laity knows that vital disciples invite others into relationship with Christ. It chose to focus on creating opportunities to hold each other graciously accountable to deepening the relationship with God and each other. In 2017-2018, this task force completed a conference-wide survey to determine interest in accountability groups among local churches.
Almost 200 people responded asking for more information. Mentors have now been selected from across the conference and are trained to meet with and support these new accountability groups. Their work is already underway.
At the 2018 AC, lay delegates have an optional training session focusing on the traits and ministry of accountability groups. Here education, resources, and mentors are available to help local churches start accountability groups. The goal for the quadrennium is to have 80 percent of 1100 churches with one or more active accountability groups. To learn more, contact Ron Ballard at ronballard53@gmail.com.
- **Education and Communication** – The conference has many incredible missional and educational opportunities that lay members would enjoy, or from which they would benefit. The Board of Laity has determined that communication and education among the laity is a critical step toward making the best use of these resources to increase church vitality. A task force of board members and conference communication staff works directly with the conference, districts, and local churches to educate, engage and tell the story of WNCC's exceptional laity. To learn more, contact Fred Cantler at fredcantler@gmail.com.
- **Lay Engagement and Leadership Training** – The Board of Laity has agreed to be in conversation with the conference about assuming the role of overseeing and recommending the educational and leadership development opportunities for its lay members. While it will make use of existing opportunities, the need to coordinate efforts for the most significant impact of resources, both human and financial, is a key driver.
- **Lay Servant Ministries** – The 2016 General Conference adopted legislation impacting Lay Servant Ministry and leadership across the connection. Members of the Board of Laity are participating with the Conference Certified Lay Servant Committee and Certified Lay Ministers Task Force to launch a WNCC program in 2018. The call to Certified Lay Ministry is the focus of the 2018 Annual Conference Lay Address. Be ready to sign up for the discernment and training events. Now more than ever, lay ministry and leadership is a necessity for both conference and churches. Contact: the local coordinator or Wade Loftin at wloftin@triad.rr.com.

The Board of Laity is pleased to journey with its UMC brothers and sisters. Prayer support and active participation are needed to be equipped for His work. Contact Jane Boatwright Wood for questions at jane.boatwright.wood@gmail.com.

Jane Boatwright Wood, Conference Lay Leader and Board of Laity Chairperson

H. UNITED METHODIST MEN

As a member of the conference connectional table, they have participated in aligning the mission of conference United Methodist Men (UMM) with the conference vision and goals.

As a member of the conference Board of Laity, they have been appointed to an accountability task force. In a recent survey sent to every church in the conference, it was discovered that 25 percent of churches report having some form of accountability groups, such as The Class Meeting process, Emmaus reunion groups, Covenant Discipleship, etc. The goal is to have 80 percent of all churches with at least one accountability group by the end of the quadrennium.

Several groups within UMM are using The Class Meeting model for small accountability groups. Some groups meet via video chat.

In support of the continuing focus on domestic violence prevention, a week of prayer with a different focus each day is provided. A new curriculum is being developed to train men in recognizing and dealing with domestic violence.

They continue to have the highest number of life members of UMM, the second highest percent of churches with a charter and second highest number of charters.

United Methodist Men of the Western North Carolina Conference make a major impact on the 125,000 men in the churches through the United Methodist Men's organization.

The mission of the conference organization is to build and support the district organizations of United Methodist Men in developing resources to meet the needs and interests of men and the responsibilities of discipleship; to empower personal witness and evangelism; to enable outreach in individual and group mission and ministry; to encourage and support spiritual growth and faith development; and to promote the objectives and responsibilities of the General Commission on United Methodist Men.

The conference organization has emphasis and gives support to:

- Ministerial scholarships for second career pastors;
- Scouting;
- The Upper Room prayer line;
- Disaster recovery and building team mission support;
- The Crossnore Children's Home;
- Domestic abuse education and prevention in partnership with United Methodist Women;
- Carolina Cross Connection;
- Hunger relief through the Society of St. Andrews and Stop Hunger Now;
- Disciple Bible Outreach Ministry; and,
- Strength for Service devotional books.

The conference United Methodist Men leadership will work with district superintendents and pastors in exploring methods and resources for discipline and faith development for the men of churches. A concerted effort must be made to more actively involve the men in the life of the church and assist them in becoming true disciples of Jesus Christ. District presidents are building district leadership teams to raise the profile and importance of ministry to men in their districts.

United Methodist Men exists to declare the centrality of Christ in every man's life. Men's ministry leads to the spiritual growth of men and effective discipleship. This purpose is served as men are called to model the servant leadership of Jesus Christ.

Individual and group strategies form the foundation of United Methodist Men ministry. They enhance evangelism, mission and spiritual life as men become servant leaders. They advocate programs that train men within local churches to promote specific ministries including prayer, missions, stewardship, and civic/youth serving ministries. They forge pastoral partnerships by men committed to the effective support and service of clergy and local congregations. They enhance organizational strength through effective leadership, membership growth and financial accountability. They assist men in their ever-changing relationships, roles, and responsibilities in the family setting, workplace and society. They help men understand the organization, doctrine and beliefs of The United Methodist Church.

Men fulfill the membership vows through the commitment to prayer, presence, gifts, service and witness in congregational life.

Men fulfill the Great Commission with and through The United Methodist Church as one part of the Body of Christ. Men seeking membership in a local unit of United Methodist Men are asked to subscribe to the personal objectives of engaging daily in Bible study and prayer; to bear witness to Christ's way in daily work and in all personal contacts through words and actions; and to engage in Christian service. They encourage participation in the Upper Room Walk to Emmaus and Covenant Discipleship to promote the spiritual development and discipling of the men.

They are enabling digital communication through our email database of over 1200 contacts and provide training and conferencing of our leadership and the men in the pews. Lifelong learning must be a hallmark of a progressive organization in order to maintain and upgrade the skills and knowledge of successful means of developing the faith development and capabilities of the men. Distance and cost limit our ability to meet face to face making digital conferencing a viable means of meeting and discussion. Leaders of men will be encouraged to begin the process of becoming a certified Men's Ministry Specialist in order to become a resource for churches, district and conference leadership.

They also encourage scouting leaders to become Scouting Ministry Specialists. Leaders need to be held accountable for the responsibilities and duties to which they have been elected or appointed. Systems of accountability will be developed to ensure accurate and responsible stewardship of our leadership resources.

United Methodist Men will continue to advocate for and explore opportunities for disaster recovery and building teams, both locally, statewide, nationally and internationally. Tornados and floods have ravaged large portions of the country and everyone needs to step up and show God's love and mercy through the actions of hands and feet. They have established an endowment fund through the conference foundation.

The conference UMM spiritual rally was May 18-19, 2018 hosted by University City United Methodist Church in Charlotte.

Website: www.wnccumm.org; FaceBook, Twitter; brownneil@bellsouth.net

Neil Brown, President

I. UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

For United Methodist Women, Spiritual Growth Retreat at Lake Junaluska began with a “smile.” Those smiles widened on the faces of the executive team as registration reached 684 and Rev. Ashley Thomas led three sessions on S-M-I-L-E, “Seeing Miracles in Life Every Day.”

Mission U at Pfeiffer University on the Misenheimer campus featured “Living in a Covenant Community” led by Dr. Patty Meyers, a geographic study on three missionary conferences (Redbird, Alaska & Oklahoma), and a repeat study of Climate Justice. Two hundred twenty-one people participated, including 12 youth who studied the missionary conferences, participated in disaster relief efforts in Lumberton, and volunteered in their thrift store.

Annual Celebration at Lake Junaluska welcomed National UMW President, Shannon Priddy. The theme “Change is Good” offered various opportunities to consider the benefits of “change.” “Two cents a week and a prayer” was the financial foundation in 1869 that has become more than \$18,000,000 a year to provide education, health care, and economic opportunities. Active and retired mission personnel and special mission guests were honored during the mission session, and a luncheon was provided in their honor.

Almost 100 women participated in Ubuntu Day of Service at five mission institutions – Bennett College, Bethlehem Centers in Charlotte and Winston-Salem, Brooks-Howell Home, and Pfeiffer University. The women planted flowers, shrubs and seeds for hydroponic gardening, prepared stars for Christmas gift lists, and performed simple tasks for residents.

A group of younger United Methodist Women has formed a task force to attract millennial women with educational materials, spiritual growth opportunities, and hands-on mission projects designed to especially benefit women and children.

Social action included a public stand against HB2 in Charlotte, a letter to the bishop, and a petition requesting the Board of Ordained Ministry to include domestic violence awareness training in their expectations for clergy in the conference and to be incorporated into Safe Sanctuaries programs. A partnership was formed with United for a Fair Economy seeking a fair wage for employees. Legislative Day provided the opportunity for an overview of the four priorities – Maternal & Child Health, Criminalization of Communities of Color, Climate Justice, and Economic Inequality.

UMW Scholarships continue to benefit students at Bennett College, Brevard College, Greensboro College, High Point University, and Pfeiffer University. A total of \$25,158 in scholarships were awarded to eight students.

Across the conference, 22,218 members in 688 units met to fellowship, grow spiritually, read books from the UMW Reading Program, create UMCOR kits, and learn about mission projects through **response magazine** articles and photography.

Hands-on projects throughout the year resulted in UMCOR kits with a value of \$71,142 and more than \$3,000 in various supplies for other missions, as well as UMW Gift to Mission and Gift in Memory cards.

An active Legacy 150 committee is diligently promoting contributions to the Legacy Fund to insure United Methodist Women will continue to be a major factor in the lives of women, children, and youth for the next 150 years.

Redistricting has affected event attendance, but it has provided opportunities for new relationships with like-minded women. Conference and district events were held at mission institutions and Methodist-related properties such as Lake Junaluska Assembly, Mount Shepherd, and Crossnore School & Children’s Home. This provides the opportunity to support and become acquainted with these United Methodist Women and Methodist facilities.

Julia A Willis, President
jwillis1@aol.com
www.wnccumw.org

J. CONFERENCE COUNCIL ON YOUTH MINISTRIES (CCYM)

The 2017-2018 Conference Council on Youth Ministries comprises approximately 60 youth from around the conference. These youth are high school freshman, sophomores, juniors, and seniors who are leaders in their schools, churches, and communities. The goal of the council is to build leadership experience, grow in faith, and encourage the youth of the conference to follow Jesus. The council also seeks to fulfill the conference vision of “Follow Jesus, Make Disciples, Transform the World” in all of its activities.

The 2017-2018 theme of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries was diversity. The council saw fit that diversity was embraced around the conference, whether that diversity has religious, racial, ethnic, education, age, gender, or belief origins. Diversity allows a group of people to come together and serve others better because a wider group can be reached when many viewpoints are examined. Because of this need for diversity, the council found diversity to be an important focus for the year. To guide the council in celebrating diversity, the council used Romans 12: 4-5, “For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others,” to guide its activities. This passage guided the council through planning events and making decision throughout the year.

The Conference Council on Youth Ministries is divided into districts that reflect the conference districts, and each district is responsible for executing a mission project during the year. The goal of the mission projects is to make disciples and promote discipleship in the youth across the conference. This past year, the projects included collecting bibles for homeless individuals, creating homeless outreach kits, collecting necessary clothing items for the underprivileged, and promoting district-wide youth programs. These projects had a positive effect on the youth within the council, but will also serve those in need.

Throughout the year, the Conference Council on Youth Ministries helps to plan and execute two retreats per year: SpiritUs and IgniteUs. In August 2017, 1200 students attended SpiritUs, a weekend retreat at Fort Caswell in Oak Island, North Carolina. The students and staff in attendance grew closer to God through the theme “Hope Rising” and the service project of creating plastic mats for homeless individuals. With the help of speaker April Diaz, the students and staff learned about hope and the importance of keeping hope through hard times. IgniteUs occurred in April 2018 at Camp Tekoa in Hendersonville, North Carolina. The theme “Breathe” promoted relaxation and mindfulness for the middle school students who attended. The Rev. Dr. Stephanie Hand was the speaker for the weekend. She promoted “Breathe” by speaking about opening up to God, inhaling the Holy Spirit, and exhaling Jesus’ love and power to those around us. Students were encouraged to breathe and relax by Job 33:4, “The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life.” Both retreats encouraged students around the conference to follow Jesus, make disciples, and transform the world, allowing the Conference Council on Youth Ministries to accomplish its goals.

On behalf of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries, thank you for your continued support of youth ministry. The youth are the next generation of The United Methodist Church, so it is important that they receive the opportunities and training to seek leadership, grow in their faith, and transform the world through making disciples. Not only have many high school students been able to speak out for their faith, but also many high school students have been transformed by the leadership provided by being on the Conference Council on Youth Ministries. The Conference Council on Youth Ministries will continue to help the youth of the conference follow Jesus, make disciples, and transform the world through Jesus Christ.

Molly Vanhoy, President

K. BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

The Board of Ordained Ministry supports the mission of the Western North Carolina Conference by developing, implementing, overseeing, and evaluating programs that focus on recruiting, training, certifying, examining, recommending, and supporting clergy leadership for the conference and denomination. The board is a diverse group of more than 60 clergy and laypersons from across the conference. The Director of Ministerial Services and the Associate Director of Ministerial Services serve as staff to the board, along with a district superintendent who serves as the cabinet representative.

The members of the board volunteer many hours. In January, they began reading documents submitted by persons who had applied for ordination as full connection deacons or elders. Board members spent two and a half days together in February interviewing these candidates and recommending their approval or deferral. This same process was repeated for interviews in March for persons who had applied for commissioning as provisional deacons or elders. The focus of the interviews for full connection candidates was to discern effectiveness. The focus of the interviews for provisional candidates was to discern readiness.

In April, the members met to review Fruitful Leadership in Ministry projects that had been submitted to demonstrate leadership in making disciples of Jesus Christ. In June, the members met in advance of the executive session to review the report. Finally, in October, the board will meet for training, learning, and preparation for the next year’s work. While the members of the board have busy schedules, the board’s participation rate is high. These sisters and brothers take the work seriously.

Some aspects of the board’s work will be seen at the 2018 session as licenses are granted, provisional members are commissioned, and full connection members are ordained. The board is pleased to recommend 19 persons to be elected as full connection members and ordained as elders, and six persons to be elected as full connection members and ordained as deacons. The board recommends 18 persons to be elected as provisional members and commissioned as elders, and three persons to be elected as provisional members and commissioned as deacons.

A good relationship with the bishop and cabinet is important to the work of the board. The responsibilities of the board, and the bishop and cabinet, remain distinct, but cooperation and respect are evident. The executive committee of the board meets with the bishop and cabinet to maintain and enhance this relationship.

Recognizing that the work is kingdom work, the board is guided by prayer, a deep dependence on the Holy Spirit, a love for Christ’s church and a commitment to a vital United Methodist Church.

May God’s kingdom come and God’s will be done. AMEN.

Donald Jenkins, Chairperson
DJenkins@wncumc.net

1. LOCAL PASTORS COMPLETING COURSE OF STUDY DURING THE 2017-2018 CONFERENCE YEAR

The Board of Ordained Ministry wishes to recognize those local pastors who have completed the Course of Study since the last annual conference session:

- Susan Marie Cronk, Bollinger’s Chapel-Warlick’s Chapel, Catawba Valley District, COS – The Divinity School, Duke University
- Theodore Adams Henry, Pisgah (Linville Falls), Appalachian District, COS – The Divinity School, Duke University
- Raymundo Villanueva, St. Luke’s (Hickory), Catawba Valley District, COS – The Divinity School, Duke University
- Charles Alexander Young, Brown’s Chapel, Catawba Valley District, COS – The Divinity School, Duke University

2. SEXUAL AND PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT POLICY FOR MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP

The current policy is published online at www.wncumc.org/clergyethics.

L. BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS

Pension Program and Policies

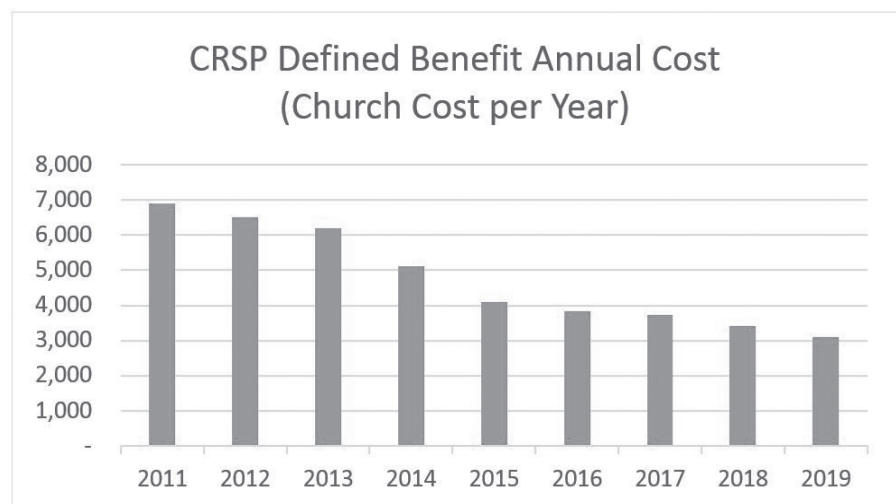
The Board of Pension and Health Benefits, Inc., Western North Carolina Conference, The United Methodist Church, acting as an auxiliary to **Wespath Benefits | Investments**, is charged with caring for the work of providing for and contributing to the support, relief, assistance, and pensioning of clergy and their families in the Western North Carolina Conference.

In 2019, the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits will send invoices monthly to the churches for clergy appointed in accordance with the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) adopted by The United Methodist Church. Through December 31, 2016, CRSP covers all US United Methodist Church clergy, including elders, local pastors, and deacons, appointed within the annual conference, subject to the time designations described below with the effective date of January 1, 2014.

Since the implementation of direct billing for pension and health benefits in 2007, the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits has been investing the net proceeds from these billings in various investment vehicles with the United Methodist Foundation. Over these last eight years, these investments have provided better-than-projected earnings for the Conference. As a result, the Board has approved the sharing of these resources with the local church by reducing the cost of pension benefits (**without reducing any pension benefits to the pastors**) by \$2,407 per full-time pastor in 2019, invoicing \$3,093 to the local church. The actual cost invoiced to the conference for the CRSP DB full time benefit will be \$5,500. This is the seventh year of reductions in the CRSP defined benefit pension billings to each local church for each full-time pastor as shown in the table below:

2011	\$ 6,903
2012	\$ 6,504
2013	\$ 6,200
2014	\$ 5,118
2015	\$ 4,092
2016	\$ 3,824
2017	\$ 3,713
2018	\$ 3,402
2019	\$ 3,093

The Board rejoices in the ability to share these resources with the local church so that more of their resources may be used for ministry within their communities.



The Board rejoices in the ability to share these resources with the local church so that more of their resources may be used for ministry within their communities.

As published in the report in 2013, new provisions of the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP), enacted at General Conference 2012, became effective **January 1, 2014**, as follows:

- **Eligibility:** Full-time clergy are eligible to participate and earn benefits. Annual Conferences may elect to cover clergy who are appointed as three-quarters or one-half time. Clergy who are appointed one-quarter time are no longer eligible to earn CRSP benefits. Any benefits already earned through **December 31, 2013**, remain in place.
- **Benefit Formulas:** The formula for determining the defined benefit (DB) component was reduced for the multiplier from 1.25 percent to one percent to be applied to Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) per year of service beginning **January 1, 2014**. Additionally, for the defined contribution (DC) component, the local Church will contribute two percent of the clergy's compensation, reduced from three percent in 2013. If the clergy person contributes up to one percent of his/her plan compensation, the local Church will also contribute an additional one percent amount as a dollar-for-dollar match of the UMPIP contributions, up to one percent.
- **Surviving Spouse Benefits:** Beginning **January 1, 2014**, the initial dollar amount of the benefit paid to a married participant will be reduced to offset the value of spousal benefits.
- **Disabled Adult Child Benefits:** Beginning **January 1, 2014**, participants may designate a disabled adult child as a secondary contingent annuitant. After the participant and his or her spouse die, the disabled adult child would continue to receive DB benefits for life. The initial participant benefit would be reduced to pay for this extra benefit.

The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits, in consensus with the Cabinet of the Western North Carolina Conference, recommends that the Annual Conference approve the continuation of eligibility of those clergy who are appointed to three-quarter or half-time designations.

Based on the above, invoices will be prepared using the following criteria:

- A. Pension Plan Compensation (PPC) is the total annual compensation reported by the charge conference for 2019; included in the PPC is the housing component. The housing is either 25 percent of the aforementioned annual compensation, if a parsonage is provided, or the cash paid in lieu of a parsonage.
- B. Clergy Retirement Security Program – In 2019, the Core Defined Contribution Part (CRSP-DC) is three percent of PPC. Continuing from 2014 (the effective date of this change) CRSP-DC will continue to be invoiced at three percent of PPC, with two percent being an employer contribution and one percent as a matching contribution to the pastor's United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP).
- C. Clergy Retirement Security Program – Core Defined Benefit Part (CRSP-DB) is an actuarially determined normal cost provided by Wespath. For 2019, the cost is \$3,093 for each full-time clergy. For those clergy appointed three-quarter and half-time (based on the eligibility approved by this session of the Annual Conference), the cost is that percentage times \$3,093. Wespath has provided that the conference's actuarially determined normal cost contribution due December 31, 2019 will be \$4,209,240. Effective January 1, 2014, as approved by General Conference 2012, clergy appointed to one-quarter time positions will **not** be eligible to earn benefits under the CRSP-DC plan and will not accrue benefits in the CRSP-DB plan after that date. (All previously earned benefits will remain in place.) The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits of Western North Carolina highly recommends that any local church which is served by a clergy person appointed to a one-quarter time position sponsor the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) and provide an employer contribution on behalf of the clergy person under appointment.
- D. Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) is the death and disability program administered through Wespath. In 2013 and prior years, premiums of three percent of PPC have been required to be paid for full time clergy. The premium is three percent of PPC to a maximum amount of 200 percent of Denominational Average Compensation (DAC). General Conference 2016 approved a change that would permit Annual Conference Boards of Pension to enroll clergy appointed to three-quarter time and full-time positions in the CPP. GC 2016 also changed the minimum compensation to 25 percent of DAC. For the year 2019, the CPP premium will be invoiced to the churches with full-time and three-quarter time clergy at the rate of 2.50 percent of PPC, and the remaining 0.50 percent will be funded from Conference Board reserves.

The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) provides that the Past Service Annuity Rate (PSR) for service years prior to 1982 will increase two percent per annum. The conference board is proposing that the 2019 PSR be set at \$790.00 (2019) per service year, which represents the aforementioned two percent increase and is greater than one percent of Conference Average Compensation as provided by Wespath for the Western North Carolina Annual Conference.

Paragraph 1506.6 of *The Book of Discipline, 2016*, requires each annual conference to develop, adopt and implement a formal comprehensive funding plan or plans for funding all of its benefit obligations. Such funding plan must be submitted to Wespath Benefits | Investments for review in order to obtain a favorable written opinion from Wespath. Under this requirement, the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits has developed, adopted, and implemented such formal comprehensive funding plan upon obtaining a favorable written opinion from Wespath. By approval of the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits and inclusion of a summary of the Comprehensive Funding Plan, with the favorable written opinion received, this Plan is deemed to be approved by the Annual Conference of Western North Carolina.



PROPOSALS RELATED TO PENSION PROGRAMS AND POLICIES**(Petition 2a)** *Approved June 23, 2018*

The conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits proposes:

1. That the basic cost of pastors' pensions be invoiced to churches in 2019 as pension responsibility to support the Clergy Retirement Security Program.
2. That supplemental funds for the cost of the Clergy Retirement Security Program – Core Defined Benefit Part (CRSP-DB) for clergy appointed on medical leave be included in the 2019 conference budget at Fund 507, named "Clergy Medical Leave Benefits." The 2019 budget request for the CRSP-DB pension component for clergy on medical leave is \$125,000.
3. That the Past Service Annuity Rate for service years prior to 1982 be set at \$790.00 per service year, effective January 1, 2019, and that the eligibility for the Clergy Retirement Security Program be determined to include clergy appointed for full-time, three-quarter time, and half-time positions. That the eligibility for the Comprehensive Protection Plan be determined to include clergy appointed for full-time and three-quarter time positions earning a minimum of 25 percent of the DAC in pension plan compensation (PPC).
4. That the following resolution be adopted for calendar year 2019:

Resolution Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired, Disabled, or Former Clergypersons of the Western North Carolina Conference

The Western North Carolina Conference (the "Conference") adopts the following resolution relating to rental/housing allowances for active, retired, terminated, or disabled clergypersons of the conference:

Whereas, The religious denomination known as The United Methodist Church (the "Church"), of which this Conference is a part, has in the past functioned and continues to function through ministers of the gospel (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 107) who were or are duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers of the Church ("Clergypersons"); and

Whereas, the practice of the Church and of this Conference was and is to provide active Clergypersons with a parsonage or a rental/housing allowance as part of their gross compensation; and

Whereas, pensions or other amounts paid to active, retired, terminated, and disabled Clergypersons are considered to be deferred compensation and are paid to active, retired, terminated, and disabled Clergypersons in consideration of previous active service; and

Whereas, The Internal Revenue Service has recognized the Conference (or its predecessors) as the appropriate organization to designate a rental/housing allowance for Clergypersons who are or were members of this Conference and are eligible to receive such deferred compensation; therefore, be it

Resolved:

THAT an amount equal to 100 percent of the pension or disability payments received from plans authorized under *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* (the "*Discipline*"), which includes all such payments from Wespath, the Western North Carolina Conference Superannuate Endowment Fund, and The Duke Endowment during the period January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 by each active, retired, terminated, or disabled Clergyperson who is or was a member of the Conference, or its predecessors, be and hereby is designated as a rental/housing allowance for each such Clergyperson; and

THAT the pension, severance, or disability payments to which this rental/housing allowance designation applies will be any pension, severance, or disability payments from plans, annuities, or funds authorized under the *Discipline*, including such payments from Wespath and from a commercial annuity company that provides an annuity arising from benefits accrued under a Wespath plan, annuity, or fund authorized under the *Discipline*, that result from any service a Clergyperson rendered to this Conference or that an active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled Clergyperson of this Conference rendered to any local church, annual conference of the Church, general agency of the Church, other institution of the Church, former denomination that is now a part of the Church, or any other employer that employed the Clergyperson to perform services related to the ministry of the Church, or its predecessors, and that elected to make contributions to, or accrue a benefit under, such a plan, annuity, or fund, for such an active, a retired, a terminated, or a disabled Clergyperson's pension, severance, or disability plan benefit as part of his or her gross compensation.

NOTE: The rental/housing allowance that may be excluded from a Clergyperson's gross income in any year for federal income tax purposes is limited under Internal Revenue Code section 107(2) and regulations there under to the least of: (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the Clergyperson's employer or other appropriate body of the Church (such as this Conference in the foregoing resolution) for such year; (2) the amount actually expended by the Clergyperson to rent or provide a home in such year, or (3) the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances (such as a garage), plus the cost of utilities in such year. Retired Clergy are encouraged to consult their tax advisor concerning this resolution.

Clergy Debt Reduction Peer Program – The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits is working in partnership with the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc. (the Foundation) on a Clergy Debt Reduction Peer Program. The program is sponsored and funded by the Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and administered by the Foundation. The Board is excited about the impact the program is having already for its participants, and about the possibilities the program will hold for improving general welfare and well-being of clergy. As of December 31, 2017, loans outstanding for clergy debt reduction and refinancing totaled \$2,090,184.

Balances Due from Churches

Beginning in 2007, direct clergy benefit costs were invoiced to each local church. According to conference action, recorded in the 2004 journal, page 234, “Non-payment of direct clergy benefit costs (pension and health benefits) result in a default recorded against the church” (see ¶ 639.4, *The Book of Discipline* 2016). While individual clergy will not lose benefits, the church will incur a liability to the conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits. The default will be reported by the conference benefits officer to the district superintendents, and the church will be led to correct this situation.

The following is the 2017 list of churches with balances, as of May 24, 2018, resulting from non-payment of direct clergy benefit costs:

District	Church	2017 Balance	District	Church	2017 Balance
Blue Ridge	Addie’s Chapel (Marion).....	10,501.99	Metro	Hunter’s Chapel (Cornelius).....	2,636.25
Catawba Valley	Clover Hill	2,473.35		Morrows Chapel (Mooresville)	1,772.74
	Hildebran: First	1,455.00		North (Kannapolis)	2,889.50
	Mundy’s Chapel	643.50		North Davidson	156.93
	Tucker’s Grove (Iron Station).....	15,087.00	N. Piedmont	Triad Native American (Greensboro) ..	2,307.50
			Yadkin Valley	Danbury Community	204.75
				Total	\$ 40,128.41

Health Benefits Committee

The Health Benefits Committee serves as a sub-committee of the Board of Pension and Health Benefits (BOPHB), with responsibility in two specific areas: health benefits and group term life insurance.

The committee is composed of at least 12 members appointed by the board to quadrennial terms, as follows: three from BOPHB, one serving as chair of the committee, one being an officer of BOPHB, and one being the Cabinet representative to BOPHB; one from the conference Board of Ordained Ministry; one from the conference Council on Finance and Administration; two retired clergy persons; and five professional persons involved in the insurance industry. Typically, there are six lay members and six clergy members. The various agencies represented nominate their representatives to BOPHB for appointment.

Group Life Insurance

Wespath, through the Comprehensive Protection Plan, provides a death and disability benefit for eligible clergy, along with death benefits for members of clergy families. In addition to this coverage, the conference offers basic life insurance coverage of \$10,000 for active clergy enrolled in the conference group health plan, with premiums for this coverage collected through the insurance apportionment. Clergy members may elect to increase their coverage by enrolling in additional coverage in the amounts of \$25,000, \$50,000, or \$75,000. As an added benefit, a clergy member may elect to enroll his/her spouse and dependent children. This additional coverage is available from a group policy secured by the committee for a quarterly premium to be collected by the insuring company. The continuation of this optional benefit is dependent on normal participation of those eligible. Newly eligible clergy will receive information about this coverage from the Treasury Services Office. To obtain coverage without evidence of insurability, enrollment must be made within 30 days of eligibility.

Enrollment Deadlines for Health and Life Insurance

Responsibility rests with the individual to make application in writing for the group health insurance and the group life insurance. In addition, any changes in dependents’ status must also be submitted in writing. The effective date of coverage for new applicants is July 1 following the session of annual conference. Applications must be made within 30 days of appointment at annual conference. Anyone seeking to apply following the 30-day grace period will have a 12-month waiting period for all pre-existing conditions.

Health Benefits Continuation Policy

The conference benefits plan provides for group members and eligible beneficiaries to continue coverage if they become ineligible for the plan. The policy is available from the plan administrator.

Premium Collection Policy

Payment of the medical/health insurance premiums for pastors is the responsibility of the local church(es). This premium payment is invoiced monthly. For churches with more than one pastor on the staff, the church is responsible for the payment of the insurance premium for each eligible pastor. It is the responsibility of the pastor to pay the premium costs for dependents.

The Health Benefits Committee requires the conference treasurer to notify dependent accounts which are delinquent by sixty (60) days or more that their coverage is immediately subject to termination. If full payment is not made by thirty (30) days after the delinquency, coverage will be terminated.

2017 Financial Summary of Health Benefits Plans through December 31, 2017

	Fund 575 Active	Fund 125 Retirees
<i>Sources of Funds</i>		
Premiums -		
Active - Church Contributions	7,754,194	0
Active - Dependent Coverage	1,691,612	0
Active - Pastor Portion	607,665	0
Conf - Personnel	607,665	0
Retiree Contributions	0	804,545
Cole Foundation	0	222,494
Flexible Spending Account	501,786	0
Other -		
Stop-Loss Claims	249,425	0
Employee Life Contributions	5,464	0
Medical Leave Contributions	367,363	0
Drug Rebates/Misc.	108,303	0
Clodfelter Trust	0	0
Retiree Stabilization Fund	0	0
Total Sources	11,779,087	1,027,039
<i>Uses of Funds</i>		
Benefit Payments	11,204,044	1,066,341
Dental Claims	400,770	0
Wellness Program	80,435	0
Administrative Charges	307,132	208,860
Stop-Loss Fees	374,883	0
Life Insurance Premium	41,269	0
Operating Expenses	73,401	54,844
ACA Fees	3,524	0
Bad Debt Expense	62,269	0
Staff Ins Pension	0	7,834
Claims - Medical Leave	294,280	0
Miscellaneous	985	985
Total Uses	13,169,829	1,338,864
Sources less Uses	-1,390,742	-311,825
Fund Balance, January 1	2,103,940	428,187
Transfer in from CBOPHB	1,000,000	0
Fund Balance, December 31	1,713,198	116,362

Retiree Stabilization Fund

Beginning Balance, January 1	\$ 7,890,745
Investment Income	\$ 1,271,733
Grant Payment	\$ 0
Current Balance, December 31	\$ 9,162,478

Conclusion

The Board appreciates the fine spirit in which subscribers and local churches are supporting the work of the Health Benefits Committee. It seeks your continuing support as it makes every effort to provide a health benefits program that meets your particular needs. Members of the committee are: Frank A. Stith III (chairperson), Sandra McNiel, Lori Wilson, Al Jones, Marvin Melton, Rey Rodriguez, J. Zachery Christy, Phillip B. Cole, W. Greg Light, Winifred Helton, and Ken Poe. Mark Andrews, Cabinet Representative, R. Mark King, Conference Treasurer, Dale C. Bryant, Benefits Administrator, and M. Lynne Gilbert, CBOPHB Treasurer.

PROPOSAL: HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM AND POLICIES**(Petition 2b)** *Approved June 23, 2018*

The Health Benefits Committee proposes:

1. That the Board of Pension and Health Benefits be authorized to secure a hospital/medical insurance contract for 2019 that will be advantageous in terms of coverage, premium rates, and administrative costs.
2. That the hospital/medical insurance program be continued for all eligible persons working 30 hours or more per standard work week.
3. That each local charge and eligible pastor be expected to participate in the conference program of hospital/medical insurance by contributing an amount equal to the pastor's coverage premium for each eligible pastor appointed to that charge and that these premium payments be remitted to the conference Treasury Services Office rather than to the pastor or other insurance carrier. The participant participation schedule should be used to calculate the eligible pastor's portion.
4. That premium cost information is made available to local churches and pastors immediately after the 2019 plan has been determined and rates established.
5. That a pastor may exclude himself/herself from coverage by signing a written waiver, releasing the conference and any local church from legal or moral responsibility for medical or accident claims.
6. That, in the discussion of salaries and benefits for 2019 and all succeeding years, local church committees on staff-parish relations consider designating a portion of compensation for dependents' health care coverage.
7. That medical/hospital coverage be provided for persons terminated from the plan for not more than a 12-month period, with the premium costs to be paid by the person terminated.
8. That continued endorsement be given to the optional life insurance program provided by a top-quality life insurance company as supplemental coverage for active clergy.
9. That the following Retired Clergy Medical Plan, which became effective on January 1, 2003, and was amended at the special session of the conference on February 2, 2008, be continued:
 - a. *Benefit Design:* The basic benefit design for all participants has benefits similar to Medi-gap Plan E, as approved by the Medicare Administration (complete benefit description available from the conference Treasury Services Office). This plan does not include prescription drugs.
 - b. *Funding Design:*
 - (1) Creation of the Retiree Security Supplement Fund, which was created December 31, 2008. This Restricted Fund shall be vested with a minimum of \$5,000,000. Subsequently, additional contributions to this Fund (corpus or principal) shall be made of all free reserve available at year-end. Free reserve is defined as the fund balance in excess of the Claims Reserve required by the Plan. The Claims Reserve is 25 percent of the prior year's claims paid.
 - (2) The purpose of the Retiree Security Supplement Fund is to secure retiree medical benefit by contributing four percent of the fund balance (which consists of corpus or principal and earnings from dividends, interest and appreciation) each year to the Retired Clergy Medical Plan. The Fund's contribution will reduce the Net Estimated Claims Cost of the Retired Clergy Medical Plan to the Base Estimated Claims Cost.
 - (3) Net Estimated Claims Cost is defined as Total Estimated Claims Costs (including administration, stop-loss insurance and other operating expenses), less all contributions from other charitable trusts, foundations or individuals, such as The Cole Foundation.
 - c. *Premium Design:*
 - (1) Participants enrolled **prior to January 1, 2003** will contribute the Base Estimated Claims Cost.
 - (2) Participants enrolled in the retiree plan **on or after January 1, 2003**, will contribute based on "years enrolled in the Active Health Benefits Plan." The contribution will be based on a percentage of the plan year's Net Estimated Claims Cost, as follows:
 - (a.) 1-10 Years: 100 percent of the Net Estimated Claims Cost.
 - (b.) Beginning in the 11th year, the contribution will decline approximately one percent per year to an amount equal to the Base Estimated Claims Cost.

All of the years prior to 2003 that a clergyperson has been appointed to a local church or conference position will be considered "years enrolled in the Active Health Benefits Plan."
 - d. Participants must be enrolled in Medicare Parts A & B to be eligible for the Retired Clergy Medical Plan.
10. That each participant electing dependent coverage be required to remit premium payments in the method established by the Health Benefits Committee and that dependent coverage remain in effect only when premium payments are current.

11. That each participating participant be required to remit premium payments in the method established by the Health Benefits Committee and approved by the 2009 Annual Conference and coverage remain in effect only when premium payments are current. The current participating participant method is a progressive scale percent of premium based on salary.
12. That sufficient funds for hospital/medical coverage be included in the appropriate 2019 apportioned funds to pay premiums for district superintendents and administrative, program, and support staff members of the conference headquarters.
13. That supplemental funds for insurance for clergy on medical leave be included in the 2019 conference budget at Fund 507, "Clergy Medical Leave Benefits." The 2019 budget request for the health benefit component for clergy on medical leave is \$325,000.

Words of Appreciation

The Board expresses its gratitude and that of the conference to Dale C. Bryant, benefits administrator since October 1998.

Questions dealing with pension, health insurance, or group life insurance should be directed to Mr. Bryant at 704-535-2260 or 800-562-7929; email dbryant@wnccumc.org.

Michael Watson, President

M. CONFERENCE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, INC.

The Board of Trustees, Western North Carolina Conference, United Methodist Church, Inc., is a chartered nonprofit corporation under North Carolina law, in accordance with *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, and is subject to the instructions of the annual conference and its officers.

- Four funds under trustee management are invested through The United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc.
- The yearly distribution of earnings from these funds is based on the following scale: The General Fund, 35.8 percent; the Higgins Fund, 31.3 percent; the Centenary-Rutherford Fund, 12.9 percent; and the Jesse Spencer Bell Fund, 20.2 percent. Earnings during 2017 were distributed to the following designated beneficiaries:

Western North Carolina Conference Board of Pensions.....	\$	3,788.72
Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women.....	\$	2,137.77
Brevard College.....	\$	4,656.53
Total Distribution.....	\$	10,583.02

Conference Memorial Center

The trustees continue to monitor the operational expenses of the Conference Memorial Center in Charlotte, keeping in close touch with the conference treasurer and director of administrative services, Dr. Mark King, who manages the building on behalf of the board of trustees. Monthly inspections are made by the property management company, A. Anthony to ensure the efficient operation of the center.

Plans are underway for vacating the current center upon completion of the new conference center in the summer of 2018. Aldersgate is being kept informed of the projected move date.

New Conference Memorial Center

Construction

After a significant delay in getting the site permit due to an overlap of a much wider discussion regarding storm water management of the entire park complex, construction began in late November and the last piece of steel was placed in early March. Wesley Community Development, the project manager, is scheduling and targeting a summer delivery.

Sustainability

At the last year’s annual conference, it was apparent that making a sustainability statement with the building was important. To that end, the team decided to explore LEED certification for the building. The board is now confident of achieving a silver level, with the chance of achieving gold. In addition, solar panels on the roof of the building will generate power that will feed the WNCC offices, resulting in a direct impact to operating costs. Lastly, the possibility of installing electric car charging stations in front of the building is being explored with Energy United.

Leasing

Interest in leasing has picked up since construction began. Wesley Community Development has begun conversations with the conference about leasing space. The Wesley space would include space subleased from Wesley by the NC Council of Churches. The trustees continue to be committed to passing neither the costs of the new building nor the debt service, to the conference through apportionments. Potential rental income from spaces on the first floor would more than offset the debt service requirement.

Non-Profit Status

A question was raised at last year’s annual conference regarding whether leasing parts of the building would jeopardize the conference’s non-profit status. Upon investigation with the auditors, it was determined that there is a threshold of less than 20 percent of total income to maintain non-profit status. Full leasing would generate approximately \$325,000 which is 3.2 percent of the total conference budget (not including General Church apportionments), and well below the 20 percent maximum.

The Episcopal Residence Committee cares for the conference-owned episcopal residence, constituted according to the provisions of the *Discipline*. The trustees send a representative to this committee. Bishop and Mrs. Paul Leeland live in the episcopal residence located at 3416 Maryhurst Lane, Charlotte NC 28226.

Among other duties, the trustees look after discontinued and abandoned churches. Keenly aware of the need for continued dialogue and healing as a local church discerns its future, the cabinet, The Duke Endowment, and The United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina have partnered to facilitate these transitions. The Church Legacy Initiative, with a staff of four persons, is continuing to assist local churches with discerning possible paths forward. This project has completed its second year of a five-year grant from The Duke Endowment. The trustees continue to see the benefits of the transition teams, and gratefully thank the cabinet, The Duke Endowment, and The United Methodist Foundation for their endeavors in this area.

Discontinued Churches

Please note that ¶2548.4 of *The Book of Discipline* specifies that all deeds, records, and official and legal papers of a discontinued church shall be deposited for permanent safekeeping with the Commission of Archives and History of the Annual Conference. The central repository is currently housed at the Memorial Center in Charlotte. The following churches have been discontinued: Calvary UMC in Asheboro, Macedonia UMC in Harmony, Staley UMC in Staley, Tabernacle UMC in Albemarle, Vida Nueva UMC in Stoneville.

The trustees utilize the services of A. Anthony Corp., a global facilities management company, to assist with property inspection, management, and preservation, including repairs, maintenance, emergency services, and special projects. A. Anthony also provides a web-based interface to assist with property administration and management. In conjunction with A. Anthony, the religious and educational real estate group of Foundry Commercial provides real estate broker services such as appraisals, sales, marketing, on-site tours, and broker's price opinions. Foundry is also brokering the sale of Camp Elk Shoals in West Jefferson, Camp McCall in Bostic, and the parsonages associated with discontinued churches.

Vehicle Leasing

As extensive travel is expected from many of the conference staff, the trustees lease 11 vehicles (ten Honda CRVs and one Accord) from Vann York Auto Mall in High Point NC, for 39 months, which began in December 2015. These vehicles are used by the district superintendents, bishop, bishop's assistant, and director of church development. A decision will be made in 2018 as to whether leasing vehicles continues to be a cost-effective way to provide for the travel of the conference staff as the current lease expires in December 2018.

Insurance Matters

Liability coverage for sexual misconduct has been eliminated, altered, or only provided under separate policies by many insurance companies. The trustees continue to admonish all churches to confirm that required Safe Sanctuaries policies and procedures are in place, and to reevaluate all insurance programs with their insurance agents.

The *Book of Discipline* requires local church trustees to annually review and report on the adequacy of local church property and liability insurance coverage "to ensure that the church, its properties, and its personnel are properly protected against risks." In an effort to assist local church trustees with this requirement, GCFA guidelines for minimum insurance policies and coverage limits are available on the conference administrative website (www.wnccadmin.org) under "Publications" and are recommended for comparison with existing local church policies.

The board of trustees worked with the conference insurance provider, Church Mutual Insurance Company, a nationally recognized and specialized provider of property and casualty insurance to churches and religious organizations, to provide a new cost-effective program for Worker's Compensation for WNCC churches. WNCC congregations now have the option to participate in the Church Mutual program at a reduced rate as well as save on the Expense Constant Fee.

Bob Wilhoit, President



N. CHURCH LEGACY INITIATIVE

The Church Legacy Initiative (CLI) is a ministry of the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, in collaboration with The United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina and supported by a grant from The Duke Endowment. The purpose of CLI is to assist churches in making faithful decisions about their future, and to provide a legacy which will help to make disciples in this and future generations. CLI team members and the districts they serve are:

- Rev. Charlotte Brendel – Appalachian, Blue Ridge, and Smoky Mountain districts
- Rev. Renee Easter – Northern Piedmont, Yadkin Valley, and upper Uwharrie districts
- Rev. Angela Hollar – Catawba Valley, Metro, and lower Uwharrie districts

The Western North Carolina Conference has a large number of churches which have declined significantly in vitality and worship attendance during the previous ten years. These churches know they need help, but often they have very limited resources and opportunities. So what, if anything, can the WNCC do to assist these churches? Is there some specific support and ministry which can be offered to them? The Church Legacy Initiative is part of the WNCC's response to those questions and those needs. The ministry of the Church Legacy Initiative is to come alongside struggling churches and engage in a systematic process of assessment and discernment to help the members of these churches discern a faithful path forward.

CLI works in collaboration with the district superintendents and the church vitality strategists from each district to determine the churches with whom CLI will work, to review progress, and to determine next steps. CLI's ministry has two primary foci:

- One focus is the Vitality Assessment. During a vitality assessment CLI will meet with a church who has experienced significant decline and will lead them through an assessment process with the hope that the church will begin to engage in intentional and strategic revitalization efforts. Renewal and revitalization are always the primary goals for churches participating in the vitality assessment process.
- A second focus of CLI's ministry is the Legacy Conversation. During a legacy conversation CLI will meet with a church that is struggling with significant challenges and will lead them through a caring and systematic process of discernment. Through this discernment process a church may determine that they realistically have resources and possibilities for revitalization and they will make a commitment to that faithful path. Other churches may discern that they do not have sufficient resources or realistic possibilities for revitalization and for them the faithful choice is to become a legacy church. If a church chooses this path, CLI will walk alongside the pastor and congregation offering support and guidance – with the goal of making their journey as graceful and as grace-filled as possible.

During the 2017-18 Conference year, CLI worked with a total of 52 churches. CLI led vitality assessments in 25 churches and legacy conversations in 27 churches. Seven churches made the faithful choice to become legacy churches and other churches have begun intentional outreach and renewal efforts.

CLI plays an important role in the vitality efforts of the Western North Carolina Conference as churches purposefully discern the faithful path God is calling them to follow, either for intentional revitalization of their own church or to provide a legacy which will assist with the renewal of other churches and the creation of new faith communities. Through loving faithfulness in this new ministry, the Church Legacy Initiative will provide the WNCC with greater opportunities to fulfill the mission of following Jesus and making disciples who will transform communities and the world.

Lyn Sorrells, Team Leader

O. COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

The Commission on Archives and History continues its work of collecting, recording and preserving the story of significant milestones in The Western North Carolina Conference. The Rev. Fred Day, General Secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History, remarks that the commission is a "Ministry of Memory so we may continue to learn from our past and anticipate our future."

This has been a very busy year for the commission. In accordance with a petition approved at the 2017 Annual Conference of the Western North Carolina Conference, the Commission on Archives and History has worked diligently with the Conference Justice and Reconciliation Team to celebrate, during the 2018 Annual Conference, the 50th anniversaries of historic milestones of 1968. These anniversaries include the merger of The Methodist Church and The Evangelical United Brethren to form The United Methodist Church; and the merger of the segregated North Carolina-Virginia Conference into the Western North Carolina Conference. The focus has centered on commemorating these mergers as a recommitment to the goals of unity in the church as the body of Christ. These joint efforts have resulted in videotaped interviews of persons who were active in the church at the time, production of a brief compilation video to be shown during annual conference, a historical summary report to be inserted in the official program and report booklet, and a poster for display throughout the annual conference. In conjunction with the Conference Worship Committee, a "reconciliation service" has been planned. This is the authentic practice of the "Ministry of Memory" in action.

The commission also continues to oversee the work of the conference archives, located in the Conference Memorial Center. Staffed by two diligent part-time archivists, the archives house documents and information that are available to those wishing to conduct research. Research requests remained steady during 2017, as patrons continue to be aware of the archives and to contact the archivists regularly with a variety of requests regarding the resources. Currently the archives are open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays only, and by appointment. Those who wish to do research are encouraged to make contact in advance to ensure that one of the archivists will be there to help them. The commission encourages growth in the use of the archives and actively works to make the archives more visible and accessible. In this effort, the commission approved a digitization project to make electronic copies of as many archival materials as possible and to make them available online. Assistant Archivist, the Rev. Jim Pyatt met with Dr. Beth Sheppard, Director of the Duke Divinity School Library, to develop a proposal that the commission fund payment of Duke Divinity School students to do the scanning work required for the project. The commission voted to set up an open-ended arrangement with the Duke Divinity School Library to scan the materials. The Rev. Pyatt was tasked to work with the staff of Duke Divinity School Library in planning what steps to take to further this project.

A current major concern of the commission is the issue of the future location of the archives, considering the imminent relocation of conference offices from the current site on Shamrock Road in Charlotte. Plans are to relocate the archives to Pfeiffer University during the summer of 2018. A request-for-proposals (RFP) has been issued to identify professional library moving companies who might handle relocation. With input and oversight from the Commission, the conference archivists will work with the conference trustees to arrive at the best solution.

Since 1980, the commission has offered to provide a clergy grave marker upon the passing of any clergy member of the conference. Since July 1, 2017 markers have been presented to seventeen affected families. The commission anticipates continuing this service on behalf of the conference.

In 2016 the annual conference approved a recommendation that each district offer training opportunities for local church historians. In the course of this past year, members of the commission have facilitated seven such training events: three in Northern Piedmont, two in Metro, and one each in Catawba Valley and Yadkin Valley. A training workshop is planned for the Uwharrie District in the fall of 2018. Other districts are encouraged to host similar sessions before the end of this quadrennium. Assistance is also needed in identifying significant sites in the conference to be considered for nomination as historic sites of The United Methodist Church. Commission member Russell W. Ford Jr. is spearheading this initiative, and interested persons may contact him through Hawthorne Lane UMC in Charlotte.

The Commission on Archives and History continues its tradition of recognizing those churches within the conference who are celebrating significant anniversaries this year. A special display highlighting the life and ministry of these congregations can be seen at the commission's display, and in a video presentation to be shown between sessions of the annual conference. Those who have been identified as celebrating significant anniversaries this year (at the time of this writing) include Bethel (Liberty, Randolph County), who celebrates their bicentennial; and Davis Chapel (Buncombe County), Maggie Valley (Haywood County), Matton's Grove (Stanly County), May's Chapel (Catawba County), and Saint Stephen (Lexington), which celebrate their sesquicentennial this year; and Warrensville (Ashe County), which celebrates its centennial this year. A more complete list will appear in the 2018 Conference Journal.

The Southeastern Jurisdiction (SEJ) Commission on Archives and History met at Lake Junaluska, November 16-17, 2017, with the Rev. Pyatt serving as its chairperson, and Sandra Williamson, an at-large member, absent due to illness. Also at Lake Junaluska, the SEJ Commission hosted a workshop (Nov 17-18, 2017) on how to conduct an oral history program. Commission Vice-chairperson Rev. Charles Curtis attended this workshop. The SEJ Historical Society will meet in Williamsburg, Virginia, at Williamsburg United Methodist Church, July 17-20, 2018. Registration information and a full calendar are available through the Heritage Center or by contacting Nancy Watkins, Director of the Heritage Center, at nwatkins@lakejunaluska.com or by calling 828-454-6781. Another meeting scheduled for this summer is a convocation of the Historical Society of The United Methodist Church, the North Central Jurisdiction Commission on Archives and History, the Wesleyan Historical Society and the Charles Wesley Society. That program is titled "Merging Streams: Celebrating The United Methodist Church's 50th Anniversary." Rev. Pyatt will present a paper on the Central Jurisdiction at this meeting at United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio, July 9-12, 2018.

The General Commission on Archives and History (GCAH) met at Drew University in New Jersey September 15-18, 2017, and both Pyatt and Williamson attended. The next meeting of the GCAH is scheduled for July 12-15, 2018, at United Theological Seminary, with Rev. Pyatt attending as a member of the general commission.

God is at work in and through the people called United Methodists in western North Carolina. This commission pledges to continue to collect the documents, preserve the materials, equip local historians, and tell the story.

Sandra Williamson, Chairperson
Charles Curtis, Vice Chairperson
Nancy Andersen, Archivist
James Pyatt, Associate Archivist

Becoming The U. M. C.

Yes, actually, The UMC is only 50 years old!

We think of the Methodist church as being around a few centuries. This is true! Yet also untrue, since the “United” part of our church is having its 50th birthday this year.

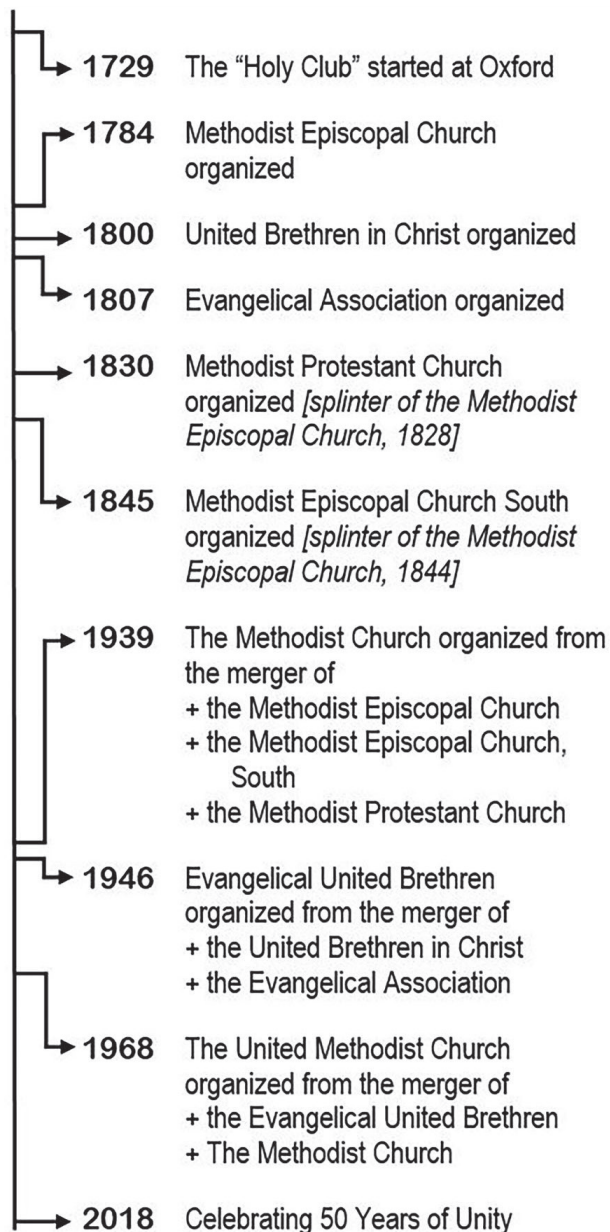
On April 23, 1968, The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren merged to create a new Christian denomination, The United Methodist Church. The union was facilitated by theological traditions steeped in the Protestant Reformation and Wesleyanism, similar ecclesiastical structures, and relationships that dated back almost two hundred years.

- In the Evangelical United Brethren heritage, for example, Philip William Otterbein, the principal founder of the United Brethren in Christ, assisted in the ordination of Francis Asbury to the superintendency of American Methodist work.
- Jacob Albright, through whose religious experience and leadership the Evangelical Association was begun, was nurtured in a Methodist class meeting following his conversion.



“Know from whence you came. If you know whence you came, there are absolutely no limitations to where you can go.”

~ James Arthur Baldwin



Otterbein, Asbury, and Albright – what about the Wesleys?

The Methodist movement dates back to John and Charles Wesley and the “Holy Club” at Oxford in the late 1720s. The name itself stems from the cell group being teased for their methods. Many members of this club helped lead the Evangelical Revival (also known as the Great Awakening) of the mid-1700s.

So how did Methodism come to the U.S.?

The formal organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church (MEC) in America took place in 1784 at the Christmas Conference at Lovely Lane Chapel in Baltimore, MD, with Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury serving as joint superintendents of the new denomination.

Why did we have so many Methodist denominations?

That single entity, the Methodist Episcopal Church of 1784, unfortunately divided a few decades later when disagreements arose regarding lay representation at General and Annual Conferences, and the power and authority of bishops and presiding elders at General Conference in 1828. Some churches and clergy withdrew, with the Methodist Protestant Church (MPC) being formally organized in 1830.

Then, the 1844 General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church was divided over slavery. Many more clergy and churches withdrew and organized the Methodist Episcopal Church, South (MECS) in 1845.

Who are the Evangelical United Brethren?

The United Brethren in Christ were organized September 25, 1800, with Philip William Otterbein and Martin Boehm elected their first Bishops. Jacob Albright and his Methodist-style preaching among German settlers led to the first conference of the Evangelical Association, held November 13-15, 1807.

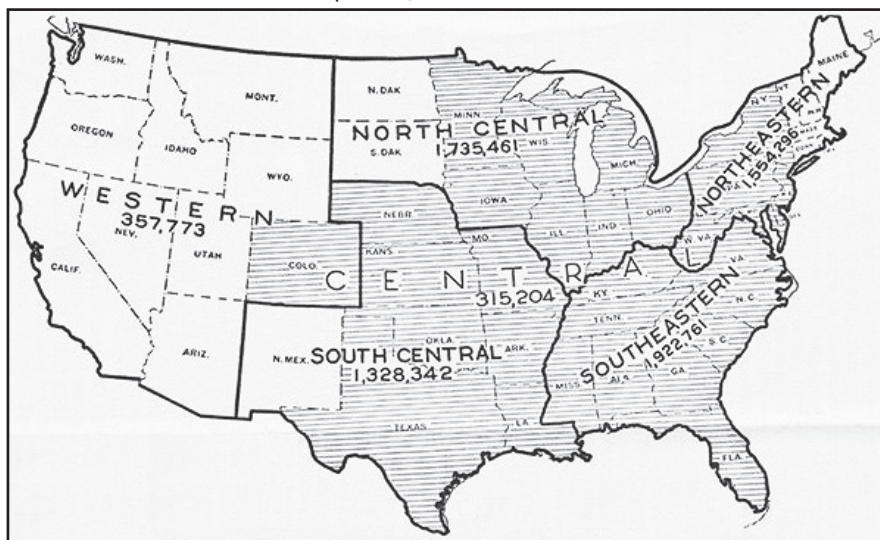
These two groups of “German Methodists” coexisted until merging to form the Evangelical United Brethren (EUB) on November 16, 1946.

That time we started figuring out “unity”... but missed.

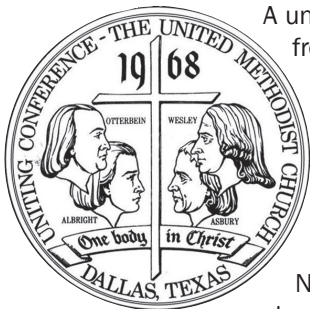
The Evangelical United Brethren was in conversation of merging when the three [not German] Methodist denominations (the MEC, MECS, and the MPC) merged back together to form The Methodist Church on April 26, 1939.

One of the results of the 1939 merger forming The Methodist Church was the division of the denomination in the United States into six different jurisdictions, five of which were regional, and one being racial. (Notice the inset image poignantly demonstrating the division of a large geographical area.)

While the formation of the Central Jurisdiction was segregation on a large scale, it did, however, allow for African-American Bishops and for African-American representation on the general boards and agencies of the denomination, which may not have occurred otherwise.



The time we got unity right.



A uniting conference took place in Dallas, Texas on April 23, 1968, forming The United Methodist Church from the unification of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren. When discussion began toward the formation of The United Methodist Church, a non-negotiable for the EUB (and for many Methodists) was the elimination of the Central Jurisdiction and the institutional segregation of the church.

On June 5, 1968, the Western North Carolina Conference of the Southeastern Jurisdiction formally joined with the Western and Central Districts of the North Carolina-Virginia Conference of the Central Jurisdiction. This worship service at the opening of the 1968 annual conference formed the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church as we know it today, led by the joint efforts of clergy and lay members of the two conferences.

Bishop Earl G. Hunt Jr., of the Charlotte Area (Southeastern Jurisdiction), and Bishop Edgar A. Love, of the Baltimore Area (Central Jurisdiction), read jointly the statement of union: *“For the glory of God and for the extension of Christ’s Kingdom in our time, we announce officially the merger of the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church with that portion of the North Carolina-Virginia Conference lying within its borders. May our Heavenly Father abundantly bless this union. Amen.”*

Today, we are able to call ourselves United Methodists because of the foundation laid nearly three hundred years ago and the diligent and prayerful work of those people who, in the midst of the civil rights movement, believed the church itself should be one.



1 Corinthians 1:10 (CEB) Now I encourage you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: Agree with each other and don’t be divided into rival groups. Instead, be restored with the same mind and the same purpose.

Interested in learning more and hearing memories of the merger within Western NC?

More, in-depth information is available at www.umc.org/umc50 and www.gcah.org as well as resources located in our own conference archives. Interviews from our own clergy and lay members are available on <https://www.youtube.com/user/umcwncc>.



Commission on Archives and History

Western North Carolina Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Justice and Reconciliation Team

Western North Carolina Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

P. CHRISTIANS ENGAGED IN FAITH FORMATION

Christians Engaged in Faith Formation (CEF) is an association of leaders connected to one another and to God, energized for the work of faith formation, and guided by Acts 2:42, and exists to promote and strengthen faith formation and Christian education in local churches, districts, and the Western North Carolina Conference.

The WNCC CEF has gone through some transformation and is re-envisioning its purpose to serve both tenured and new leaders within the church. CEF is investigating and encouraging new ways for continuing education opportunities. Webinars, seminars, day apart, and retreats will be provided throughout the year and into next year.

The WNCC CEF will have a presence at the National CEF Conference in Des Moines, Iowa, October 9-12, 2018. "Curious Church: Don't you want to know" will focus on connections, learning, worship, and discovering new ways to engage church members and others. More information can be found at www.cefumc.org.

In addition, CEF continues to partner with the Conference Discipleship Ministries Office to update and strengthen Safe Sanctuary policies and offer educational and training opportunities for local churches within the conference.

WNCC CEF is for lay and clergy, full-time and part-time, professionals and volunteers, and anyone who participates in any form of Christian Education, Youth Ministry, Children's Ministry, Adult Education, and areas of faith formation. CEF members enjoy the additional benefits of connections within CEF and the church, receiving discounted registration to CEF events, Facebook connections, frequent e-news updates, and scholarship opportunities for seminars and conferences. CEF also provides a support system of and for those who have unique experiences in Christian Education ministries. Learn more about the CEF community and what it can offer for Christian Education and disciple formation at www.wnccumc.org/CEF.

Dana Hanlon, President

Q. COMMISSION ON COMMUNICATIONS

The primary work of the commission is to support and communicate the annual conference's mission of "Follow Jesus, Make Disciples, Transform the World." The commission strives to do this by "Building relationships through communication, the commission will help create space for people to interact and have conversation in safe spaces. It will share the stories of how God is at work among us as United Methodists in Western North Carolina, that in turn shares the Good News of Jesus Christ."

Traditionally, the Commission on Communications provides leadership for the Western North Carolina Conference in communications, public relations, social media, and promotional awareness of the funds and programs of the conference. The commission assists with managing the image of the conference, as well as working to provide resources for the districts and local churches. Whether in the form of training, sharing news, or crisis management, the commission exists to equip and encourage the ministry efforts of local churches, districts, and the annual conference to achieve identified goals.

In the past year, various members of the commission have assisted the director of communications and the conference staff by collaborating on a new website design that is now active at www.wnccumc.org. This website pulls together what was four separate web offerings into one site. This has increased overall traffic and ease of use for constituents. The commission contracted with Brick River web design to accomplish this. Brick River specializes in building websites for United Methodist annual conferences. The commission also has the framework for the eight districts to have a coordinated web presence and is working toward getting them all on board.

The Brick River platform also is providing the conference with more options for bulk emails, form creation and implementation, collation of funds online, and the ability to allow more creators and editors of content to work in collaboration.

The commission has started a new project to take updated photos for the conference database of all clergy. The photos will be taken in each district between April and September with make-up photos to be taken at the 2019 Annual Conference.

The commission will be assisting with the communications efforts at annual conference as it has in past years with photography, story writing, and with the web portal for that event: AC2018.org.

The commission would like to thank Michael Rich for his work on behalf of the commission in the creation of the new website.

The officers for the quadrennium 2016-2020 are: Burt Williams, Chairperson, Walter Vaughan, Vice-chairperson, and Juston Smith, Secretary.

J. Burton Williams, Chairperson

R. CONFERENCE STAFF RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Conference Staff Relations Committee is part of the support system for the conference office staff and the staff of the district offices. The committee assists the staffs by providing needed resources which enable them to fulfill the mission of developing and supporting vital congregations.

The committee met at the conference center on November 28. The holiday schedule for 2018 was approved, as well as a revision of the personal leave time policy. A new policy to recognize employees for their longevity was presented by Kathy Odell, director of human resources. The policy was approved, with revisions suggested by the committee.

The committee had a lengthy discussion regarding a formula for setting the salaries of the district superintendents. The idea discussed was the use of a percentage multiple of the Conference Average Compensation as the primary factor in the establishment of the

superintendents' salaries. The committee asked Glenn Kinken, chairperson of the Conference Council on Finance & Administration, to bring a recommendation to the March 2018 meeting.

New staff members Carol Bateman and Carolyn Hindel were introduced to the group. The committee expressed appreciation to Yvonne Gritt, controller, for her loyalty and service to the conference.

Dr. Mark King, treasurer, provided information to the group relative to the status of the construction of the new Conference Center in Huntersville.

A meeting of the committee was held at the Conference Center in Charlotte on March 5. Oral reports were given to the committee by Kim Ingram, ministerial services and conference secretary, Caroline Wood, connectional ministries, and Dan Pezet, church development.

The Rev. Dr. King and the Rev. Kinken presented information regarding a salary formula for the district superintendents and the assistant to the bishop. The committee approved a formula recommendation to submit to the Conference Council on Finance & Administration for the 2019 conference budget.

Robert D. Upchurch, Chairperson

S. COMMITTEE ON THE EPISCOPACY

The Committee on Episcopacy continues to fulfill its purpose to serve, support, and uphold our bishop in his work for the Western North Carolina Conference. It has been a busy and productive year for Bishop Paul L. Leeland and all of those serving the Conference.

Under the guidance of the Conference Trustees and CF&A, the new Western North Carolina Conference Center, in Huntersville, N.C., is being constructed and is on schedule to open in July/August 2018.

Bishop Leeland continues to spend the majority of his time immersed in the conference and to be guided in this work by his four key principles; transparency, consistency, trust, and encouragement. A good part of his work this year has been spent with the district superintendents and conference vitality specialist to contextualize the plan for each district as we fulfill our mission. The goal has been to identify good churches that want to move toward being great churches. Work is still being done around strategic changes dealing with going from 15 to 8 districts. Superintendents continue to move this process in a healthy direction. The committee wants to applaud all of the agencies, committees, connectional table, missional network, cabinet/extended cabinet, and individual districts as they work together in the spirit of transparency, encouragement, and trust to influence and bring new insight to the ministries of the conference.

One core focus continues to be the "Bishop's Emerging Leader Initiative." The conference is working with Queens University on a leadership program which identifies 14 characteristics tied to making fruitful congregations. Approximately 10 people have been selected from each district to develop leadership plans around these 14 perspectives. The hope is to broaden the pool to develop clergy to serve larger churches, start new churches and Fresh Expression churches, missions, sustain healthy churches, and turn around churches in need. There is also conversation around forming partnerships with other conferences and Queens University on this leadership initiative.

The work which began last year on technical and communications needs is well underway to connect and link the entire conference in a more productive and cooperative way.

The Legacy program is continuing in a positive direction. The "Nehemiah Project" is bringing in people to lead in developing new areas of ministry and growth in churches. Clergy and Laity teams are setting goals and next steps to move churches to healthy and more productive ministry and to fulfill the purpose of church revitalization.

In the Spring of 2018, the Rev. Amy Coles, the Rev. Kim Ingram, and Jennifer Davis led "Healthy Conversations for a Way Forward," at which clergy and laity learned more about the work of The Commission on a Way Forward as the Conference approaches the called General Conference in February 2019, and participants experienced a model that can be utilized in local churches.

This is a very special year for the Leelands and their family. Bishop Leeland accepted his first student appointment in 1968 at Lucana UMC, Wilson, NC, in the North Carolina Conference. This year marks his 50th year of ministry serving The United Methodist Church. On July 27, 2018, the Leelands will celebrate 50 years of marriage. Other milestone anniversaries for their children and graduations for their grandchildren will occur. The committee's love and congratulations go out to our episcopal family during this year of celebrations.

The Committee on Episcopacy invites all United Methodists across the conference to be in prayer every Friday as we lift up Bishop Leeland, his family, and his work for the annual conference.

Wanda Musgrave, Chairperson
Sandy Giles, Vice-chairperson
Sarah McKinney, Secretary

T. EPISCOPAL RESIDENCE COMMITTEE

The Episcopal Residence Committee is pleased to report that Bishop and Mrs. Paul Leeland have been comfortably using and enjoying the new residence at 3416 Maryhurst Lane in Charlotte. The residence endowment reserve now stands at \$47,858.53 (as of 12.31.2017). For 2019, the committee is requesting that the amount of \$10,000 be included in the apportioned conference budget. The committee, in consultation with Bishop and Mrs. Leeland, will continue to monitor expenses and request funding as is appropriate and necessary.

Phillip B. Cole, Chairperson

U. COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION (CEC)

Policies and Guidelines for Administering the Equitable Compensation Fund (Calendar Year 2019)

1. Policies Pertaining to the Commission on Equitable Compensation:

¶¶ 342 and 625 of *The Book of Discipline 2016* direct the Commission on Equitable Compensation (CEC) to recommend a minimum level of pastoral compensation for clergy serving as local church pastors under episcopal appointment and to administer the Equitable Compensation Fund (ECF) as a source of funding of last resort for pastors-in-charge in order to maintain a living, equitable level of compensation for these itinerant ministers.

a. Executive Committee:

During each quadrennium, at its organizational meeting, the CEC shall elect an executive committee consisting of a chairperson, a vice chairperson, a secretary, and additional members from the full commission as needed, so that the executive committee consists of an equal number of clergy and lay persons. The assistant to the bishop and a cabinet representative will serve as ex-officio members of the executive committee.

b. Definition of Compensation:

As used by the CEC, the term “compensation” includes the annual amount designated as cash salary for service rendered, additional insurance premiums over and above the conference-approved program of individual medical insurance for clergy, accountable professional expenses, household expenses paid by the local charge, and other fringe benefits. Compensation does not include housing allowance in lieu of parsonage to the extent of actual housing, fair market value of supplied parsonages, reimbursement for parish-related travel expenses paid by the local charge to the extent of actual travel expenses or use of an automobile for parish travel purposes, funds provided for continuing education to the extent they are used for that purpose, bona-fide gifts or honoraria for special services, allowances for moving expenses paid by the annual conference or local church, or individual medical insurance premiums in the amount of the conference-approved program of insurance for clergy.

2. Types of Grants

Two categories of support are available from the ECF: emergency sustentation grants and regular grants.

a. Emergency sustentation grants are available under the provisions of ¶ 626, which states that each church or charge has an obligation to pay in full compensation, as approved by the charge conference, to its pastor(s). If it becomes apparent that a church or charge will be unable to so provide the compensation approved by the charge conference, the church or charge shall immediately notify the district superintendent and may request consideration for a short-term emergency grant from the Equitable Compensation Fund (cf. also ¶ 625).

b. Regular grants are available for those churches or charges that, at their annual charge conferences, determine that they will be unable to provide compensation at the minimum level set by the annual conference. In cooperation with the bishop and cabinet, the CEC offers grants, on a declining schedule, totaling no more than 30 percent of the appropriate minimum pastoral compensation for a period of three or fewer years. In the first year, a church or charge may receive up to 100 percent of the maximum available grant; in the second year, up to 70 percent; in the third year, up to 40 percent. During this period, the church or charge must adopt and follow a plan, approved by the district superintendent, that eliminates the need for this assistance. After the third year, a church or charge will not automatically be eligible for a regular grant. Representatives of the CEC shall consult with the district superintendents about any clergy person or church that has received equitable-compensation grants for five consecutive years.

3. Definitions and Classifications of Pastors

a. Full-Time Pastors: Subject to these policies and guidelines, pastors appointed to full-time service under ¶ 338.1 or ¶ 318.1 shall have a claim upon the ECF and shall not receive less than the minimum compensation specified in the current schedule (¶ 342).

b. Pastors Serving Less Than Full-Time: Subject to these policies and guidelines, elders and provisional members serving as pastors appointed to less than full-time service under the provisions of ¶ 338.2 shall have a claim upon the ECF in one-quarter-time increments of either $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, or $\frac{1}{4}$ time as negotiated by the district superintendent at the time of the appointment, receiving not less than this percentage of the minimum compensation specified in the current schedule.

c. Pastors Attending School: Subject to these policies and guidelines, a pastor appointed to a church or charge who is enrolled in good standing in a college or seminary for a minimum of nine hours per semester or equivalent in fulfillment of the requirements for conference affiliation and who is not otherwise gainfully employed shall have a claim upon the ECF in an amount based upon the one-quarter-time increments as negotiated by the district superintendent at the time of the appointment, which shall not exceed $\frac{3}{4}$ time. In determining the compensation for a pastor attending school, grants received for educational expenses shall not be considered as part of compensation. Pastors who discontinue or complete their studies and intend to be considered as serving full-time shall be compensated at that level only after certification by the CEC.

- d. Part-Time Local Pastors and Retired Supply Pastors: Since the ECF is designed to support those in full-time services as pastors of our local churches, those charges utilizing part-time local pastors or retired supply pastors shall not have a claim upon the ECF.
- e. Pastors Engaged in Continuing Education: Inasmuch as continuing education is required of all ordained clergy, no pastor engaged in a program of continuing education under ¶ 351 shall by reason of such study leave be denied the minimum compensation support as specified in the current schedule, except that in cases of educational leave in excess of one month, the supplement shall be adjusted as negotiated by the district superintendent and the CEC.
- f. Deacons in Full Connection: As provided in ¶ 331.10b, deacons in full connection serving within the local church “shall receive a salary from the local church, charge, or cooperative parish not less than the minimum salary established by the equitable compensation policy of the annual conference for full-time and part-time pastors,” although these entities should be reminded that they are fully responsible for the compensation of these individuals. If the bishop and cabinet appoint a deacon in full connection to a position as pastor-in-charge of a local church or charge, that individual shall have a claim upon the ECF and shall not receive less than the minimum compensation specified in the current schedule for elders in full connection.

4. Request Procedures

Regular grants from the CEC must be requested by a formal action of the charge conference, supported by a written grant application, using the CEC form available through the conference web page, and signed by the district superintendent, the pastor, and the secretary of the charge conference. Requests must be completed in full and be accompanied by all required documentation in order to be processed by the CEC. Required documentation must include but is not limited to: written plan for decreasing reliance on equitable compensation, letters of support from pastor, church leadership, and district superintendent. The more information the CEC has about a local church situation the better equipped the CEC is to provide support. Requests must be made at least 30 days prior to the month when the assistance is to commence. In these cases, the local church or charge must pay at least 70 percent of the minimum applicable to its pastor.

For emergency sustentation grants, the district superintendent is responsible for submitting documentation to the cabinet and CEC executive committee for immediate processing, approval, and payment authorization.

5. Guidelines for Recommending Minimum Compensation

The CEC desires to recommend minimum pastoral compensation that is equitable for both churches and pastors. It is acknowledged that economic conditions vary across the annual conference. To be equitable, therefore, there must be awareness of the financial impact of these recommendations upon the local churches in order to not make pastoral support an excessive burden, while providing clergy with fair, living, and equitable compensation.

In making these recommendations, the CEC refers to changes in the North Carolina per capita Income (NCPCI), as maintained by the United States Bureau of Economic Analysis, on a two-year-lag basis (the earliest time for which data are obtainable). The NCPCI offers a true measure of the underlying economy in which congregations exist and is independent of Western NC Conference actions. Additional consideration is given to the two-year-lag Conference Average Compensation (CAC) and other measures of the health of churches and the economy as deemed necessary, segmenting the minimum compensation levels into the following categories:

- Elders and Deacons in Full Connection;
- Provisional/Associate Members;
- Local Pastors who have completed the Course of Study/M.Div.;
- Local Pastors who have not completed the Course of Study.

PROPOSAL: EQUITABLE COMPENSATION POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

(Petition 16) Approved June 22, 2018

The CEC proposes the adoption of these policies, definitions, and classifications for administering the ECF and these guidelines and schedules for recommending minimum compensation for 2019.

A. Allocation of Requested Equitable Compensation Fund Budget for 2019:

Regular Grants	\$97,000
Emergency Sustentation Grants	\$25,000
Expenses of the Commission	\$3,000
Total	\$125,000

B. Schedule of 2019 Minimum Compensation..... for Clergy Serving Full-Time Appointments.

Elders and Deacons in Full Connection.....	\$43,260
Provisional/Associate Members	\$38,934
Local Pastors who have completed the Course of Study/M.Div.	\$36,230
Local Pastors before completion of Course of Study	\$34,608

V. COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS: 2016-2020 AD INTERIM CHANGES**Administrative Review Committee**

Randolph H. Harry

Committee on**Camp & Retreat Ministries**

Andrew Johnson

Jonathan LeMaster-Smith

Kevin Ward

Rachel Watkins

Council on Campus Ministry*Campus Minister:* Jessica Dayson*Campus Minister:* Andrew Mails

Sharad Creasman

Maegan Habich

William Haggard

Ted Henry

Amy Rio

Kyle Sigmon

Church Vitality Team

Charles Kyker

Commission on Communications

Courtney Guadagno

Bill Jones

Conference Staff Relations Committee

Nancy Dozier

Commission on Equitable Compensation

Tracy Fuller

Eric Lineberry

Justice & Reconciliation Team*Hispanic/Latino Convener:* Frank Ramos*Native American Convener:* Joel Locklear

Renee Hayes

Norma Villagrana

Board of Laity*BR Lay Leader:* Fred Cantler*CV Lay Leader:* John Crane*CCYM Vice President:* Gracie Plyler*UMM President:* William Waddell*UMW President:* Julia Willis**Leadership Development Team**

Mark Conforti

Abigail Hedgecock

Carl Martin

Mission Engagement Team

Richard M. Weaver

Board of Ordained Ministry

Alfonso Everett

Lynda Ferguson

McKinley Greer

J.F. Howard

Lory Beth Huffman

Monica Humpal

Tony Jordan

David C. Joyce

Carl Manuel

Julia Trantham

Margaret Wannemacher

Board of Pension & Health Benefits

Lauren Hill

W. DISCIPLE BIBLE OUTREACH MINISTRIES OF NORTH CAROLINA, INC.

In America, 2,200,000 people are in prison. In North Carolina alone, more than 37,000 inmates live in state prison facilities. When including those on probation and post-release parole, this number climbs to more than 133,000. This does not even include federal inmates and juvenile offenders. The criminal justice system in North Carolina affects one out of every four persons in the state, and that number continues to grow. Prisons are one of the fast-growing mission fields in the world today.

Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries of North Carolina, Inc. (DBOM) was founded in 1999, to minister to those in prison and provide a Christian response to this ever-growing need. DBOM recruits, trains, and sends local church volunteers to prisons, jails, and youth development centers to teach God's word. Thousands of North Carolina inmates participate annually. DBOM also offers workshops in restorative justice and prison ministry to help build the capacity of the church for ministry. For the local church, DBOM provides Disciple Bible Study facilitator's training and resourcing to build strong disciple programs and to develop servant leaders for ministry in the congregations and beyond. DBOM's model of ministry has gone national with affiliates operational in Virginia, Tennessee, Louisiana, Illinois, Arkansas, and Texas.

None of this would be possible without support. A primary source of DBOM's funding comes from the annual special offering taken in August. In 2018, the offering will be received on August 26. Offering envelopes are being provided to each charge. DBOM is always seeking new volunteers and new ways to minister. Those interested in joining the DBOM prison leadership team should contact the office.

Members from the Western NC Conference: Neil Brown, Ed Campbell, David Christy, Diane Ezzell, Randolph Harry, Joeff Williams.

Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries • PO Box 358, Oak Island, NC 28465 • 336-689-1443 • mhicksdbom@gmail.com • www.disciplebibleoutreach.org

Mark Hicks, Executive Director DBOM of NC / President, DBOM National
Charles Crutchfield, DBOM of NC Board Chairperson

X. THE EUGENE M. COLE FOUNDATION

The Cole Foundation was established by the will of Eugene M. Cole in 1944 to provide benefits for retired ministers and surviving spouses for the Western North Carolina Conference. In 2015, the Foundation directed monthly payments to the conference treasurer to supplement the cost of health care benefits to retired ministers and spouses. The trustees also sponsor a breakfast for retired clergy and spouses at WNC Annual Conference.

The foundation is governed by three (3) trustees elected by the annual conference: James C. Windham, Jr., chairperson; Anthony Orsbon, vice chairperson; and Rebecca Douglas, secretary.

TRUSTEE OF COLE FOUNDATION

(Petition 17) Approved June 22, 2018

The Trustees of the Eugene M. Cole Foundation propose that James C. Windham, Jr., whose term as trustee expires in 2018, be re-elected for another three (3) year term, expiring in 2021.

James C. Windham, Jr., Chairperson

Y. UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA, INC.

The United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc. has experienced an exceptional year of growing ministry. Mid-year 2017, it surpassed \$200 million in managed assets and closed the year with \$226,438,605 in total assets. In 2017, the foundation received over \$36 million in new deposits. It has been able to do this because of the wise guidance of the investment team, board of directors, and clients who are willing to share their ministry. How can the foundation help churches to be fruitful in ministry? Contact the new director of client relations, Susan Cothorn. Having led development efforts at Brevard College for 16 years, Susan brings enthusiasm and expertise to assist in achieving goals for financial ministry management.

Ministry is the most important factor to the foundation; each and every dollar here represents someone's hopes and dreams for making disciples for Jesus Christ. The foundation not only celebrates the new monies received, it is just as excited about the monies that are disbursed. Approximately \$11 million of disbursements were used for ministry. Almost \$12 million that the foundation currently has in loans to churches and related institutions represents ministry being done in those places. Questions about the loan program may be addressed to staff. Either Susan Cothorn or the controller, Brad Crossley, will be happy to answer queries. The foundation considers it a privilege to be a part of so many disciple-making opportunities.

In 2017, the foundation continued its commitment to leadership development ministry. It created a new leadership program called *Great Pastor/Great Administrator*. This program was created in response to a lay person's desire for their pastor to have the opportunity to learn more in-depth management skills. Facilitated by the Rev. Jan Brittain and the Rev. Dr. Glenn Kinken, this program worked with 14 pastors last year. Moving forward, the program will be known as The Reynolds Academy for Ministry Management.

The Reynolds family also continues to support evangelism in Western North Carolina through the UMF Reynolds' Ministry Fund. This year, it worked with more than 100 pastors in a variety of leadership development programs, and disbursed over \$472,000 in grants to local churches for ministries in Western North Carolina and beyond. The foundation is grateful to Royce and Jane Reynolds and their commitment to making disciples for Christ. Questions regarding Reynolds Ministries should be directed to Caroline Cox, the new associate director of Reynolds Ministries.

The United Methodist Foundation continued its stewardship ministries in many ways in 2017. The Rev. Dr. Melvin Amerson continued to lead another day retreat on *Stewardship in the African American Church*. Bishop Paul L. Leeland and his wife, Janet, joined more than 120 people for a day of considering best stewardship practices for traditionally African American congregations. The event was held at Greater Vision United Methodist Church.

In an effort to address the ongoing concern about clergy educational debt, the foundation entered into a partnership with the Western North Carolina Conference and with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry to provide scholarships for seven candidates for ministry in the Western NC Conference. This year the combined support for United Methodist education for both laity and clergy provided over \$50,000 worth of educational scholarships to United Methodist seminaries and United Methodist undergraduate colleges and universities.

More information about the ministry of the foundation can be found in the *2017 Annual Report*. Stop by the tent outside of Stuart Auditorium and pick up a copy. Meet members of the staff who are eager to speak ministry partnerships with the United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina to build the church for generations to come.

The Board of Directors and Staff of The United Methodist Foundation of Western North Carolina, Inc.



Z. RFD CDC

RFD is a triad of ministries serving congregations considering expansion or renovation of ministry facilities, congregations, or other entities seeking to offer senior and transitional housing, and ministries with the poor.

NETworX USA is the division of RFD CDC that focuses on individuals. NETworX is a national movement working together across lines of income, education, and race to measurably reduce poverty in all of its dimensions through education, intentional relationship-building, and faith working through love.

The 2016 General Conference passed a resolution that states: Therefore, be it resolved that General Conference encourages bishops, annual conferences and agencies to support local groups of United Methodist congregations to work or be in ministry with the poor and to consider NETworX initiatives.

Presently, nine NETworX communities operate across North Carolina, joined with five sites in the California-Nevada Annual Conference, one in Pennsylvania, and start-ups in the states of Kansas, Nebraska, West Virginia, Virginia and South Carolina.

RFD Consulting serves congregations and other groups investigating expansion of facilities or engaging in housing ministries. The process begins with thinking through what to do or project conception. The next stage is gathering and providing information needed on how to do it, what will it cost, and how will it be funded. A team can then be put together to design, build, fund, and if needed, provide on-going management. Three projects for senior and transitional housing are in process in North Carolina and Mississippi.

Members of the RFD CDC board are as follows:

Anna Baucom, President, Anson County Commissioners, Chairperson
 Rev. Lucy Robbins, Vice President, Pastor First UMC Caroleen
 Rev. Sam Moore, Secretary/Treasurer, Senior Minister Hickory Grove
 Rev. Amy Coles, Assistant to the WNCB Bishop
 Rev. Laura Early, Senior Minister All God's Children UMC
 Tom Lambeth, Retired Z. Smith Reynolds Executive Director
 Rev. Ken Locklear, District Superintendent, Gateway District

Rev. Joe Mann, Duke Divinity School
 Mattie Patterson, Blue Ridge Community Action, Inc
 Rev. Connie Marie Stutts, Beech Grove-Rhems Charge
 Rev. Jeremy Troxler, Pastor Spruce Pine UMC
 Rev. Randy L. Wall, Retired, and Pastor Ann Street UMC
 Rev. Gil Wise, District Superintendent, Beacon District
 Rev. Dr. R. A. (Alan) Rice Jr, Executive Director and COO

R. A. (Alan) Rice Jr., Executive Director
 Anna Baucom, President

PROPOSAL: SUPPORT OF NETworX®

(Petition 18) *Approved June 23, 2018*

Whereas, poverty continues to abound in the USA, especially in the rural areas where the average national rate is 18.4 percent, and in the urban areas where the rate is 15.4 percent compared to the national average of 14.5 percent (USDA Economic Research Service); and

Whereas, The United Methodist Church has had as one of its four Areas of Ministry Focus: Engaging in Ministry with the Poor; and

Whereas, this focus emphasizes “with” – standing with those who are regarded as “the least of these,” listening to them, understanding their needs and aspirations, and working with them to achieve their goals; and

Whereas, United Methodist believe working side by side with those striving to improve their situation is more effective long term than top-down charity; and

Whereas, the Council of Bishops at the May 2015 meeting in Berlin affirmed the intent to build on and extend the Four Areas of Focus adopted in 2008 and for 2017-2020 would provide a missional direction for the next quadrennium, which includes partnering with schools to help end poverty; and

Whereas, for the past eleven years, beginning in 2007, Rural Faith Development CDC as an affiliate of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference has been in engaged with transformational ministry with the poor across NC, originally through Circles® and now through NETworX®; and

Whereas, at the request of other conferences and with leadership from across the USA, RFD has created a Wesleyan informed initiative with a measurable outcome of well-being of abundance that is measured in many dimensions: cognitive, physical, emotional, social, spiritual, and financial; and

Whereas, the very being of NETworX is encompassed in a mutual commitment to the core values of

Love – The foundational value for NETworX is love – love of neighbor,

Transformation – A belief in transformation and the importance of faith further define the power of this love; and

Whereas, these values are acted out with accountability, transparency, authenticity, acceptance, and inclusiveness; and

Whereas, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church adopted a resolution in 2016 encouraging bishops, annual conferences, and agencies to support local groups of United Methodist congregations to work or be in ministry with the poor and to consider NETworX initiatives. (Resolution 4094); therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Western North Carolina Annual Conference give thanks for the work of its local congregations and agencies at work in ministry with the poor and strongly encourage the consideration of NETworX initiatives; and, be it further

Resolved, that NETworX USA be approved as conference-wide offering for 2019 with local congregations being encouraged to receive a special offering for the NETworX initiatives during the season of Lent.

Submitted by: RFD/CDC Board of Directors

AA. BROTHERHOOD/SISTERHOOD OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

The Western North Carolina Conference Brotherhood/Sisterhood (BH/SH) is an organization of clergy and lay members mutually expressing the ideals of covenant, connection, and compassion. The organization honors the dedicated life and ministry of clergy members at their death by providing their families with immediate financial assistance in addition to prayers for their future well-being. The families are free to use the benefit (presently \$9,500) for any expenses they may have.

As soon as the organization learns about the death of a BH/SH clergy member, it notifies its membership. Each clergy member contributes a set amount (presently \$8), while lay members are invited to contribute \$3 or more. Some members respond immediately to each notice; some respond after receiving multiple notices; some respond only once a year. Annual statements are sent to clergy members at the end of each conference year, as well as to the laity, whose contributions are tax-deductible, at the end of each calendar year.

Beneficiary membership in the Brotherhood/Sisterhood is open to all clergy members of the annual conference (full, provisional, and local pastors). The registration fee is \$10. Clergy who are 35 years of age or older may sign a non-interest-bearing promissory note to compensate for the deaths that have occurred since their 35th birthday. More information regarding the Brotherhood/Sisterhood can be found at its website, brotherhoodsisterhood.com.

Proposals to be voted on at the annual meeting of the Brotherhood/Sisterhood, on Thursday, June 21, at 1:30 p.m., in The Terrace (Room TBD):

1. That the assessment rate for clergy members be \$8 per call, that laity members contribute \$3 or more per call, that the initiation fee for new clergy members be \$10, and that the standard benefit for the families of deceased clergy be \$9,500.
2. That each church be encouraged to observe Brotherhood/Sisterhood Sunday on the third Sunday in February or on another Sunday more suitable for the particular congregation.

Proposed amendments to the Constitution, as recommended by the Board of Directors in their meeting on October 26, 2018, and to be voted upon at the annual meeting of the Brotherhood/Sisterhood:

1. In Article VII, changing July 31 to August 31, making the second sentence of this article to read: "Assessments are expected to be paid into the Brotherhood/Sisterhood treasury within sixty days from the date of notice of the assessment; provided, that all assessments within any given conference year shall be due and payable by August 31."
2. In Article IX, changing July 31 to August 31, making the first sentence of this article to read: "If any beneficiary member has not paid by August 31 all assessments due for deaths occurring before June 1 of that year, membership and protection shall be suspended until payment is made for assessments due..."

The rationale for both of these amendments is:

1. To be consistent in the constitution and bylaws regarding the deadline prior to suspension of membership. (In some places the date of July 31 is used; in others, it is August 31.)
2. The date of August 31 allows a month longer grace period than does July 31.

Joseph Westfall, President
Donnell FitzJefferies, Vice-President
Sarah Kalish, Secretary
Roland Barnhardt, Executive Director

Brotherhood/Sisterhood Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements: 2017 - 2018

Revenues, Gains, and Other Support, Unrestricted

Calls from Clergy.....	\$ 85,917
Calls from Laity.....	34,109
Revenue from Notes.....	10,476
Clergy Application Fee.....	140
Investment Interest.....	4,523
Other Contributions.....	3,964

Total Revenues **\$ 139,130**

Expenses

Death Benefits Paid.....	\$ 169,938
Salaries/Payroll Taxes.....	\$ 36,820
Accounting/Contract Services.....	2,024
Banking/Insurance.....	2,830
Offices Expenses.....	10,186
Travel/Mileage Reimbursements.....	1,115

Total Expenses..... **\$ 222,912**

Deficit..... **\$ - 83,782**

Other Significant Information

Balance Prepaid/Unpaid Clergy Assessments.....	- 5,506
Balance Clergy Promissory Notes.....	473,794
Balance Accounts on Hand.....	460,797

Brotherhood/Sisterhood Membership Roll as of July 1, 2018

Adams, H.C	Champion, B.J.	Evans, J.H.	Harris, O.D.	Kalish, S.B.	Miller, J.C.	Reece, E.A.	Talbert, D.D.
Adams, S.L.	Chaney, B.J.	Evensen, H.D.	Harrison, S.	Kaser Odor, K.E.	Miller, J.K.	Reeves, J.R.	Talbert, T.R.
Adams, T.D.	Chaney, E.	Everett, A.	Hartsell, C.J.	Kayler, C.J.	Miller, L.	Rhinehart, J.B.	Tapper, E.S.
Aldridge, J.M., Jr.	Chaput, P.G.	Ewing, S.H.	Hatherly, K.L.	Kayler, R.E.	Miller, M.R.	Rice, R.A., Jr.	Tate, J.P.
Allen, A.	Childers, D.W.	Faggart, W.H.	Hawk, J.H.	Keaton, J.C.	Milleson, B.W.	Riggs, E.R.	Taylor, J.L., Jr.
Allen, C.W.	Childers, W.H., Jr.	Farabow, M.S.	Hawkins, G.L.	Kelley, D.R.	Mills, A.	Rintz, J.W.	Taylor, P.J.
Allen, D.R.	Choplin, P.P.	Feltes, R.D.	Hawkins, W.T.	Kelly, L.M.	Mills, R.W.	Roach, R.E.	Taylor, T.K.
Allen, F.A.	Christy, D.H.	Ferguson-Allen, L.L.	Hawnes, D.W.	Key, J.T.	Montgomery, G.G.	Roberson, G.W.	Thie, R.B.
Allen, G.C., Jr.	Christy, J.C.	Ferree, J.K.	Haynes, J.O.	Key, M.J.	Moore, J.A.	Roberts, J.A.	Thomas, A.J.
Allen, T.L.	Christy, J.P.	Few, J.F.	Haywood-Baxter, A.	Kilbourne, K.H.	Moore, S. H., Jr.	Roberts, K.H.	Thomas, A.P.
Alventosa-Brown, J.	Christy, J.Z.	Finney, R.H.	Heafner, J.P.	King, R.M.	Moore, T.S.	Roberts, T.K.	Thomas III, J.H.
Amason, J.D.	Cirksena, R.J., Jr.	Fitzgerald, J.C.	Heafner-Heun, S.A.	Kirk, T.A.	Morgan, C.J.	Rochester, N.L., Jr.	Thomas III, W.P.
Andrews, H.F.	Clanton, R.A., Jr.	Fitzgerald, L.E.	Hedgpeth, E.H.	Knoespel, J.W.	Morgan, L.S.	Romanat, M.M.	Thompson, P.B.
Andrews, W.M.	Clifton, L.B.	FitzJefferies, H.D.	Heermans, E.D.	Krall, N.M.	Morris, S.A.	Romanello, R.E.	Thompson, C.S.
Armstrong, J.M., Jr.	Clodfelter, B.C.	Flack, C.A.	Heermans, J.P.	Kurtz, M.D.	Morrison, A.C.	Rorie, D.M.	Thore, W.C.
Arnold, C.L.	Clodfelter, J.P., Jr.	Fleming, H.D.	Hege, J.A.	Lair, R.E., Jr.	Morrison, B.S.	Rose, G.W.	Thurman, J.M.
Ashe, D.W.	Clough, R.C., Jr.	Forbes, V.L.	Helsabeck, O.W.	Lambert, A.E.	Morrison, D.G.	Rosaboro, R.E.	Tisdale, J.K.
Auman, T.L.	Cole, P.B.	Ford, A.G.	Herbin, F.L.	Lancaster, W.H.	Morrison, H.L.	Rosenquist, V.B.	Tomlinson, D.W.
Auten, L.H.	Coles, A.L.	Foster, A.D.	Herin, T.J.	Langford, S.O.	Morrow, W.L.	Routh, D.W.	Towery, J.B. Jr.
Autrey, S.L.	Collins, G.D.	Foster, G.B.	Herold, J.W.	Langford III, T.A.	Moss, A.W.	Royals, G.C.	Troutman, G.D.
Bailey, D.A.	Collins, G.K.	Foust, W.N.	Herron, R.E.	Langston, C.A.	Moss, O.R.	Rudisill, G.W.	Turman, D.W.
Bailey, M.F.	Collins, K.	Fowler III, J.W.	Herron, V.C.	Lanier, R.S.	Mosteller, J.B.	Sailors, R.R.	Turman, T.C.
Ballard, M.J.	Collins, M.W.	Fox, D.B., Jr.	Hiatt, J. D.	Lattimer III, C.T.	Murray, J.D.	Sain, A.W.	Turner, C.M., Jr.
Banyai, P.D.	Collins, S.C.	Franklin, J.K.	Hileman, J.L.	Lear, W.J.	Murrow, M.C.	Salata, R.R.	Turner, S.C.
Barbee, W.L.	Colson, J.D.	Freeman, G.D.	Hillyer, D.E., Jr.	Leatherwood, J.M.	Myers, G.L., Jr.	Sanders, J.K.	Tuttle, R.B.
Barden, B.J.	Combs, J.F.	Freeman, G.M.	Hilton, R.D., Sr.	Lee, D.J.	Myers, J.L.	Scandale, N.A., Jr.	Tyson, C.E.
Barden, L.E.	Combs, R.W.	Freeman, P.	Hinson, H.L.	Lee, D.W.	Myrick, C.K.	Scarborough, S.C.	Van Meter, A.R.
Barden, M.L.	Combs, S.R.	Friddle, G.H., Jr.	Hinton, B.T.	Lee, E.D.	Newell, J.K.	Schnitzlien, T.H.	Van Wieren, W.
Barnes, S.E.	Compton, H.R.	Fritts, R.E., Jr.	Hinton, M.A.	Lee, H.J.	Newman, B.M.	Schnwantes, H.E.	Vaughan, A.R.
Barnhardt, R.T.	Conder, A.R.	Fry, K.H.	Hitch, G.C.	Lee, In-Yong	Newman, D.A.	Scott, J.A.	Vickers, M.N.
Barr, C.B.	Conder, T.E., Jr.	Fulk, J.M., Jr.	Hobson, B.G.	Lee, S.T.	Noian, D.C.	Scott, L.	Vredenburg, Y.L.
Barringer, G.R.	Conover, A.C.	Funderburk, D.	Hochmuth, D.E.	Lemons, E.M.	Northcraft, S.B.	Scott, S.	Wachs, W.R.
Bartley, E.J.	Conover, C.H., Jr.	Furr, J.C.	Hockett, D.C.	Lemons, J.B.	Northrup, P.B.	Settle, C.E.	Walker, P.B.
Bartz, J.	Cook, D.A., Jr.	Gaddy, D.W.	Hodgens, R.H.	Leonard, D.B.	Norton, Z.G.	Setzer, P.H.	Wall, C.W.
Baxter, D.L.	Cook, E.A., Jr.	Galloway, J.W.	Hodnett, M.E., Jr.	Lewis, M.W.	Noyes, D.C.	Setzer, R.D.	Wall, R.L.
Bayne, K.E.	Cornell, K.V.	Gibbons, C.F.	Holland III, A.R.	Lewis, P.A.	O'Ferrell, L.R.	Shelton, C.K.	Wallace, E.L.
Beall, T.M.	Crady, B.M.	Gibbs, D.W.	Holland, J.W.	Lindquist, C.A., Jr.	Ollis, J.P.	Shepherd, B.K.	Ward, J.A., Jr.
Beam, D.W.	Craig, P.A., Jr.	Gibbs, L.C.	Hollar, A.B.	Lindsey, C.R.	Orrell, E.H.	Sherfy, J.H.	Ward, J.R.
Beard, D.R., Jr.	Cranfill, K.R.	Gibbs, P.H.	Holiday, B.M.	Lloyd, I.D.	Overcash, R.A.	Sherrill, C.G.	Warner, S.B.
Beck, B.F.	Crotts, D.L.	Gibbs, R.L.	Hood, R.L.	Locke, D.A.	Owen, P.S., Jr.	Sherrill, H.D., Jr.	Webb, J.S.
Berry, W.F.	Crowder-Stanley, A.	Gibert, A.S.	Horn, K.A.	Lookadoo, D.G.	Owens, N.B.	Sherrill, H.M.	Webb, J.T., Jr.
Beverly, A.E.	Davenport, J.P.	Gibson, T.L.	Houser, E.H.	Love, A.C.	Owens, W.N.	Sherrill, K.C.	Webb, N.S.
Biggers, E.L.	Davis, D.C.	Gilbert, D.W.	Howard, J.C.	Lovelace, W.E.	Page, C.E.	Sherrill, R.N.	Webb, S.F.
Billings, J.W.	Davis, E.V.	Giles, S.L., Jr.	Howard, J.F.	Lowder, P.D.	Park, P.W.	Shives, H.D.	Webb, S.S.
Bingham, K.W.	Davis, G.M.	Giles, S.S.	Howard, K.L.	Lowe, J.H.	Parker, B.J.	Shoaf, C.H.	Weekley, J.M.
Bishop, S.B.	Davis, J.	Gilland, J.C.	Howard, T.K.	Lowe, M.D.	Parker, M.J.	Short, D.N.	Weeks, T.W.
Blair, C.S.	Davis, J.B.	Glahn, P.L.	Howell, J.C.	Lowe, V.W.	Parker-Reece, B.L.	Shuford, M.A.	Weiler, M.L.
Blalock, J.F., Jr.	Davis, J.E., Jr.	Glass, B.D.	Howle, R.A.	Lucas, J.C.	Parris, D.L.	Sides, S.H.	Weisner, R.D.
Blanton, W.N., Jr.	Davis, S.W.	Godfrey, C.B.	Huffman, L.B.	Lunsford, C.K.	Patterson, D.D.	Simmon, T.R.	Welch, P.P.
Boggan, R.E., Jr.	Davis, T.A.	Golden, J.B., Jr.	Huffman, R.E.	Luther, J.D.	Patterson, J.S.	Sills, M.R.	Wensil, T.D.
Boggs, J.S.	Davis, W.G.	Goode, M.H.	Humphries-Bivens, P.	Lynn, E.R.	Patzfahl, R.L.	Simmons, G.L.	Westfall, J.M.
Bost, D.W.	Dawkins, H.C.	Gordon, A.F., Jr.	Hunter, C.R.	Lyons, D.J.	Payne, A.D.	Sisk, C.W.	Westmoreland, C.M.
Bowen, J.E.	Day, A.P.	Gordon, G. B.	Hunter, B.V.	Lytle, R.J.	Peeler, A.O.	Smith, D.E.	Westmoreland, J.R.
Bradley, E.F.	Dean, E.E., Jr.	Gordon, M.B.	Hunter, T.R.	Macon, F.K.	Peeler, D.E.	Smith, D.S.	White, C.D., Jr.
Brake, J.L.	DeBerry, P., Jr.	Gosnell, A.P.	Hutchings, C.R.	Maddox, J.E.	Peeler, J.W.	Smith, H.D.	White, J.K.
Branton, T.R.	Dennia, B.J.	Gottula, K.W.	Ingram, B.A.	Mandelstamm, W.	Pegram, J.P.	Smith, J.E.	White, J.L.
Briggs, L.T.	Dickens, J.G.	Gould, R.J.	Ingram, F.E.	Maness, C.M., Jr.	Pegues, W.	Smith, J.R.	Whitley, A.L.
Brittain, T.B.	Dickson, C.H.	Graves, E.L.	Ingram, R.M., Sr.	Manning, C.C.	Pendleton, K.S.	Smith, K.H.	Whitlock, D.E., Jr.
Brown, A.W., Jr.	Demorest, D.	Graves, J.H.	Ingram, T.	Margarita, D.S.	Penley, C.C., Jr.	Smith, M.S.	Wilfong, V.A.
Brown, H.A.	Dingus, W.H.	Gray, M.D.	Ireson, C.H.	Marlowe, A.R.	Penry, C.K.	Smith, S.L.	Wilhelm, S.D.
Brown, M.W.	Donahue, C.E.	Greene, D.S.	Ireson, S.W.	Marlowe, J.D.	Perdue, J.R.	Snider, N.T.	Williams, E.W.
Brown, M.W.	Donnell, S.S.	Greene, L.W.	Ishenhour, O.B.	Martin, D.G.	Perkins, P.F., Sr.	Snipes, D.A.	Williams, G.E.
Brown, W.A., Jr.	Doser, W.R.	Grice, F.W.	Ison, F.H.	Martin, S.L.	Perrell, S.J.	Snow, P.T.	Williams, H.
Buckner, F.W.	Doub, R.D.	Griffis, T.L.	Ivey, H.D.	Mason, D.M.	Peterson, M.L.	Spencer, A.Y.	Williams, J.B., Jr.
Burnette, K.H.	Doucette, K.C.	Griffiths, G.S.	Jackson, C.E.	Mason, D.O.	Petree, J.R.	Spencer, R.L.	Williams-Gilbert, C.
Burton, G.A.	Dowdle, J.O., Jr.	Griswold, N.K.	James, S.D.	Mayo, B.B.	Petree, R.E.	Spivey, A.C.	Wilson II, C.W.
Burton, J.M., Jr.	Dowdy, A.M.	Groome, J.	Jarrett, R.B.	McClellan, M.D.	Peurifoy, R.C.	Stanton, D.S.	Wimmer, M.
Burton, J.M., Sr.	Dowling, R.E.	Guy, C.R.	Jeffries, W.T.	McCleskey, J.L.	Peurifoy, V.B.	Staples, L.W., Jr.	Winstead, M.E.
Burton, M.K.	Dukes III, L.S.	Guy, D.A.	Jessup, B.J.	McClintick, H.E.	Pharr, P.A.	Starnes, T.P.	Witherington III, B.
Byers, R.T.	Duncan, A.L.	Gwyn, B.L.	Johnsen, J.W.	McCombs, J.A.	Plott, T.G.	Steargald, T.R.	Wombough, W.B.
Caldwell, L.B.	Duncan, D.J.	Hacklander, P.K.	Johnson, J.S.	McConnell, J.T.	Plowman, E.L.	Steed, R.G., Jr.	Wood, F.J.
Cameron, D.	Duncan, G.M.	Hahn, R.J.	Johnson, K.M.	McCoy, D.E.	Plummer, C.M.	Stein, J.C.	Woodard, L.H.
Camp, G.	Dunker, C.F.	Haines, S.D.	Johnson, L.N.	McDow, N.G.	Pollock, G.L.	Stephenson, W.E.	Woodward, W.W.
Campbell, D.J.	Durham, D.B.	Haire, E.R.	Johnson, R.B.	McIntosh, M.D.	Porter, T.R.	Stevens, C.B.	Wooden, M.B.
Campbell, R.H.	Duvall, J.A.	Hall, J.T.	Johnson, S.T.	McIntyre, A.B.	Portis, M.S.	Stinson-Wesley, J.T.	Worley, E.
Campbell-Robinson, H.	Dye, M.J.	Hall, L.B.	Jolly, T.G.	McKelvey, W.H.	Powell, C.G.	Stith III, F.A.	Worthy, C.M., Jr.
Carlton, H.M.	Easter, K.L.	Hall, R.O.	Jones, B.M.	McKim, D.A.	Powell, D.N.	Stoughton, T.B.	Wright, C.S.
Carr, M.A.	Easter, R.K.	Hamlyn, D.M.	Jones, K.R.	McKinney, E.D.	Powell, T.A.	Stokes, E.B.	Wyant, D.A.
Carter, E.K.	Edwards, F.H.	Hammill, T.L.	Jones, L.M.	McNiel, S.L.	Pryor, W.D.	Strange, L.H.	Wyman, W.C., Jr.
Carter, R.L., Jr.	Eggers, L.A.	Hamrick, J.M.	Jones, R.R.	Medlin III, W.T.	Pyatt, J.L.	Suggs, D.L.	Wynn, N.W.
Cartner, J.D.	Eller, K.R.	Hand, D.M.	Jordan, D.M.	Melton, L.M.	Queen, H.	Suggs, P.K.	Yarbrough, J.B.
Cash, D.R., Sr.	Ellis, L.D.	Hand, S.M.	Jordan, N.G.	Mendenhall, J.R.	Raines, J.A.	Sullivan, D.L.	Yates, W.G.
Cash, L.W.	Ellison, W.B.	Harkey, E.S.	Jordan, L.F., Jr.	Michael, R.B.	Rainey, S.K.	Summy, R.C.	Young III, C.S.
Cassady, T.L.	Emory, M.J.	Harrelson, C.G.	Joyce, S.D.	Michael, S.G.	Ramsey, G.L.	Swaim, B.G.	Young, H.C., Jr.
Castro, S.	Epps, J.F.	Harrill, M.B., Jr.	Joyner, M.E.	Miller, B.R.	Randolph, R.D.	Sweeney, J.A.	Yount, P.W., Jr.
Cauble, R.L.	Ervin, B.N.	Harris, B.V.	Judy, K.W.	Miller, D.V.	Rankin, N.B.	Sweeny, N.N.	Yow, J.L.
Cecil, J.H.	Ervin, J.L.	Harris, M.L.	Justice, H.	Miller, D.W.	Reavis, E.A.	Swofford, M.K.	

BB. CONVOCATION & PASTORS' SCHOOL AT DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

The 2017 Convocation & Pastors' School, "We Have the Power: Dismantling Bias and Hate," considered the questions: How can the Church confront and heal the bias and hate that breeds fear and division within our families, congregations, and communities? How can clergy and church leaders empower congregations to embrace the freedom God offers to seek justice and love kindness with and for our neighbors?

Convocation was held October 9-10, 2017, at Duke Divinity School. This event explored strategies for living into God's will and action for the world. Featured presenters included Lecia Brooks, Outreach Director, Southern Poverty Law Center; Amy Butler, Senior Minister, The Riverside Church of New York; Michael-Ray Mathews, Director of Clergy Organizing, PICO National Network; Valerie Cooper, Associate Professor of Religion and Society and Black Church Studies, Duke Divinity School; and William H. Lamar IV, Pastor of Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church, Washington, D.C., who served as convocation preacher. Attendees also participated in worship and their choice of 13 seminars led by faculty, church leaders, and practitioners on topics including "Segregated Sundays," "Walking the Talk: The Blessing of Culture Crises," "Worship as Resistance: Embodying God's Mission at the Margins," and "Dismantling Bias and Hate: A Liberation Theology Perspective."

The next Convocation & Pastors' School, "Neighboring in a Post-Christendom World," will take place October 8-9, 2018. Speakers and workshop leaders will model for church leaders the moral imagination to engage in God's mission in the midst of a rapidly changing ecclesial and cultural landscape. Lecturers include author Barbara Brown Taylor, Bishop Ian Douglas of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut, Dr. David Goatley, incoming Director of the Office of Black Church Studies, Duke Divinity School, and Dr. Elaine Heath, Dean of the Divinity School. The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale, Senior Pastor of Ray of Hope Christian Church, Decatur, Ga., will be the convocation preacher.

Pastors serving churches eligible for grants from The Duke Endowment, current divinity school students, and 2018 graduates of Duke Divinity School may attend at a discounted rate.

The Convocation & Pastors' School Board of Managers comprises representatives from the North Carolina and Western North Carolina Conferences, and advises and works with Duke Divinity School to offer a quality continuing education event annually.

The Western North Carolina Conference representatives on the Board of Managers are:

2015-2018	2016-2019	2017-2020	2018-2021
Joseph Westfall Hyung Jae Lee	Terry L. Matthews Joshua Sherfey	Lauren Anderson* Kelley Groce	Heidi Campbell-Robinson Avery White

*2018-2019 chairperson

Additional information about Convocation & Pastors' School is available online at www.divinity.duke.edu/cps.

Gary B. MacDonald, Senior Director of Special Projects

CC. THE DUKE ENDOWMENT

The Duke Endowment was formed in December of 1924 by the industrialist and philanthropist James B. Duke, who famously said that if it were not for his father and the Methodist Church, he would not have amounted to anything. When forming his endowment, Duke named four areas of focus: higher education, health care, child welfare, and rural United Methodist churches in North Carolina. For 93 years, the endowment has engaged with rural churches to strengthen their ministries all across the conference and state. Formed by the grace and love of God, and led by the Spirit, rural churches understand what it means "love their neighbors." Theirs are powerful and faithful stories, which may be read at the website: <http://dukeendowment.org/program-areas/rural-church>.

In 2017, the rural church program area of the endowment made 44 new grants totaling over \$14.4 million. Grants were made in three work areas: **Clergy Leadership**, **Rural Church Development**, and **Congregational Outreach**.

The vision of the **Clergy Leadership** work area is to strengthen United Methodist churches by improving the quality and effectiveness of congregational leaders. Much of this is done through three major efforts:

1. The **Clergy Health Initiative** (CHI), based at Duke Divinity School, advises and informs the conferences, the denomination, and others on issues of clergy well-being. From 2010-2014, the CHI offered Spirited Life, a holistic wellness program, to over 1,000 United Methodist pastors in North Carolina. As a result, significant physical health gains were achieved. Recent CHI developments include the following:
 - At this annual conference, one can purchase, at a discounted price, a copy of *Faithful and Fractured*, a book by CHI lead researcher Rae Jean Proeschold-Bell and the WNC's own Jason Byassee, which tells the story of the CHI and Spirited Life with the hope of promoting health for clergy and congregations across the denomination.
 - In addition, the CHI will soon roll out a new effort aimed at bolstering pastors' ability to thrive in the midst of stressful circumstances. Be on the lookout for announcements about this opportunity to come.
2. The **Thriving Rural Communities Initiative** (TRCI) is a collaborative effort among the endowment, the two conferences in North Carolina, and Duke Divinity School. The program forms and networks strong pastors, dubbed "Rural Fellows," for service to rural congregations. This year, Luke Christy will graduate from Duke Divinity School as a Rural Fellow and begin his ministry under appointment in the Western North Carolina Conference.

The **Hispanic House of Studies** at Duke Divinity School develops pastoral and congregational capacity for engagement with Latino populations, one of the fastest-growing demographic groups in the state. Interested pastors should contact the Rev. Ruiz-Millan at irmillan@div.duke.edu.

Through the **Rural Church Development** area of work, the endowment builds the capacity of United Methodist churches to help address community-wide issues at their roots. This happens primarily through system-level grants to the conferences and other entities that aid congregations in enhancing ministry and mission. With an intentional move away from making building grants, the endowment now seeks to create the conditions for congregations to thrive and to impact their communities in new and vital ways, through grants that support multiple churches engaging in creative ministry.

The **Congregational Outreach** area engages already-thriving congregations in programs that serve their communities through specific, outcomes-based food ministries, summer literacy programs, or services that improve housing for the congregation's neighbors. It is currently seeking highly functional rural (TDE-eligible) congregations to consider implementing six-week summer reading camps that follow a set of guiding principles identified as essential for the effort. Churches that are interested in joining this pilot program may reach out to Kristen Richardson-Frick, Associate Director of the Rural Church program area.

Those interested in applying for a grant for a ministry that fits within any of the above work areas should begin by exploring the website at <http://dukeendowment.org/rural-church-apply-for-a-grant>. There, one will find information about the application process. **Please check this website frequently, as grant application and award cycles may shift from year-to-year.**

Finally, in August, The Duke Endowment will once again host the **Convocation on the Rural Church**. The theme is *Embracing the Power of Welcome*, and the event will feature the Rev. Jennifer Bailey, Founder and Executive Director of the Faith Matters Network. The Rev. Bailey will share her work developing the People's Supper, which uses shared meals to invite people of different backgrounds to go beneath the headlines, create a sense of belonging, and understand the real stories that have shaped them. She will be joined by Mr. Benjamin Winchester, a rural sociologist whose work refutes the common negative "rural narrative" and demonstrates that rural places that can welcome the stranger are more likely to thrive into the future. Those unavailable for the August 6-8 Convocation are invited to explore Study Leave, which is available throughout the year at Duke Divinity School and is offered at a significant cost reduction for endowment pastors. Study Leave allows pastors to design their own week of learning and gives them access to faculty. Those interested in learning more may visit the website.

Robb Webb, Director, Rural Church

DD. THE NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

With 18 denominations representing over 6,200 congregations in NC, the Council provides incarnational evidence of Christian Unity. By creating unity without expecting uniformity, member bodies collaborate on matters that contribute to the flourishing of God's creation. The council is grateful to WNCC for their support and for the leadership on the Governing Board provided by Betty Jo Hardy and Robb Webb.

Currently our staffed program areas are:

- Religious Coalition for Justice for Immigrants includes education and advocacy for immigrants in the state through webinars, teach-ins, and online resources. The Council also coordinates the North Carolina Sanctuary Coalition, a collection of faith communities across North Carolina who offer public sanctuary sites or collaborating support for immigrants at risk of deportation. If your congregation is interested in becoming such a site, please contact the council.
- NC Interfaith Power and Light is the only North Carolina based statewide organization that works on addressing the ecological and justice issues of climate change as a faith-based initiative. Efforts include energy efficiency and conservation, increased renewable energy use, and collective low-carbon lifestyle changes. NCIPL programs encourage congregations, clergy, and denominations to know about and speak to the moral dimensions of climate change and environmental justice from a faith perspective.
- Partners in Health and Wholeness provides tools to help faith communities form healthy habits including exercise, healthy eating, mental health awareness, and smoking cessation. Staff members in Asheville and Charlotte are available to help your congregation. The council also has a staff member dedicated to education and advocacy around the opioid epidemic.
- Legislative advocacy and interfaith outreach helps faith communities connect the needs of their local communities with state policies and laws and, when necessary, empower communities to advocate for positive change.

Over the course of this year, the Governing Board approved the following policy statements which can be found on our website:

- Statement Affirming the Ministry of Sanctuary by Congregations (March 6, 2018)
- Statement on the Public Schools (December 5, 2017)
- Confederate-themed monuments: Time to reassess (September 12, 2017)
- Statement Opposing Fracked Gas Pipelines (September 12, 2017)

The council crafts these statements in keeping with the interpretation of the prophetic witness of the Old Testament and the gospel message of the New Testament.

Currently, other areas of emphasis include public education, gun violence prevention, living wage promotion, criminal justice reform, and Medicaid expansion. Resources are available online and the dedicated staff are available to help the congregation address any of the myriad concerns that arise in their contemporary setting.

Jennifer E. Copeland, Executive Director

EE. THE GENERAL BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND MINISTRY

GBHEM launched a new mission and vision in August 2017. The updated mission and vision simplify GBHEM's role as the primary leadership development agency for The United Methodist Church.

Mission: Build capacity for United Methodist lay and clergy leaders to discover, claim, and flourish in Christ's calling in their lives by creating connections and providing resources to aid in recruitment, education, professional development, and spiritual formation.

Vision: Generations of thriving, diverse, and compassionate Christian leaders for The United Methodist Church and the world.

GBHEM's Work Throughout 2017 and 2018

The Office of Discernment and Enlistment at GBHEM hosted Exploration, a biennial event for young adults ages 18-26 to hear, discern, and respond to God's call to ordained ministry as a United Methodist deacon or elder. More than 350 people attended the event in Portland, Oregon, in November 2017.

The Young Clergy Initiative (YCI) funded 34 innovative projects across the church in 2017 to attract young people to ordained ministry. Since its inception, more than 100 projects have been funded through YCI.

GBHEM works with the Commission on Central Conference Theological Education (CCTE) to distribute grants for the theological education of pastoral leaders in the Central Conferences. In 2017, the CCTE awarded 67 grants totaling more than \$1 million to the seven Central Conferences of The United Methodist Church.

The Publishing Ministry, established to engage, nurture, and advocate for the intellectual life of The United Methodist Church, released 13 books in 2017, reaching more than 10,000 people.

In 2017, GBHEM's Office of Loans and Scholarships awarded 2,000+ students with \$4.1 million in scholarships and 350 students with \$1.4 million in low-interest loans. More than \$1.6 million was awarded to 200 recipients of the Excellence in Clergy Leadership Scholarship, which helps United Methodist clergy avoid excessive educational loan debt, minimize financial stress, and build financial acumen.

To aid pastors in their ministry journey, GBHEM's Candidacy Office introduced EM360. A formation guide to help pastors and congregations meet mission and ministry goals, EM360 is a tool to help clergy leaders identify and gauge pastoral effectiveness.

In 2017, 1,438 candidates enrolled in UMCARES to seek certified candidacy for licensed or ordained ministry. A total of 589 candidates were certified.

The Black College Fund distributed more than \$9.68 million in 2017 to the Historically Black Colleges and Universities related to The United Methodist Church for faculty development, infrastructure maintenance, academic programs, and scholarships.

Clergy Lifelong Learning led African American United Methodist pastors who lead predominantly white churches in cross-cultural diversity training in South Korea in 2017. Continuing education and coaching opportunities are available through the innovative, multilingual platform, UMC Cyber Campus.

In 2017, Schools, Colleges, and Universities established the Siri S. Gadbois Fund in partnership with the National Association of Schools and Colleges of The United Methodist Church (NASCUMC) for mentoring among institution leaders (kickoff in 2018). The Cutting-Edge Curriculum Award was created to recognize 10 exceptional faculty members who are building effective and innovative academic courses (winners announced at the end of 2018 spring semester).

In partnership with Discipleship Ministries, GBHEM provides e-readers to theological schools in remote areas of Africa and Asia, offering access to the latest textbooks and reference books. The E-Reader Project distributed 667 e-readers in 2017 and nearly 2,500 devices to 22 theological seminaries since the program inception in 2013.

In 2017, GBHEM and the Association of United Methodist Theological Schools (AUMTS) hosted two academic theological colloquies. Initiated in service to the intellectual life of the church, the colloquies are intended to be a resource for the church. The first colloquy (March 2017) focused on human sexuality and church unity, the second (November 2017) reflected on the practice of *Missio Dei*. Both events produced a study guide and book.

www.gbhem.org • www.facebook.com/gbhem

FF. HINTON RURAL LIFE CENTER

2017 was a year of exciting growth for Hinton Rural Life Center, which increased staff, built a new facility, and added key new services. Hinton Center is a mission agency of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church, located just outside the small town of Hayesville in Western North Carolina on the Northeast Georgia border. Hinton Center also serves as a Christian retreat and conference center, where guests come to retreat, reflect, and renew.

One of two important positions Hinton Center added in 2017 was a community engagement coordinator who works with community leaders to address practical issues raised by its recent quality-of-life study of the area, including substance use, housing, and children's issues. Hinton Center also brought on a community volunteer coordinator to establish and oversee a Volunteer Center that serves a three-county area. The Volunteer Center, which launched in January 2018, manages volunteer opportunities for non-profits, schools, churches, and other qualifying organizations.

An Easter sunrise service marked Hinton Center's first official event in the new Outdoor Worship Center, which sits on the shore of beautiful Lake Chatuge. Construction of the Outdoor Worship Center, which can hold up to 100 guests, was completed in Fall 2017 and funded by a grant from The Duke Endowment.

Additionally, Hinton Center began offering Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training in the fall. MHFA gives skills needed to reach out and provide initial help and support to someone who may be having a mental health crisis or developing a substance use problem. While Hinton Center's newest elements created exciting new opportunities for ministry, many of its well-established outreach programs enjoyed promising expansion of their own. Hinton Center volunteers contributed a total of 23,837 hours to its ministries in 2017.

Christmas Care of Clay County received a record outpouring of support from the community in 2017, as Hinton Center helped provide needed clothing for 406 area children. Likewise, demand for the firewood ministry increased from a year earlier, and volunteers distributed 166 loads of wood to residents who still depend on it to heat their homes in winter.

Finally, home repair remains a central element of Hinton Center's missions work. While this ministry is most active in the summer, opportunities are offered year-round. The theme for 2018, "Cultivate Hope," is based on Jesus' parable of the sower from Luke 8:4-8. How can Hinton Center's staff and volunteers, as followers of Christ, live into the hope found through a relationship with Jesus, as individuals and as faith communities? How can Hinton Center extend that hope to others, not only by helping to meet the needs of its neighbors, but also by valuing their strengths and gifts?

Inspired by Jesus Christ, Hinton Rural Life Center's purpose is to engage individuals, congregations, and communities in transformation through retreat ministry and missional outreach. Whether you want a weekend sabbatical on Lake Chatuge, or to help build a wheelchair ramp in the community, Hinton Center offers something for everyone. Come see for yourself! Learn more at www.HintonCenter.org, or contact Hinton Center at 828-389-8336.

Jacqueline Gottlieb, President and CEO
Dawn Livingston, Director of Program Ministries

GG. LAKE JUNALUSKA ASSEMBLY, INC.

The leadership of Lake Junaluska Assembly, Inc. is happy to report that they once again ended the year "in the black," wrapping up 2017 with a balance of over \$60,000. The assembly continues to accomplish this without any operational apportionment support from the Southeastern Jurisdiction. Lake Junaluska has embraced the new financial model that was approved by the 2008 SEJ Conference and they remain committed to not only "living within their means" but also to ensure the long-term sustainability of their mission to be a place of Christian hospitality where lives are transformed through renewal of soul, mind, and body. 2017 was also a great year for charitable giving. The organization received \$2,521,170 from 1,557 individuals. They are so grateful to continue to receive the support of new and returning donors each year affirming the mission of Lake Junaluska through their charitable giving.

As they continue to refine and implement their plans for improvements to their facilities, grounds, and programs, they are also continuing to solidify their commitment to one of their most important assets, their staff. Of the \$60,000 "profit" from 2017, \$38,000 was distributed, in the form of profit-sharing, back to all current staff who worked in 2017 along with an across the board 1.5 percent pay increase for all current staff in 2018. The remainder, along with the generous support of their donors, is being used for a wide array of ongoing capital improvements that they will be looking forward to reporting on next year, including a complete renovation of the Lambuth Inn. They are also working diligently to refine and improve their existing programming for youth and adults and continually seek to implement new innovative programs that align with their mission.

As a member of The United Methodist Church within the Southeastern Jurisdiction, the leadership of Lake Junaluska wants everyone to know that the asset, Lake Junaluska, is doing very well. One can be very proud of this important organization within the jurisdiction and the larger United Methodist Church. They are striving to be good stewards of the resources which has been entrusted to them.

To learn more about what is going on at Lake Junaluska, please pick up a copy of the 2018 *Discover Lake Junaluska* magazine. Peruse its pages to read about the impact of the programs, to learn about new projects they are working on, and to be familiar with the calendar of events. They hope everyone will come and visit this year for a conference, a retreat, or a vacation to be transformed and renewed in soul, mind, and body.

Lake Junaluska Assembly Inc. Executive Team

HH. UNITED METHODIST SCHOOLS OF THEOLOGY AND UNIVERSITIES

1. BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Greetings in the Spirit of Jesus Christ! The Boston University School of Theology (BUSTH) travels with you in the vital journey of seeking God, building knowledge, and equipping leaders for the church and society. BUSTH celebrate its students, alums, and church partners, who join hands in serving God and building toward transformed communities.

BREAKING NEWS:

- Students: Entering students were the most diverse in the history, creating remarkable opportunities for in-depth exchange and fruitful collaboration.
- Faculty: Three amazing faculty were welcomed this year: Rebecca Copeland in Theology (focus on environmental theology); Theodore Hickman-Maynard in Black Church Studies; and Cornell William Brooks as Visiting Professor of Social Ethics, Law, and Justice Movements. Thanks to loyal alums, we also endowed the Harrell Beck Professorship in Hebrew Scripture and installed Kathe Darr as the first Beck Professor.
- Congregations: The Lilly Endowment awarded the Center for Practical Theology \$1.5 million to create an innovation hub, which will foster creative vocational reflection in congregations, and a sharing of the congregations' wisdom.
- Doctor of Ministry: The D.Min. in Transformational Leadership is soaring with lively student cohorts that are broadly

ecumenical, culturally diverse, and global. The model includes intensive, online courses, and faculty mentoring.

- Scholarships: The school continues to offer free tuition to UMC registered candidates for ordained ministry, and continues to build student scholarships and housing as a central campaign priority. New scholarships include the Dale Andrews Scholarship in Practical Theology and Race, Korean Student scholarship, and the Bishop John H. Adams and Dr. Dolly D. Adams Scholarship for candidates for ordained ministry in the AME, AMEZ, and CME churches.
- Arts Initiatives: Recent exhibits and events include “Symbols and Art of China, Korea, and Japan” and “Bridging Divided Communities through the Arts”

PARTNERING FOR MINISTRY AND TRANSFORMATION: Preparing students for ministry means meaningful partnerships with the local spiritual community.

- Congregational courses: Courses in congregations with church leaders and students learning together.
- Religion and Conflict Transformation Clinic: Internships and workshops that foster justice and reconciliation.
- Travel seminars: Courses engaging local communities on Arizona-Mexican border, Israel and Palestine, India, spiritual life centers, and Serbia and Croatia (with focus on interreligious dialogue).
- Ecumenical partnerships: Continuing close work with UMC, AME and other Wesleyan denominations, while launching robust Communities of Learning with the Episcopal Church and United Church of Christ.
- Partnership with Hebrew College: Joint courses and public events, plus co-sponsoring *The Journal of Interreligious Studies*. The focus is on enriching theological education with interreligious learning and leadership opportunities.

TAKING ACTION GLOBALLY AND LOCALLY:

- Campus action: Work to improve accessibility and sustainability. BUSTH is the first certified Green School in BU, and is active in the Green Seminary Initiative. It has also been named as one of the “Seminaries that Change the World.”
- Internships in global service and peacemaking: Student-initiated internships for service with communities across the world, and for just peacemaking projects with international organizations.

COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE: Celebrating differences while joining in action.

- Faculty and students have led and participated in service for victims of hurricanes and fires, protests on behalf of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, protests of white supremacist movements, protests and services on behalf of immigrants and DACA young people, and ecumenical and interreligious witnesses for justice in the city of Boston.
- The community (often student-led) has had deep conversations on issues that divide (including theological issues). The school seeks to foster respectful listening that builds community life and communal action.

OTHER NOTABLE NEWS:

- Celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Anna Howard Shaw Center

As BUSTH looks back on 2017, it celebrates transformational leaders who keep the word of Jesus Christ alive. Their living legacy and perceptive witness gives hope and courage for the future.

Mary Elizabeth Moore, Dean

2. CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

For more than 100 years, Candler School of Theology at Emory University has prepared *real* people to make a real difference in the real world. Since founding in 1914, more than 10,000 students have graduated from Candler, where they have been shaped as thoughtful, principled, and courageous Christian leaders dedicated to transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

One of 13 official seminaries of The United Methodist Church, Candler has been included on a list of “Seminaries that Change the World” for five years running, and was recently named a “Bright Spot in Theological Education” by Auburn Seminary.

Candler is also one of seven graduate professional schools of Emory University, a top-tier research institution offering extensive resources and a demonstrated commitment to service. The location in Atlanta provides a hands-on learning environment rich with opportunity. The General Board of Global Ministries is headquartered here, as are numerous public health, international development, and social service organizations. Simply put, there is no better place to prepare for ministry that engages the major denominational priorities: developing leaders, starting and growing churches, ministry with the poor, and improving global health.

In order to keep pace with the needs of the church and the world, Candler offers 16 degrees: six single degrees and 10 dual degrees pairing theology with bioethics, business, international development, law, public health, or social work. One of the newest degrees is a Doctor of Ministry that is 90 percent online, so students can remain in their places of ministry as they study and immediately apply to their context what they learn in class. The Teaching Parish program allows eligible United Methodist students to serve as pastors in local churches while they are enrolled – they earn a salary as they earn course credit and pastoral experience, plus they are mentored by an experienced United Methodist elder.

Candler’s student body continues to reflect the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 455, reflecting 49 percent women, 35 percent people of color (U.S.), and a median age of 30. Students represent 39 denominations, with half coming from the Methodist family. Eighty-two percent of students are seeking a degree to prepare them as ministry professionals.

Candler has a deep commitment to alleviating student debt and employs a multi-pronged approach to tackle this issue. In 2017-2018, they awarded \$5.3 million in scholarships, with 97 percent of M.Div. students receiving aid and the average scholarship covering 75 percent of tuition. Plus, the comprehensive “Faith & Finance” program teaches money management skills that serve students now and will continue to serve them – and the churches they lead – well into the future.

Half of Candler's faculty are United Methodist and 58 percent come from traditions within the larger Methodist family. This year, Candler welcomed fellow United Methodist Helen Jin Kim to the faculty as Assistant Professor of American Religious History, and sent best wishes along with colleague Mary Lou Greenwood Boice as she retired after 25 years of remarkable service to Candler. Candler draws considerable strength and inspiration from its relationship with The United Methodist Church. The ability to fulfill the mission of educating faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries throughout the world depends upon support, gifts, and prayers. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this vital ministry in the life of the denomination. Visit Candler in person in Atlanta or online at candler.emory.edu to see firsthand how Candler prepares real people to make a real difference in the real world.

Jan Love, Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics

3. DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

Under the leadership of Elaine A. Heath, dean and professor of missional and pastoral theology, Duke Divinity School has continued to work on its strategic planning process. In the academic year 2017-2018, the strategic planning committee was assembled, composed of representatives from the faculty, staff, student body, and Duke Divinity's Board of Visitors. The committee has sought extensive feedback from stakeholders, including alumni, church leaders, and donors as well as their community of faculty, staff, and students; and it is paying close attention to developments within theological education and the cultural changes affecting both church and academy. The committee anticipates presenting a framework document in the spring of 2018 with a strategic plan submitted for approval in November 2018.

This year, Duke Divinity launched several new programs to equip laypeople and to support students. The Neighborhood Seminary, a partnership with the Northern Piedmont District of the Western North Carolina Conference, is a two-year, noncredit training program that began this year with a cohort of 18 people. The cohort participates in four team-taught courses per year led by faculty, staff, and graduate students from Duke Divinity School in partnership with local practitioners and ministries. The cohort also undertakes an intentional, contemplative model of spiritual practice combined with sequenced contextual learning experiences with local practitioners throughout the two-year program. Heidi Miller, Ph.D., directs the Neighborhood Seminary program.

The school also launched a new academic support program to help incoming students learn how to think and write theologically. The Refresher and Intensive for Scholarly Enrichment (RISE) program began with a two-day pre-orientation workshop for new students this August. More than half of the incoming class, 83 students, registered for this self-selecting program that includes lectures, panels, and workshops to help them navigate academic work and succeed at seminary. Academic support continues throughout the year, with Divinity School professors and preceptors, as well as academic support staff, in contact with each other and struggling students to develop plans to help them.

This year, Duke Divinity welcomed students from a range of backgrounds who are called to serve God and the church. In 2017, its total enrollment was 606 students: 369 are enrolled in the M.Div. degree program; 58 in the M.T.S.; 10 in the Th.M.; 46 in the Th.D.; 83 in the D.Min.; 23 in the M.A.C.P.; four in the M.A.C.S.; and 10 who are special students or auditors. Thirty-seven percent of students are United Methodist, with an additional three percent from other Wesleyan traditions, and 46 percent of M.Div. students are United Methodist. Eleven percent of all students are Baptist, eight percent are Anglican or Episcopalian, four percent are Roman Catholic, 10 percent are Presbyterian or Reformed, with the rest from 21 other denominations or faith traditions.

Three new certificates were approved this year. The Certificate in Missional Innovation, which can be earned as part of a Master of Divinity degree, is intended for students interested or involved in innovative forms of ministry. They will receive training in contextual evangelism and church planting with the goal of converting, gathering, and discipling people who are often neglected or unreached by existing church structures. The Certificate in Theology and the Arts, which can be earned alongside the M.Div., M.T.S., or Th.M., aims to help students appreciate and articulate the mutual enrichment of theology and the arts and to create opportunities to involve local churches and communities in the arts. The Certificate in Theology and Health Care is a new fully-accredited residential graduate program that provides robust theological and practical engagement with contemporary practices in medicine and health care. The certificate aims to equip Christian health care practitioners with foundational courses in Christian theology, Scripture, and the practical issues they encounter.

In 2017, the Duke Forward comprehensive campaign concluded, having raised critical endowment and expendable funds to support the people, programs, and activities of the university. Duke Divinity School raised \$114.1 million, 143 percent more than the goal of \$80 million. This support enables the Divinity School to provide scholarships and fellowships to students, build faculty excellence, and launch new programs and research efforts. The school is grateful to God for the generous partnership of many alumni, other individuals, churches, and foundations. These gifts are helping to move Duke Divinity School forward into preparing men and women who will serve their neighbors and lead the church of the future.

Duke Divinity faculty continue to provide exemplary service in the classroom, for the church, and to the wider culture. Just one example is Edgardo Colón-Emeric, assistant professor of Christian theology, who continues the Duke Divinity tradition of Methodist engagement in ecumenical initiatives. As part of the Joint International Commission for Dialogue between the World Methodist Council and the Roman Catholic Church, Colón-Emeric presented to Pope Francis the Spanish translation of the latest bilateral statement. Colón-Emeric has also been actively involved in Methodist churches and seminaries in Latin America, including an effort to train lay pastors in Guatemala that has involved Duke Divinity staff and doctoral students.

A number of efforts and programs at Duke Divinity School this year have sought to further commitment to supporting and learning from students and communities that have been too-often marginalized. The Convocation & Pastors' School featured professors, pastors, and activists who addressed ways that the church can dismantle bias and hate. The Center for Reconciliation had a full slate of programs, including a conversation series on navigating conflict that was open to the public; a pilgrimage to significant

sites in Durham; and participation in reconciliation events in East Africa and Northeast Asia. Thanks to a grant from the United Methodist General Board of Higher Education & Ministry's Young Clergy Initiative, Duke Divinity School received a grant to help develop leadership for the black church within the UMC through mentorships, funded field education placements with experienced black pastors, and attendance at the Convocation for Pastors of Black Churches. Within the school, Dean Heath has met regularly with the leaders of the Black Seminarians Union and a team of faculty and staff to address concerns around implicit bias in grading, training in cross-cultural competency, additional scholarship support for students, and staffing needs to support an increasingly diverse student population.

The school remains deeply grateful for the relationships it has among The United Methodist Church and the annual conference. Dean Heath, a member of the Western North Carolina Conference; the faculty, staff, and students continue to look forward to working with the conference in the task of preparing men and women for Christian ministry. To learn more about Duke Divinity School, please visit the website at www.divinity.duke.edu

Elaine A. Heath, Dean

4. GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Gammon Theological Seminary, located in Atlanta, Ga., is the United Methodist constituent member of the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC), a consortium of historically African American theological schools. Gammon/ITC is a coeducational, professional graduate school of theology. Its faculty personifies vigorous scholarship, rigorous academic discipline, and significant research in the service of the church and other communities in the world. Gammon/ITC is the world's premier resource for black church scholarship and faith-based solutions to the spiritual and socio-economic challenges confronting the African American community and beyond.

Founded in 1883, by the Methodist Episcopal Church, and with assistance from the Freedman's Aid Society, today Gammon Theological Seminary is one of the 13 theological schools of The United Methodist Church. The faculty and administration of Gammon/ITC create an environment in which critical thinking, investigative reflection, decision making, and responsible action are fostered. Gammon/ITC is a member of the Atlanta University Center Complex, the world's largest enterprise of African American higher education. It is also a member of The University Center of Georgia and the Atlanta Theological Association. The school is fully accredited by the Association of Theological Schools and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Gammon/ITC offers the following degree programs: the Master of Divinity, the Master of Arts in Christian Education, and the Doctor of Ministry. Admission is open to qualified men and women of The United Methodist Church.

The support of this annual conference helps Gammon/ITC students carry on a proud tradition. They are taught to think independently and communicate effectively. They are also challenged to become involved in finding solutions to problems that affect the human condition, and to become active in the community beyond this campus. Additionally, graduates of this institution are encouraged to maintain a lifelong desire for intellectual growth, spiritual development, and the acquisition of skills for the practice of ministry.

Gammon/ITC has had a very exciting and busy year living out its mission, which is to recruit, support, and educate pastors and leaders for The United Methodist Church. Gammon Theological Seminary is extremely grateful to this annual conference for its support of theological education, and for its commitment to ensuring that God's church will be served by persons who are called and trained to lead forward.

Ken J. Walden, President-Dean
653 Beckwith Street SW, Atlanta, GA 30314
404.581.0300. www.gammon-itc.org

5. METHODIST THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL IN OHIO

MTSO entered into a mutually beneficial partnership with Healthy Congregations, an interfaith organization that equips leaders for thinking more clearly about families, relationships, and faith communities. The MTSO campus now hosts Healthy Congregations' staff and offices, as well as many of its events. The relationship affords MTSO's students, faculty, and staff the opportunity to participate in Healthy Congregations events at reduced cost.

The Ohio State University Initiative for Food and AgriCultural Transformation (InFACT) awarded MTSO a \$35,000 grant, which will help fund the development and testing of a new food hub model in Franklinton, a low-income Columbus community. This work brings together residents of Franklinton, the Franklinton Farms urban gardens, and faculty, staff, and students from Ohio State and MTSO, including the staff of MTSO's Seminary Hill Farm. To increase Franklinton residents' access to affordable, local food, the project will use an online food ordering interface – a departure from the traditional brick-and-mortar model of food hubs.

The year provided MTSO with two major opportunities to contribute to the craft of preaching. Women from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds gathered in September for Chloe's Circle, presented by MTSO's Theological Commons and WomanPreach! Inc., an organization founded by MTSO Interim Academic Dean Valerie Bridgeman to bring preachers into full prophetic voice. Participants explored the ways preachers can share truth in the face of disparity and injustice. In February, the Schooler Institute on Preaching featured lectures and preaching by Wil Gafney, associate professor of Hebrew Bible at Brite Divinity School and author of "Womanist Midrash: A Reintroduction to Women of the Torah and of the Throne."

Cross-cultural immersion is a key part of MTSO students' preparation for ministry. Every Master of Divinity student at MTSO takes a cross-cultural immersion trip before graduating. In January, a group of students and faculty visited South Africa for 18 days. Among the stops was Soweto's Regina Mundi Catholic Church, which was central to the anti-Apartheid movement.

Danny Russell, Director of Communications

6. PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

Perkins celebrates its vital connections with the Western North Carolina Conference:

- One (1) student affiliated with the Western North Carolina Conference is enrolled at Perkins, studying in the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) program.
- One (1) Perkins student has been placed as an intern within the Western North Carolina Conference this year.
- In 2017, Perkins launched the new Perkins Scholars program, including 10 outstanding students from across the United States. These scholars include Anna Bundy from the Western North Carolina Conference.

Enrollment at Perkins for the 2017-2018 academic year totals 312 students, including 31 enrolled in the Ph.D. program. Fall 2017 statistics reflect the following: 59 percent of its entire student population are United Methodist and more than 45 percent are ethnic minority students. Master's degree programs comprise approximately 43 percent male and 57 percent female students. The D.Min. program includes students from southern Asia, taking classes in Dallas.

In 2017, Dr. Craig C. Hill completed his first year as Dean and Professor of New Testament at Perkins School of Theology. Under his leadership, a number of new initiatives have been launched, including new forms of outreach to churches and church leaders, deeper and more fruitful relationships with feeder colleges, new curricular and co-curricular initiatives, a staff council, the revamping of the D.Min. and Houston-Galveston Programs, additional staffing in critical areas, increased giving, additional financial aid, new uses of technology, and a program for United Methodists seeking ordination.

From the outset, Dean Hill has traveled throughout the South Central Jurisdiction to meet with clergy, laity, bishops, cabinets, and other leaders to strengthen partnerships and to share his vision for Perkins as "an academy for the whole church in the whole world." During 2017, several bishops – with their cabinets – held meetings and retreats on the Perkins campus.

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

- Fall 2017 admissions increased by a record 42.8 percent over the previous year with an incoming class of 80 students (excluding new D.Min. and Ph.D. students).
- Two new degree concentrations – "Church Management" and "Social Innovation and Nonprofit Engagement" – were launched in fall 2017 in partnership with SMU's Cox School of Business and Meadows School of the Arts. Available to students pursuing the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) and Master of Arts in Ministry (M.A.M.) degrees, these unique concentrations are designed to strengthen future clergy in the area of church management and to equip those pursuing nontraditional forms of ministry that encourage social innovation.
- Current-use giving to Perkins increased 14 percent over 2016, making funds available to Dean Hill for immediate needs.
- Dr. Isabel Docampo, associate director of the Perkins Intern Program and professor of Supervised Ministry since 1997, was named director of the Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity and Religions, effective June 1. In Fall 2017, Dr. Docampo ushered in the first cohort of eight students (from Brazil, Venezuela, Argentina, Puerto Rico, Peru, Chile, Cuba, and Mexico, serving in the U.S. or in their home countries) in Perkins' new Spanish-language Master of Theology degree program – the only one of its kind offered by a United Methodist School of Theology. Funding for the students is part of a three-year, \$500,000 grant made to the Center by The Henry Luce Foundation's Theology program.
- Tracy Anne Allred was named to the new position of Assistant Dean of Student Life and Director of Community Engagement effective June 1. Key areas of responsibility include implementing plans for the nurturing of community life at Perkins for students, faculty, and staff, serving as liaison to the newly-formed Perkins Staff Council, and developing connections with a wide range of creative ministries in the North Texas and Houston-Galveston areas.
- The Rev. Dr. Margot Perez-Greene, a higher-education professional with more than 20 years of administrative experience, was appointed Associate Dean for Enrollment Management effective July 1. A 2011 M.Div. graduate of Perkins School of Theology, she is an ordained elder in the Rio Texas Annual Conference. Dr. Perez-Greene earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Edwards University, a Master of Arts degree from Arizona State University, and the Ph.D. degree in Educational Administration from The University of Texas at Austin. In this new role, she is responsible for crafting a vision for Perkins' recruitment and admissions strategies, identifying and reaching out to prospective students for the school's masters' and doctoral degrees. Additionally, she leads a staff responsible for all phases of recruitment, retention, and financial aid, as well as cultivating relationships with key ordained and lay church leaders to assist those called to ministry through the admissions process.
- A new scholarship program geared toward attracting outstanding Master of Divinity students was launched in 2017. The first 10 Perkins Scholars, each of whom received a three-year scholarship commitment, were named for the 2017-18 academic year. A total goal of \$630,000 in funding will provide for an anticipated 10 additional scholarships for fall 2018 and another 10 for the fall 2019. When the program is fully operational there will be 30 Perkins Scholars in the student body. Combined with additional financial aid, this program provides nearly full scholarships for these highly skilled servant leaders.
- The Fall 2017 Convocation, which drew record crowds of clergy, laity, and prospective students to the SMU campus, Nov. 13-14, featured bestselling author Anne Lamott, the Rev. Dr. Amos Yong, professor of theology and mission and the director of the Center for Missiological Research at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, and noted biblical scholar the Rev. Dr. N.T. Wright, a professor of New Testament and early Christianity at the University of St. Andrews in Fife, Scotland.
- A new curriculum was adopted for Fall 2018, by the SMU Board of Trustees in December, for the Perkins Doctor of Ministry

(D.Min.) degree program. The new curriculum, under the direction of program director Dr. Carlos Cardoza-Orlandi, includes a 30-hour graduation requirement; degree completion in three years; intensive peer group interaction and learning; and concentrations in Vocational Director, Organizational Leadership, and Community Building.

- In an effort to deepen relationships between Perkins and undergraduate college and universities, new partnerships in the form of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) have been launched in 2017-2018. Formal agreements have been signed with historically United Methodist institutions, including Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana; Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas; McMurry University in Abilene, Texas; Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas; and Presbyterian-related Austin College in Sherman, Texas (with more pending at the time of this writing). These MOUs establish a preferred pathway for graduates of the institutions interested in pursuing ministerial vocations at the graduate level, granting preferred consideration, and early acceptance to Perkins School of Theology for students pursuing ministerial vocations. The agreement also states that the undergraduate institutions and Perkins will encourage new opportunities for future cooperation.
- Two Perkins alumni are enrolled in the DTM (Diploma in Theology for Ministry) at Wesley House, Cambridge – a member institution of the Cambridge (UK) University Theological Federation – as part of a new partnership between Perkins and Wesley House. The students participating in the nine-month program, which integrates academic study with a focus on pastoral ministry, are part of an international cohort.
- Dr. C. Michael Hawn, University Distinguished Professor of Church Music and director of the Sacred Music and Doctor of Pastoral Music (D.P.M.) programs at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, retired from full-time teaching in 2017, after 25 years on the SMU faculty. Dr. Hawn continues to administer and teach in the (D.P.M.) program.
- In 2017, SMU launched a three-year current-use giving campaign called *Pony Power*, with a goal of raising \$150 million over three years for the university in current-use giving. The university's goal for 2017-2018 is \$45 million. Perkins' goal for this fiscal year, which ends May 31, 2018, is \$2.8 million. Perkins donors are asked to consider making a three-year pledge to a current-use project at Perkins. The areas of greatest need are 1.) the SMU Fund for Perkins, which is used by Dean Hill at his discretion, and 2.) Perkins student financial aid.

Perkins School of Theology is committed to those *called to serve* so that they might be *empowered to lead*. The school acknowledges its many colleagues, friends, and alumni/ae across the connection for their generous support, including referrals of prospective students, as it continues its vital mission of preparing women and men for faithful leadership in Christian ministry.

Craig C. Hill, Dean and Professor of New Testament

7. UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

“Now to Him who by the power of God at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine...” – *Ephesians 3:20*

United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, celebrated a 77 percent increase in new students for the fall of 2017. While 71 new students enrolled in September 2016, 126 new students enrolled in September 2017. The addition was made possible by increasing student aid opportunities and empowering faculty members, trustees, and administrators to personally recommend candidates for a \$5,000 grant toward tuition. United experienced God's provision, trusting what God said through St. Paul: “[God] is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine” (Ephesians 3:20).

Many of the seminary's new students are current pastors who want to become more effective leaders for the church through a Doctor of Ministry degree. United's Doctor of Ministry program has 170 students enrolled this year from 29 states, two non-U.S. countries, and 27 Christian denominations. The average number of doctoral students in all Association of Theological Schools (ATS) is 60 students, making United one of the largest Doctor of Ministry programs among ATS member schools.

The Doctor of Ministry program provides academic rigor, peer group support, spiritual growth, and practical application. Pastors identify a need within the community and, with the support of a peer group, mentor, and United faculty, they develop a model of ministry that will resolve the challenge in the congregations or communities.

The Rev. Rudy Rasmus, pastor of the 9,000-member St. John's United Methodist Church in downtown Houston is a current doctoral student, who says he has been both challenged and supported in the D.Min. program.

“The program is rigorous,” the Rev. Rasmus says. “It is contextual, it is intentional, and the professors and staff are at the top of the form.”

United also has 212 students enrolled in the Master of Divinity degree program who usually seek to serve as pastors in local congregations. Eighty-eight percent of entering students are ordained or seeking ordination to serve a local congregations, compared to 56 percent in other ATS member schools.

United also provides a two-year Master of Arts in Christian Ministries degree, which many persons serving as Directors of Christian Education or other local church positions pursue.

United provides flexible course options: 90 percent of students take at least one course online, and courses are also available as traditional on-campus courses, week-long on-campus intensive classes and virtual courses that meet simultaneously on campus and in the cloud via webcast.

Persons who are interested in pursuing further seminary education may contact United's Office of Admissions at 800-322-5817 or admissions@united.edu.

Kent Millard, President

8. WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Wesley Theological Seminary, located in Washington, D.C., continues to equip the next generation of Christian leadership for the church and the world. As a United Methodist seminary, it forms students to lead innovative ministries while remaining grounded in biblical and theological traditions.

Whether you are clergy or laity, an alumnus or a prospective student, looking for a master's degree, doctoral work, continuing education, or simply deeper biblical knowledge, Wesley wants to support you in your current and future call to ministry. Here are a few ways Wesley can help you grow in faith, wisdom, and ability:

Expand your leadership skills

Wesley's internationally respected Lewis Center for Church Leadership is a key resource for cutting-edge church research and disciple-growing strategies for the local church. Under the directorship of the Rev. Dr. F. Douglas Powe, Jr., the Lewis Center's *Leading Ideas* e-newsletter, reaching almost 20,000 people in ministry each week, has launched its new podcast: *Leading Ideas Talk*. Sign up or listen at www.churchleadership.com/.

The Institute for Community Engagement at Wesley continues its innovative online Health Minister Certificate Program from Heal the Sick to prepare congregations for public health work in their parishes. Some scholarships are available for this program. Contact Tom Pruski at tpruski@wesleyseminary.edu for more information or to register for future certificate classes.

Wesley also offers opportunities for individual study without pursuing a degree. The Certificate in Faith and Public Life explores the foundations of public theology, religious freedom, and civil discourse through graduate courses. For more information, visit www.wesleyseminary.edu/fpli.

A Certificate in Wesleyan Studies is available online via the Wesley Theological Seminary Lay Academy. Topics include United Methodist identity, early church history, Christian ethics, interfaith relations, and the intersection of faith and science. The courses can also be taken for personal education and enrichment. More information can be found at www.beadisciple.com/wesley/.

Take your ministry to the next level

Wesley continues to be a leader in Doctor of Ministry programs, offering practical and spiritually-renewing tracks in theological education. Wesley announces an exciting new 2019 Doctor of Ministry track, in partnership with Wesley House in Cambridge, UK: "Winds of the Spirit and Ministries for a Changing World." Other 2019 tracks will include Church Excellence, Spirituality and Story, a 13th Global Asian Church track, and Public Engagement: "Healing Communal Brokenness and Despair." Find out more or apply at www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/.

Discover exciting pathways to seminary studies

Wesley understands the struggle of responsibly accepting your call while being concerned about balancing life, family, ministry, and student debt. It is here to help make responding to that call possible. Through its partnership with Shenandoah University and its new 3+3 Fast Track B.A./M.Div. program, students enter ministry with less debt after earning their degree in six years. Learn more at www.wesleyseminary.edu/3+3degrees.

Wesley's Master of Divinity degree can now be completed via online, weekend, short-term intensive, and weeknight courses in five years. This format is designed to be more accessible to those with busy ministry, work, and/or family commitments throughout the region. Check out upcoming flexible course offerings for Summer and Fall 2018: www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/try-a-class-3/.

The new African American Church Studies Master of Divinity specialization gives contextual preparation for the unique opportunities and challenges our future leaders may encounter in African American churches, while the Public Theology specialization allows master's degree students to gain skills for community leadership and advocacy. Wesley continues to offer a 36-hour Master of Arts and a 60-hour Master of Theological Studies to equip those called to ordained deacon ministries or to other ministries beyond the pulpit.

Contact Wesley at 202-885-8659 or admissions@wesleyseminary.edu about how Wesley's degree programs can equip you for your next step in ministry.

Enrich your congregational outreach and explore new dimensions of ministry

Through the Wesley Innovation Hub, Wesley is working with 20 local congregations to design innovative ministries to enrich the religious lives of young adults. Follow the work and connect with resources at www.wesleyseminary.edu/wesley-innovation-hub/. *The Wesley Innovation Hub is made possible by a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment.*

In a time of polarization, the Center for Public Theology, under the leadership of Distinguished Professor of Public Theology Mike McCurry, continues to equip pastors, seminarians, people of faith, and the media to create spaces for civil dialogue at the intersection of religion and politics. The Center also provides events, such as the Wesleyan Political Theology Project, to help faith leaders lead prophetic, open dialogue in their communities. For more information, visit www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/.

The Luce Center for Arts and Religion remains the only seminary-based program uniting arts and theology. The Luce Center offers regular classes and workshops with visiting artists. For information on past and upcoming opportunities visit www.luceartsandreligion.org.

Stay connected

Ready to join in Wesley's mission? Wesley provides more than \$2 million dollars annually in scholarships to its students thanks to the consistent support of graduates, congregations, and friends of the seminary. Find out more about how you can be part of the future of Wesley at www.wesleyseminary.edu/support/.

Wesley invites you to stay in touch through the year and learn more of the latest developments by signing up for its monthly electronic newsletter, *eCalling*, at www.wesleyseminary.edu/ecalling.

Wesley looks forward to continuing to serve you and your community as we seek to live into God's dream together. Blessings to you for a fruitful and faithful Annual Conference.

David McAllister-Wilson, President
www.wesleyseminary.edu

9. AFRICA UNIVERSITY

Africa University is deeply thankful to the members of the Western North Carolina Conference for investing in the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment at 88.14 percent in 2017. Thank you, Western NC Conference, for being supportive and faithful to this ministry. The generosity of the Western NC Conference helped the Southeastern Jurisdiction to achieve an overall investment of 98.15 percent in the AUF apportionment.

Institutional Update:

- Currently, Africa University hosts a stable, focused, and vibrant campus community of 1,417 students, faculty, and staff from 31 African nations. An additional 392 students are pursuing degree programs on a part-time basis.
- Africa University's annual operating budget of just under \$10.5 million prioritizes student access and retention, with more than \$2.2 million in scholarships and financial aid awards disbursed in 2017.
- Amidst a transition in the governance of Zimbabwe, lectures, research, and outreach activities at Africa University continued uninterrupted.
- A new academic structure and the realignment of programs is encouraging innovation and enhancing Africa University's relevance to The United Methodist Church and to sub-Saharan Africa. The recently-launched Institute of Theology and Religious Studies offers multi-disciplinary training and leadership formation opportunities for both clergy and laity.
- Researchers at Africa University are providing critical data on mosquitos and regional malaria control programs to aid Africa's efforts to eradicate malaria and other insect-borne diseases.
- Through teaching and research, Africa University is making trailblazing regional contributions in migrant and refugee protection, child rights, and the harnessing of intellectual property for development.
- The first 25 years of AU's ministry have produced more than 8,000 graduates who are leading efforts to make disciples, minister to the poor, improve global health, and better the quality of life in communities across sub-Saharan Africa.

United Methodist congregations in the United States established a new giving record for the AUF in 2017. They invested 96.77 percent of their budget commitment to the AUF – the highest percentage ever invested by United Methodists in one of the seven general church funds. Africa University ended 2017 with its highest level of support from The United Methodist Church to date. A record number of annual conferences – 35 out of 56 – achieved or exceeded their 100 percent investment in the AUF.

As Africa University embraces emerging opportunities for service and impact within and beyond the church in Africa, the support of the Western North Carolina Conference is crucial. Western North Carolina United Methodists are urged to continue praying for Africa University. It is the university's prayer that the members of the Western North Carolina Conference will work diligently to grow their annual support for AU's efforts to nurture principled and effective global leaders.

The university community thanks the Western NC Conference for its graciousness and appeals to the congregations of the Western NC Conference to continue investing in this ministry, because every gift matters. On June 9, 2018, five young professionals from the Democratic Republic of Congo will be awarded degrees in business and health sciences from Africa University because the Western North Carolina chose to endow scholarships in perpetuity as part of its global legacy. Truly, the Western NC Conference is making its commitment to "Follow Jesus. Make Disciples. Transform the World" real and far-reaching, through Africa University.

Thank you, Western North Carolina Conference, for your foundational role in the Africa University story. Thank you for being a part of an incredible year of blessings. Thank you for affirming the power of faithfully sowing, standing, and working together as you journey in ministry with Africa University. May God bless and keep you always in an abundance of grace and mercy.

James H. Salley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement
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