

AGENCIES OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE (Listed alphabetically by area of accountability)

Archives and History

This past year has been eventful for the Commission on Archives and History. Starting on a low point, the commission met on the Thursday of Annual Conference in 2018 and approved a resolution for the delisting of Pitcher United Methodist Church as a United Methodist historic site because current usage of the former church no longer represents a connection to the history of Methodism in Marion County. This action was not taken lightly but was necessitated by unusual circumstances. The resolution was approved by Annual Conference and the site's delisting has been noted on the General Commission on Archives and History's Web site.

On a happy Annual Conference note, at the Board of Pensions Retirees luncheon, the chair had the honor of presenting Lawrence F. Sherwood with the Ministry of Memory Award given by the Historical Society of The United Methodist Church. Sherwood is the longest serving member of the West Virginia Annual Conference. A longtime member of the West Virginia United Methodist Historical Society, he was a society trustee in the early 1950s when Rehoboth was designated a Methodist shrine.

In 2018, the commission authorized a digitization project at the Methodist Archives, housed at West Virginia Wesleyan College, that will continue for several years and will benefit scholars and researchers. In the first phase, the Methodist Episcopal journals of the Western Virginia/West Virginia Annual Conference from 1848 to 1939 were digitized. At present, two people are working with the digital files to prepare them for upload to *Pages in Time* (the Wesleyan digital archives), a process that may be completed by Annual Conference.

Due to renovations to the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Library at West Virginia Wesleyan, the Methodist Archives was relocated to another building in December 2018. As a result, the collections will be unavailable to researchers until mid-September 2019. We have been assured that Wesleyan is committed to the preservation and stewardship of the collections and look forward to their return to the library building in the Fall. Questions about the Methodist Archives and proposed donations should be addressed to Brett Miller, Director of Library Services and Archivist, Annie Merner Pfeiffer Library, 59 College Avenue, Buckhannon, WV 26201.

Early in the summer of 2018, the commission's Western District representative learned that the former Ebenezer United Methodist Church building in Huntington, which had closed and been sold, still contained files and other items belonging to the church. Several boxes of church records were retrieved and are now safely housed at the Methodist Archives. In the aftermath of this near loss, the commission redoubled its efforts to communicate the mandate that the records of closed churches be sent to the Methodist Archives. The chair spoke about closed church records at a cabinet meeting in December and provided district superintendents with information on records that should be forwarded to the Archives.

At the conference's heritage landmark Rehoboth, several vacancies in the Rehoboth board were filled and a new chair elected after a vacancy of nearly two years. New signage at the entrance has replaced the old, worn sign that previously stood along the road. A lovely T-shirt was created as a fundraiser for the amphitheater project, and plans are in the works for painting the exterior of the museum.

The commission recognized three church anniversaries in 2018 with the presentation of certificates to Avery UMC in Morgantown and Monumental UMC in Grant Town for 175 years of ministry and to Pisgah UMC in Palestine for 200 years of ministry.

On January 26 and 27, 2019, the Commission on Archives and History presented its first church historian training sessions in the Potomac Highlands and Southern districts. Led by two commission members, each session looked at permanent church records, appropriate archival practices, and capturing and celebrating church history. The commission hopes to build on the success of these sessions by scheduling dates in other districts.

Mary Edith Johnson, Chairperson
Commission on Archives and History



Angela Jones plays the flute during Annual Conference worship.

Rev. Dr. Ken Krimmel
Assistant to the Bishop

As the Assistant to the Bishop for Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball, I count it a privilege to serve our Annual Conference in this capacity. As I assist our Bishop, my work is primarily in four areas: correspondence; research; ethnic ministries; and ecumenical relations. It is my joy to walk alongside Rev. Dr. Felica Wooten Williams, chairperson of our Conference Commission on Religion and Race; Dr. Elle High, chairperson of our Committee on Native American Ministries; Angela Jones, Ethnic Local Church Concerns Coordinator; and Rev. Jonathan Moon, Chairperson of Christian Unity and Inter-religious Concerns.

On September 10-12, 2018, United Methodists were well represented at the Annual LARCUM (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic, United Methodist) Conference, held at Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston. The theme of the Conference was “Vows that Matter: Baptism, Confirmation, and Ordination.” Dr. Heather Murray Elkins of Drew University Theological School and an Elder in our Annual Conference was our Theologian, representing the United Methodist perspective. As a member of the planning committee, I am actively involved in the preparation for our 2019 Conference, which will again be held at Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston. The theme for the 2019 Conference is “Christianity and Civil Government: History, Theology, and Implications.” The dates for the Conference are September 9-11, 2019. Please mark your calendar now, and plan to attend the event as part of your continuing formation and ecumenical involvement.

It was a rewarding experience to have participated in the West Virginia Council of Churches Annual Retreat, held at the Bishop Hodges Retreat Center in Huttonsville, WV, September 23-24, 2018. This was a meaningful time of fellowship and conversation together with representatives of the ecumenical community who participate in the Council of Churches. I am faithful also in my attendance at the regular Board of Directors meetings of the Council of Churches, of which, our very own Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball is now serving as the chairperson.

CORR (Commission of Religion and Race) met in the Fall of 2018 at Bluewell United Methodist Church, and held a Conference Call in January 2019. CORR continues to explore ways to lift up Inter-cultural competency in the Conference. Rev. Dr. Felica Wooten Williams conducted three workshops on Implicit Bias this year, and CORR is in the process of developing Inter-cultural competency training for the youth leaders of the Annual Conference. The committee is also interested in walking alongside any churches in the Annual Conference that wish to be involved in cross-racial and cross-cultural ministries in their local church.

CONAM (Committee on Native American Ministries) is planning a Native American Awareness Day on the afternoon of June 1, 2019, at Old Rehoboth, and a Native American Awareness Sunday Celebration at Oak Hill United Methodist Church on June 2, 2019 at 11:00 AM. All are invited to attend and learn more about our Native American heritage in West Virginia.

Our Conference ELCC (Ethnic Local Church Concerns Committee) has assisted local churches during the year with grants, and also helped sponsor and participate in the

“Unite to End Racism” event in Washington, D.C. in April of 2018. As participants, we joined in the “Walk” in the morning, Rally in the afternoon, and were hosted by a downtown local church for dinner. Grants in very limited amounts are available for ethnic local churches in the Annual Conference for capital improvements through the ELCC budget.

A Bishop’s Summit on Diversity and Inclusion is being planned for the winter/spring of 2020. As the Bishop firms up the leadership and plans for the Summit, information will be made available. The Summit, as well as the work of Conference teams, boards, agencies and leadership will continue to address the relevant aspects of the items identified in the NEJ Call to Action. We continue conversations and action around addressing and working toward the elimination of racism, finding better ways to support and prepare leadership for cross-racial and cross-cultural ministries, and educating persons around how to work with the theological diversity that exists in our conference in healthy ways.

It was a privilege for me to sit down with the head of our General Conference Delegation, Judith Kenaston, for a conversation about the Special 2019 General Conference, and to have our conversation recorded on video by Deborah Coble, Conference Communications Director. It was also a privilege to have been able to accompany our delegation in Saint Louis and to spend time each morning lifting them in prayer. Although many people left Saint Louis feeling hurt and concerned about the division within our United Methodist Church, our delegation worked well together as a team, and continue to so in the days, weeks, and months following the Special 2019 General Conference.

Finally, I wish to thank Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball for giving me the opportunity to serve our Annual Conference as her Assistant to the Bishop. Also, being part of the network of Assistants to Bishops is a joy and privilege for me. Our Annual Meeting this year was held at Candler School of Theology, in Atlanta, GA, October 25-28, 2018, and it was a blessing to participate in the work of that group.

Cabinet Report

Rev. Dr. Joseph S. Kenaston
Dean of the Cabinet

The Cabinet shares with the clergy and laity throughout the Annual Conference in seeking to “discover, develop, and deploy passionate spiritual leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” Whether we are in a local church, a community ministry, on a district leadership team, or a part of the Annual Conference session, we are called to identify, nurture, and empower disciples who make disciples that remake the world in a way that reflects God’s grace, love, mercy, compassion, and justice.

This year there has been a transition in the make-up of the Extended Cabinet. For the first time, at least in my memory, we have a woman and a lay person providing leadership as the Directors of Connectional Ministry. Rev. Dr. Bonnie MacDonald is the Director of Leadership Formation and Ministry Staff and Mr. Ken Willard is the Director of Discipleship, Leadership, and Congregational Vitality. They also share the responsibilities of the Director of Connectional Ministry. We are blessed to have them leading our conference and being

a part of the Extended Cabinet. The change reflects a downsizing of the conference staff and an emphasis of having our Elders serving local congregations. Two elders transitioned from the Conference Staff, Amy Shanholtzer moved to the Cabinet and Ken Krimmel was appointed to Oak Hill, and they were replaced by the hiring of Ken Willard and shifting some of Bonnie's responsibilities.

Bonnie MacDonald and Ken Willard have helped the Cabinet broaden its conversation, deepen our discernment, and expand our vision of ministry. Their presence helps keep all the moving parts of the Annual Conference in alignment which results in more effective, efficient, and fruitful ministries. We are aiming to continue to keep the Cabinet, Bishop's Lead Team, District Lead Teams, Conference staff, and conference ministries pulling together to fulfill our mission of "discovering, developing, and deploying passionate spiritual leaders."

The Cabinet has expanded our conversations about churches, charges, and communities to include the best and most relevant data and insights as possible. In addition to maintaining and frequently updating profiles on churches, we are now developing data that reflects trends in the churches and communities of the Annual Conference. We are in the process of collecting, analyzing, and reviewing data from our churches over the past 30 years and developing community profiles using MissionInsite, Census information, and descriptions of unique community contexts, as well as the significant challenges and opportunities that arise as our churches and communities intersect. The information will help us be more effective as mission strategists, conference superintendents, supervisors, and pastors. The conversations that we are having will enable us to make better appointments, too. In an effort to encourage the church to see beyond the four walls of the building, we ask Staff-Parish Relations Teams what gifts and leadership abilities does the local community need in a new pastor.

Our clergy shortage has not improved and this continues to provide some challenges and opportunities. We are seeking to use the "3 R's" in the short term: recruit, realign, and reduce the number of full-time appointments. If you are watching the appointment announcements you will notice that we are using all three. The challenge also extends into the part-time appointments, too. There are a couple of hopeful signs that indicate a change may be evolving. As we focus on discovering and developing passionate spiritual leaders we are helping people hear the call of God to be ministers in their vocations and lives as laypersons as well as some hearing the call to take steps into a different form of ministry. We have a goal of 100 persons to either take the Certified Lay Ministry Training or begin candidacy for licensing or ordination this year. We currently have 35 people in seminary. Although most are already serving in the WV Conference, this is the largest number of seminarians in a long-time!

The Way Forward and the Special Session of the General Conference have been at the forefront of the Conference, District, and Cabinet's consciousness over the past couple of years. I do not know of any Annual Conference that did more in preparation for the Special Session. We celebrate Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball's leadership in our conference and across the connection. A year ago the Bishop met with laity and clergy in regional gatherings around the conference. At the 2018 Annual Conference session, we had a presentation from

representatives of the Commission on the Way Forward and Circles of Grace conversations. The WV delegation to the Special Session of the General Conference held nine listening sessions, one in every District, in the Fall of 2018. The Bishop made another circuit of the Annual Conference as she had nine clergy meetings, again, one in every District. After the first of the year, the Bishop had five regional gatherings with the laity. At all the events, whether led by the Bishop or delegation, information was shared about the Way Forward and General Conference. In addition, many handouts and information booklets were distributed. The Bishop did a series of videos that were placed on our website and were distributed globally. The head of our delegation, Judi Kenaston, and Ken Krimmel, Assistant to the Bishop and pastor of Oak Hill, did a video describing the processes that would be used in the upcoming General Conference. Our communications team used email, the website, videos, and print media to keep our pastors, laity, and churches informed. Every District had at least a couple of clergy meetings to encourage our spiritual leaders.

General Conference concluded on February 26th. During the Special Session there were daily updates from the delegation and daily prayers from the Bishop. At the conclusion of the General Conference, a pastoral letter was sent from the Bishop and a summary of what happened, what changed, what did not change, and how we move forward. The Bishop has held two clergy meetings and shared in an open forum at Covenant Council. The Bishop, at the time of this writing, is beginning a tour of the conference and holding eight sessions reporting the actions of General Conference and implications for our Conference. I am proud of the way our Bishop, Cabinet, Conference staff, delegation, pastors, and lay leaders have sought to stay informed and prayed throughout the process. I invite you to continue to be in prayer. The Superintendents are responding pastorally to the clergy and churches who are deeply troubled by the decisions of the General Conference.

Our Cabinet meetings are marked by prayer and joyful fellowship. Our sessions have the rhythm of worship, study, spiritual formation, Christian conversation, prayer, and laughter. We hold each other in prayer and seek God's guidance in all that we do. This conference year we are in the process of visiting all our conference mission sites. Consequently, our Mission Passports are nearly full! In addition, we have a spirited Cornhole tournament right before Annual Conference! This year our transitions are affected by retirements and a reassignment. Jim Berner is retiring as Conference Treasurer and Frank Shomo is retiring as the Midland South Superintendent. We celebrate their ministry on the Cabinet and in the Annual Conference. We invite you to hold them in your prayers as they make these transitions. In addition, we are excited to welcome as a new conference superintendent, Loretta Isaiah, who will be assigned to the Little Kanawha District. In addition, Joe Hill continues his appointment as a conference superintendent but will be assigned to the Midland South District. Loretta has already begun attending Cabinet meetings. We look forward to the time when she will join the work of superintending on a full-time basis.

The 2018-19 conference year has been marked by joys, challenges, opportunities, and transitions. However, we have seen the face of God throughout the year. In the final words of our founder, Rev. John Wesley, "the best of all, God is with us." We move forward into the next year with the confidence that God will continue to lead us.

Christian Unity and Interreligious Relations

Greetings sisters and brothers in Christ!

The Christian Unity Board this past year has continued to focus the majority of our funds and our energy into the West Virginia Council of Churches where the UMC along with 14 other Christian denominations try to work together impacting the region with the love of God. Below you will find a section of the WVCC Annual Report of the incredible ministry that has taken place. Please continue to hold the Christian Unity Board in your prayers as in the next year we seek to embrace our work in interreligious relations.

Thanks to your support, the West Virginia Council of Churches has continued in ministry to the people of West Virginia through our various program units, including Disaster Response, Faith and Order, Family Concerns (Substance Use Disorder Initiative), Government Concerns/Peace with Justice, and Prison Ministry/Corrections.

- We engage eleven VISTA members in Boone, Cabell, Doddridge, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell, and Ohio Counties. Of those eleven VISTA's, we have one VISTA member working on recording the stories of those in recovery and one VISTA working on Veterans' issues.
- Our VISTA's have been working on developing resources, helping with drug take-back days, setting up Heroin(e) screenings followed by discussion sessions, organizing Naxolone trainings, and starting recovery groups.
- We provide 239 persons with Families Motivating Recovery training with new Families Motivating Recovery groups being established in Charleston, Fairmont, Hinton, Madison, Princeton, and Wellsburg.
- We provide 134 persons with Motivational Interviewing training.
- We provide Recovery Coaching for 99 persons.
- We held a second West Virginia Council of Churches Substance Use Disorder conference with 143 persons in attendance.

Our 2018 Day of Hope: A Celebration of Prevention and Recovery brochures focused on prevention and went out to approximately 2,460 congregations in West Virginia. Day of Hope Celebrations were held in Boone County, Charleston, Clarksburg, Huntington, and Wheeling.

The Council's Community Re-entry Councils for ex-offenders initiative continues to expand. In addition to Kanawha, Cabell, Raleigh, and Grant counties, we now have Community Re-entry Councils in Harrison and Wood counties with plans to establish Community Re-entry Councils in Berkeley, Mercer, and Ohio counties in 2019.

The West Virginia Council of Churches is nearing completion of phase two of our generator project, where we placed generators in food pantries in counties with high rates of disaster. To date, the West Virginia Council of Churches and our partners have placed generators with food pantries in 17 counties, which is 29% of all West Virginia counties.

Peace in Christ,
Rev. Jonathan Moon, Chairperson

Clergy Support

We are seeking to find new and creative ways to better serve the clergy of our Annual Conference and their families. So to that end this year we are offering the following to clergy:

Clergy Grants Available! Your Clergy Support team is once again offering a limited number of \$200 grants for groups of four or more pastors who would like to organize an event, outing or gathering of clergy that focuses on spiritual, physical and/or collegial wellness. Our hope is that these groups of clergy use these funds to find creative ways to focus on wellness and subsequently share this with other clergy in our Annual Conference. We have paid for overnight retreats, supplies for a fitness gathering and a road trip to a United Methodist archive. What would you and some fellow clergy like to do? Let us know by September 1, so that we can meet to review your request and send you a check. It is that simple! Send requests or questions to: jmccune301@aol.com

Please look at the “Guidelines for Counseling Funds” which follow this report. We want to remind clergy that they are entitled to funding up to \$700 annually per family for expenses related to counseling services. We want to do anything we can to be of assistance, so please do not hesitate to let us know if you have questions.

We want to remind clergy to take a Sabbath day every week and local churches to make sure they do! We also want to remind clergy and families to take their entitled vacations. These are such simple suggestions, but unless we make them a part of our calendar, they often do not happen. We also encourage retired clergy, as they are able and willing, to offer their support and assistance toward this endeavor. Finally, we hope that clergy watch over one another in love so that in our caregiving and community we will all be able to live fuller and healthier lives complemented with rest and renewal!

Jim McCune, Chairperson



GUIDELINES FOR COUNSELING FUNDS
DISPERSED BY COMMITTEE ON CLERGY
SUPPORT AND PASTORAL CARE

1. Who is eligible?
 - a. Clergy of the West Virginia Annual Conference
(For these guidelines, clergy is defined as (1) Elders, (2) Deacons, and (3) Licensed Local Pastors serving an appointment within the conference)
 - b. Immediate family members of clergy *(spouse and dependent children)*
 - c. Divorced or widowed spouses of clergy for a period of two years after the death or divorce

2. What are the qualifications of the provider?

People licensed by the state to provide professional counseling. Must be a State Licensed Psychologist, State Licensed Psychiatrist, State Licensed Professional Counselor or State Licensed Social Worker. *Temporary licenses are not recognized.*

3. How much is available per family?

\$700 per calendar year

4. What is the procedure for obtaining the funds?

The provider bills the clergy person's insurance and sends a copy to James McCune. He then vouchers the amount not paid by insurance to be paid by the Committee on Clergy Support and Pastoral Care. This amount is limited to \$700 for the entire family per calendar year. James McCune may be reached at jmccune301@aol.com or 304-342-7531.

Conflict Transformation

The Conflict Transformation Team works under the supervision of the episcopal leadership for the WV Annual Conference.

In the next several months the Team will not only be one that meets with conflicted congregations over certain matters, but will create an additional component, proactive in nature. This second group will be trained and empowered to teach congregations the process of Listening Circles as we have been using for the past annual conference sessions. Over 100 laity and clergy throughout the annual conference will be available to meet with congregations and help train them PRIOR to a conflict.

Currently, and going forward, the Team offers:

- o Mediation between individuals/groups
- o Consultation
- o Facilitation of groups in Listening Circles (for healing and accountability)

Coordination of assignments is handled through the Coordinator and the Conference has an established fee for these arrangements, which are paid by the church or other parties.

As of this date, 37 WV churches and/or church-related agencies have been served by Team Consultants to help reconcile conflicts, transform congregations and provide education. Two consultations were held during the 2018-2019 annual conference year.

You are encouraged to contact the Team Coordinator at 304-543-1669 to engage a team to visit your congregation or church-related agency.

Rev. Janet Harman
Conflict Transformation Team Coordinator



The globes distributed at Annual Conference 2018 as a symbol of the connectedness of our congregations were displayed in churches throughout the Conference..

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

Office of Connectional Ministries

As we move through this year of transition, we have welcomed the opportunity to invite a fresh look at our Conference mission and have been grateful for those willing to be patient with us as we ask questions and learn. We are the two who share the responsibility for directing the “connectional ministries” of the West Virginia Conference, and we are given the awesome task of “stewarding the vision” to ensure we are on the right track.

So, we continue to ask our Conference spiritual leaders, teams, Cabinet, and staff -- what are you doing now to discover, develop and deploy passionate spiritual leaders who can make disciples of Jesus Christ? What will help you do this better? And what impact are these disciples having on the community around you? Are we, in fact, living into our vision of being a Christ-led spiritual breath of fresh air that changes the world?

These are challenging questions that go to the heart of *discipleship and leadership*—priorities which we have named for our Conference so that we will focus on the growth and vitality of individuals and congregations as followers of Christ.

The broad leadership needed for guiding Conference ministry is shared, and we are extremely grateful for the gifted individuals and teams who contribute leadership across the Conference. The reports that follow reflect the depth of spiritual leadership and commitment of those who lead, and we recommend them to you for celebration and for prayer.

We are particularly grateful for the shared leadership during our transition of Rev. Dr. Joe Kenaston, Dean of the Cabinet, who has acted as staff liaison to the WV Board of Global Ministries, and to Rev. Dr. Ken Krimmel, who has guided the work of the Ethnic Local Church Concerns and CONAM. We also have been exceptionally guided by Kristi Wilkerson, associate lay leader and convener of Covenant Council, and the leadership team, all passionate spiritual leaders who freely share their gifts.

Our Conference staff team is exceptional, and we hope that you have had opportunity to experience them for yourself. Our administrative staff is essential to the ministries that support and equip leaders and congregations across the Conference: Angela Jones, Chris Ridgway, Karen Thaxton, and Lisa Shafer (as secretary to the bishop). Our program staff is second to none, and each contributes their gifts uniquely to the benefit of the Conference.

As Director of Young Disciples and Outdoor Ministries, Rev. Shea James broadens the possibilities for ministry with young people, whether it be through camping ministries, supporting college students, or relating with youth. Amy Mullins, our Manager of Spring Heights Camp, has guided the camp to become accredited with the American Camping Association (ACA) this year, which brings many benefits to camping ministry. Judi Kenaston, as Conference Secretary, masterfully manages the data of our lives together as a Conference. Rev. Joe Webb has joined our staff this year as Communications, Media/Information Support and Marketing Specialist, increasing the quality of our communications. Rev. Deborah Coble, Director of Communications, has created an award-winning communications team that helps us tell the story of Jesus’ disciples of today.

We also celebrate the restorative ministry of our disaster recovery team that continues to help our neighbors recover from the 2016 flood—JF Lalaria, Jack Lipphardt,

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

Buck Edwards, Chad Faris, Tapiwa Grace, and Miranda Nabers. They are discipleship in action.

As directors of connectional ministry, we have been blessed to reach out beyond our Conference to be part of the greater connection as well, through the Northeastern Jurisdictional Vision Table, which guides the work of the NEJ, as well as in collaborating with DCMs across the denomination. This year, that collaboration has been particularly important as we lead through challenging times for our church.

As we share in leading, we also each carry responsibility for specific areas of leadership. A few words follow about those. It is our great joy to have been called to lead in this place, this time, with each of you. Thank you for this opportunity and for your prayers.

Co-Directors of Connectional Ministries:

- Bonnie Glass MacDonald, Director of Leadership Formation and Ministry Staff
- Ken Willard, Director of Discipleship, Leadership and Church Vitality

Division of Key Areas of Responsibilities

Bonnie Glass MacDonald

• Staff supervision	• Board of Ordained Ministry
• District Committees on Ordained Ministry	• Clergy Leadership Development
• Sexual Ethics Team	• Develop Team

Ken Willard

• Congregational Vitality	• New Faith Communities
• Discipleship / Evangelism	• Lay Servant Ministry / Certified Lay Ministry
• Lay Leadership Development	• Coaching

Bonnie Glass MacDonald & Ken Willard

• Covenant Council & Teams	• Annual Conference Program/Worship
• Finance & Administration (CFA)	• Overall Leadership Development
• Bishop’s Lead Team	• Denominational / Jurisdictional connections
• Trustees	

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

Rev. Dr. Bonnie Glass MacDonald

Director of Leadership Formation and Ministry Staff

Like many of you, I have been invited by others into spiritual leadership. Rather than a one-time event, this is a journey of a lifetime; begun in following Jesus as his disciple and continued in discovering God's desire for my life as I am willing to grow and learn to use my gifts, with the support and challenge of the Christian community around me. As I remember that I have been baptized, I live a faith that asks me to respond to God's grace by loving others, so that they can experience this God of love, and their lives might be transformed.

We are intentionally focusing on discipleship -- the lifelong process of learning to follow Jesus more completely so that the way we live reflects God's love. Disciples are intentional about learning how they are meant to live and serve, and they particularly invite each other to discover how God has provided them with talents and interests that can be used for serving others well. Growing disciples help each other develop those gifts for serving so that everyone benefits. The apostle Paul reminds several early church communities that every follower's service matters and no gift is unimportant, as he compares the church to a body with many parts that work together and benefit the whole. (Ephesians 4, 1 Corinthians 12)

Early discovery and development of calling happen in local church settings, campus ministries, and other small group and environments in which disciples' gifts for leadership are affirmed, encouraged, and resourced. Listening, supporting, and connecting with someone who can help find answers for the next step in the journey is more important than having answers for every question.

I know firsthand the impact of those who have been invitational in my life -- who invited me to discover my own path of discipleship, my own gifts for serving and leadership, and to respond to God's calling in my life to serve others. Who are you encouraging to discover the gifts of service? Who needs your invitation to leadership? Who might God be calling to take the next step?

With this *culture of calling* in mind, I want to note a few West Virginia Conference highlights from this past year:

- The *Leadership Standards of the West Virginia Conference* provide guidance for spiritual growth and leadership. The Develop Team has created a companion *Self-Check Tool* for personal or team use, to assist in reflection and study, for lay and clergy leadership.
<https://www.wvumc.org/passionate-spiritual-leaders/leadership-standards/>
- A variety of options are available for lay people who are interested in training and credentialing (see Kim Matthews' *Lay Servant Ministries report*). Options for Certified Lay Ministers are increasing, many of whom are now serving as congregational leaders in partnership with clergy. We continue to have high rates of those annually entering and completing the candidacy process and licensing

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

school, anticipating 17 students being eligible for licensing this year.

- We support the continued learning of 82 of our licensed local pastors who are faithfully working to complete their Course of Study, through the extension school at Spring Heights Camp (for those serving part-time) or a regional seminary. Your apportionment giving supports these students financially, as they receive \$200-\$350 grant per course, depending on their registration.
- We have been committed to diligently encouraging, supporting and connecting our seminary students to resources, we celebrate that in the 2018-19 conference year our WV Conference seminary students reflect the following demographics:
 - o 32 students are enrolled in 6 seminaries.
 - o 15 students are age 35 and under.
 - o 24 students are currently serving an appointment in the WV Conference.
 - o Through the Ministerial Education Fund (MEF), the UM Foundation of WV, and the UM Men's Hal Burke Award, a total of \$162,541 in scholarship support was distributed to our seminary students during the 2018-2019 year.
- Clergy and those assigned to pastoral roles have attended (or will soon attend) a day to gather with colleagues and explore how to care for themselves and others as safe spiritual leaders. Led by Rev. Dr. Sky Kershner, this Pastoral Boundaries training has been highly reviewed and has helped participants engage in valuable conversation while receiving resources that will help them serve well.

I continue to be richly blessed by staffing the Board of Ordained Ministry and the District Committees on Ministry. I am grateful for this broad and diverse team of spiritual leaders who faithfully care for those who have been called to certified, licensed and ordained ministry.

Lastly, I am grateful to co-lead a connectional ministries staff team that is incredibly gifted and committed to serving this Conference. This staff faces each challenge faithfully, works hard, builds each other up, keeps learning, and above all, celebrates God's presence in all things. Thank you for your trust in us.

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

Ken Willard

Director of Discipleship, Leadership and Congregational Vitality

It is great to be in West Virginia!

Last June I accepted the position of Director of Discipleship, Leadership and Congregational Vitality along with shared responsibility for Connectional Ministry with Bonnie MacDonald. In September my wife, Mary, and I moved from St. Louis to Winfield. These past few months have been full of transition, learning, and growing for me as I've met a LOT of new people and begun the ministry we feel God has called and prepared me for in the West Virginia Annual Conference.

As a way of brief introduction, in case we have not met yet, here is a little about me. After about twenty years in the retail world, most of them in leadership training and development, I transitioned into working for the Kingdom full-time in 2009.

- I am a Professionally Certified Coach through the International Coaching Federation, a member of the Coaching4Clergy faculty and have hundreds of hours coaching pastors all over the country
- I am an author with Abingdon Press, four published books to date with another coming out next year
- I have facilitated seminars with churches on topics such as: creating a discipleship pathway; time management; leadership development; basic coaching skills; connections process; strategic ministry planning; discipleship coaching; simplified structure; relational evangelism; servant leadership; setting SMARTER goals; managing transitions; servant leadership; and more
- I am a Certified Church Consultant through the Society for Church Consulting and have led on-site consultations with many churches

Mary and I both grew up in Georgia and have been married for 35 years. We have a daughter Amanda who is waiting for us in heaven. We lived in the St. Louis area for over 20 years and were founding members of Morning Star Church before God called us here.

During my first few months in this position, I have been blessed to visit and work with pastors and churches in all nine of our districts around this wonderful state. The focus for many of these trips has been to facilitate discipleship pathway workshops with groups of clergy and laity leaders. While the people and locations have all been different, they have all shared a strong desire to help reach new people for Christ and to grow as disciples. I've also done some coaching with pastors, met with a few churches to try and help them discern their next steps, and done some training with our cabinet each time we meet.

While these past few months have been great, I am most excited about where we are going next!

In 2019 we launched our Congregational Vitality Initiative. Our purpose is to partner with leaders, both clergy and laity, and local congregations to equip them to be fruitful in

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

their ministry. We are building on a foundation of 1) our mission from Christ as found in Matthew 28:18-20; 2) the WVUMC mission and vision with a focus on discipleship and leadership; and 3) our conference leadership standards and the principles of loving, learning and leading. This initiative will include many areas designed to work together and support our goals. The first three components are coaching, leadership development, and church self-studies. Look for more information coming very soon!

According to MissionInsite, 61.7% of the people who live in our conference area are not involved in a religious congregation or community. While over 12% of the population prefers The United Methodist Church, we are only reaching 2.01%. The harvest is plentiful! Our mission is clear! And best of all, God is with us!

I look forward to partnering with you and providing resources so you and your ministry can best live into God's future for your church and our whole conference.

Rev. Deborah Coble

Director of Communications & WVUMC Communications Team

Jesus...gave his charge: "God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20 The Message)

This scripture passage, commonly called the Great Commission, reminds us as Christ followers of the importance of sharing our story, of witnessing to others the great love and hope that we find as individuals and as communities of faith, and in the Good News of God's love, call, and claim on our lives. It is through the power of the Holy Spirit that we are able to put to work the gifts that we have been given to build up the kingdom of God and to share this way of life with others near and far.

Interestingly, *The Message* translation uses these words: "Go out and train everyone." What does it mean to be a trainer...to share your knowledge with others for the betterment of the community and world? Training, using our God given gifts, has been a major focus of the West Virginia Conference Communications team this year.

In partnership with United Methodist Communications, two templates for local church websites have been designed and district teams are trained and in place to help facilitate local churches move to these platforms so that their stories can reach their communities for Christ. UM Communications and your WVUMC Communications team is offering grants to go along with the training so that there is no cost to the local church to launch a website!

Our communications team has set a pretty lofty goal – to help launch websites for 100

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

churches in the next year! If your local church or parish team is ready to have a conversation about the benefits of having a local church website please contact your communications team at wvumc@wvumc.org. (We require that two or more work together as a team for the local church, acknowledging that Jesus sent people out to witness two by two.)

Our focus on training has also included conversations and training sessions with districts, conference committees, and agencies with a focus on effective communications strategies that suit the context of the group or organization. We are blessed to have 14 members on the conference communications team who bring a wide variety of experiences, including social media, website design, videography and video editing, graphic design, audio/sound for the local church, and strategic planning/marketing.

To assist our team in living into our strategic objective to “craft points of connection that reveal Christ-centered community and reflect the vision and mission of the West Virginia Annual Conference,” Rev. Joe Webb joined the team July 1, 2018, as Communications, Media/Information Support and Marketing Specialist. Joe is a provisional deacon who has been recommended for ordination at the 2019 Annual Conference. Joe’s gifts as a practical theologian, journalist, and graphic designer are a real blessing for our work together on behalf of the West Virginia Conference.

Our team’s vision is “Engaged People. Empowered Disciples. One Shared Story.” That vision inspires us to faithfully share stories, photos, videos, anecdotes of God’s love and faithfulness, and the local church’s response to the needs of our communities. We work across a variety of platforms, including our Conference website, wvumc.org; social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram; YouTube; Flickr; and through both print and email campaigns.

The anchors of our team are our District Communications Coordinators (DCCs). The DCC sits on her/his respective District Lead Team to assist in the communications flow between the districts and the rest of the Communications Team. They work closely with one another to recruit, develop and deploy communications resource persons, provide training, support, and help to expand the understanding of the Conference’s mission to discover, develop and deploy passionate spiritual leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our West Virginia Conference DCCs are:

Northern:	Tom Fonner
MonValley:	Dusty Merrill
Potomac Highlands:	TBE
Little Kanawha:	Jennifer Greene
Wesleyan:	Jim Minutelli
Western:	Kerry Bart
Midland South:	George Hohmann
Southern:	Scott Mayberry
Greenbrier:	Judy Pysell

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

We also have at-large members, each with gifts that are essential to communicating well in the 21st Century. They include: Cheryl George (Communications Team Chair), Brad Bennett (SLI Facilitator), Jonathan Nettles, Maria Wiblin, Jake Steele, and Melissa Paugh.

We've expanded our Short Circuit emails to a weekly offering, going out to nearly 4,000 subscribers each Thursday afternoon. Our social media platforms continue to be a gathering place for glory sightings and stories of our local churches in action. And our print publications have shifted to more targeted offerings, such as the recent Mission Passport and the 2019 Lenten Study, *Seeds of Hope: Where Faithfulness Grows*.

Our website continues to grow as a trusted and reliable source of news and information for the West Virginia Conference. In fact, at the recent United Methodist Association of Communicators (UMAC) Awards, wvumc.org received recognition for website content for the second year in a row!

We appreciate the churches across the conference for entrusting us with your stories. It is because of your faithfulness and generosity that the West Virginia Conference Communications Team is able to do what we do. This year, we again brought home five UMAC awards for the WVUMC:

1st Place Enews: Short Circuit - Joe Webb (design), Jim Minutelli, Ken Willard, Deborah Coble, Judy Pysell, Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball, and Cheryl George, contributors.

1st Place Livestream production: 2018 Annual Conference - Brad Bennett, Scott Mayberry, Deborah Coble, Joe Webb, and GNTV.

2nd Place Special Publication: Mission Passport - Joe Webb, Pat Mick and Deborah Coble.

2nd place, Mobile App: WVUMC Annual Conference 2018 Mobile App - Kerry Bart, Deborah Coble, Joe Webb, Judi Kenaston, Cheryl George and Judy Pysell.

2nd place Website: wvumc.org. Deborah Coble, Joe Webb, Ken Willard, Bonnie MacDonald, Shea James, and Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball, contributors.

Also, while at UMAC, I was elected by the other UM Directors of Communication to serve a two-year term on the UMAC Leadership Team. This connects the West Virginia Conference Communication Team to other UMC teams around the Connection.

We look forward to collaborating with you as we move through the year! If you have any story ideas, questions or photos to share, please send them to us via email at wvumc@wvumc.org.

Together let us use our gifts and graces to share our stories boldly, fully confident in the love of God the Father, the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and in union and communion with one another through the power of the Holy Spirit!

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

Rev. Shea James

Director of Young Disciples and Outdoor Ministries

As the Director of Young Disciples and Outdoor Ministries, I enjoy serving with the Conference Council on Youth Ministry, Campus Ministries, young adults, and camping ministries to discuss the many ways we as a conference make disciples of Jesus Christ. I am humbled to hear how young people are growing as leaders, and it is an honor to support them as they live out God's call in their lives.

Young disciples are on the move in the West Virginia Conference! This summer we'll be taking buses to Youth 2019 which is the quadrennial United Methodist Youth gathering. Please pray for the youth, adult volunteers, and Bishop Sandra who will be traveling to Kansas City July 10-14!

In the summer of 2018, we launched DiscoverU, an opportunity for youth and young adults ages 15-23 to discern God's calling in their lives while they shadow adults who serve the church and beyond in a variety of ways. The initial program included seven participants, and our goal is to have twelve for the summer of 2019.

Our campus ministries grow disciples of Jesus Christ by encouraging young people to take ownership of their faith and to discover where God is calling them. Student-led small groups and mission opportunities give young people the space to develop as leaders. Many college students lead their peers in Bible studies and worship experiences. Campus ministry deploys disciples to go out into the world and transform their churches and communities. In 2018 two young people heard God calling them to ordination as a result of their involvement in campus ministry!

Spring Heights, the West Virginia Conference camp, is geared up for another beautiful summer of making disciples. Amy Mullins continues to serve as the Camp Manager; she is passionate about helping summer staff grow as leaders who make sure that campers grow as disciples. Did you know that a child who goes to church camp is three times as likely to be involved in church than a young person who doesn't go to church camp? Why? Because camp empowers children and youth to be leaders. They grow as disciples of Jesus Christ through prayer, Bible exploration, Bible trivia games, and by having amazing Christian counselors who are their mentors. Camp is unique, and it makes disciples like no other program! Spring Heights takes the safety and well-being of campers and guests seriously. In 2018, Spring Heights earned accreditation with the American Camping Association. This accreditation means that Spring Heights meets or exceeds camping standards. Spring Heights has been reaching out to new people through its day camp program called DaySpring. In the summer of 2019, we will have DaySpring in five counties throughout the conference!

If you take a moment to look around during Annual Conference, you'll see the faces of young people. These fine folks are our Youth Members and pages. They are here to learn and to serve. These faithful disciples are here because they care about the church, and it is my honor to work with them! Give them a high-five or a "well-done" with a smile. Encourage them to keep seeking after Christ and to keep serving the church!

Covenant Council

Kristi Wilkerson, Convener

The Leadership Team of Covenant Council met in the fall and winter and full Covenant Council held one meeting in the 2018-2019 year. Bonnie MacDonald and Ken Willard now jointly guide Covenant Council and its Leadership Team, which includes Georgia Hughes-Webb, Jeff Matheny, Krysta Rexrode Wolfe, David Stilgenbauer, and Kristi Wilkerson.

The Leadership Team discussed how to equip leaders and the processes involved in making disciples. This focus on “making disciples” was shared with team and committee chairs as they prepared their 2020 budget request. In practicing good stewardship, all Category II teams and committees were asked to not increase their budgets for 2020; however, if they planned to implement a new program or approach to ministry, they could request extra funds for those efforts. The Leadership Team also encouraged all areas to examine and discern how their teams/committees and budgets were working to make disciples.

On March 9, 2019, Covenant Council met at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston, WV. The role and purpose statement of Covenant Council was discussed by participants: *the role of Covenant Council is to celebrate, challenge, clarify and coordinate the growing of all disciples and the development of leaders throughout our ministry areas*, which was originally created by the Bishop’s Lead Team. Conference statistics regarding number of churches, membership, and church attendance, as well as a tentative plan for discipleship-making, were shared. This meeting also included 2020 budget approval for Category II. Teams/committees were further encouraged to reflect on how their budget and programs work to make disciples, in addition to how they can make connections and collaborate. Mark Conner and Krysta Rexrode Wolfe discussed highlights of 2019 Annual Conference and Jim Berner presented information regarding Workers Comp. The meeting concluded with a presentation by Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball regarding the special 2019 General Conference.

COVENANT COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED BY ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2019

Global Ministries

1. All congregations are encouraged to:
 - a. Receive an offering for Golden Cross to benefit Burlington United Methodist Family Services and observe it Sunday, April 19, 2020. [Churches may also celebrate Golden Cross on any "5th Sunday" and/or any Sunday of Advent]
 - b. Receive offerings for the Conference Advance Specials.
 - c. Visit at least one of the mission projects and/or Church & Community Workers site and/or invite one of the directors to your church during the year.
 - d. Have at least one person attend the Conference United Methodist Women's Mission u held annually at West Virginia Wesleyan College.
 - e. Conduct a United Methodist Women mission study at least once during the year.
 - f. Participate in Celebration of Mission Event (C.O.M.E.) which is recommended to be held on the fourth Saturday of April.
 - g. Observe Undie Sunday October 13, 2019.
 - h. Observe United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) Awareness Sunday February 9, 2020.
 - i. Observe World AIDS Day December 1, 2019.
 - j. Receive an offering for Global AIDS.
 - k. Receive an offering for Black Methodists for Church Renewal, February 2, 2020.
 - l. Receive an offering for Disabilities Sunday, March 8, 2020.
 - m. Visit Global Ministries – The United Methodist Church website: www.umcmmission.org.
2. The following guidelines to be printed in the 2018 Official Journal and Yearbook and on the conference website
 - a. Disaster Response Guidelines
 - b. Humphreys Memorial Scholarship Guidelines
 - c. Hunger Grant Guidelines
 - d. Revolving Loan and Grant Fund Guidelines
 - e. Mission Ministries Grant Guidelines
 - f. Virginia Higgins Grant Guidelines
3. Jeff Matheny to serve as Conference Secretary of Global Ministries

Conference Advance Specials

A conference advance special is an entity where a special relationship exists between that entity and the conference, encouraging the conference to be in prayer as well as support those that are listed.

Global Ministries	Church & Community Workers	Special Emphasis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ebenezer Community Outreach • Heart and Hand House, Inc. • Heart + Hand Outreach Ministries • House of the Carpenter • Scott's Run Settlement House • Tyrand Cooperative Ministries • Upshur Parish House • Disaster Response • Hunger Ministries • Volunteers in Mission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hope in the Mountains (Southern District) • Clarksburg Parish – Anna Troy • House of the Carpenter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Health • Africa University Endowment • Congregational Development

Coordinators

	Coordinator	Naming Party/Organization
Disaster Response	Revs. Dan and Sue Lowther	Global Ministries
Global AIDS	Rev. Margo Friend	Global Ministries
Health Ministries	Rev. Clare Sulgit	Global Ministries
Disabilities Ministries	Rev Michael D. Ludle	Global Ministries
Hunger Ministries	Joy Hicks	Global Ministries
Refugee and Immigration Ministries	Cheryl Davis	Global Ministries
Volunteers in Mission	Rev. David Stilgenbauer	Global Ministries
Celebration of Missions Event	Rev. Cliff Schell and Belinda Toms	Global Ministries
Conference Youth Coordinator	Rev. Joseph Hill	Conference Council on Youth Ministries
Conference Scouting	Ralph Herron	United Methodist Men
Conference Stewardship Coordinator	Rev. George Webb	Conference Nominations Committee (Quadrennium)
Conference Prayer Coordinator	TBD	Conference Nominations Committee (Quadrennium)
Conference Child Protection Standards Coordinator	Christi Hill	Conference Sexual Ethics Team

2019 Annual Conference Offerings

Note: The Annual Conference Program Committee asked that Covenant Council recommend offerings which reflect the theme and foci of the 2019 Annual Conference.

DISCIPLESHIP – LEADERSHIP – INVITATIONAL

Therefore, the Covenant Council Leadership Team makes the following recommendations per their request:

Offering to Support:

- Scholarships for Africa University with preference for theology students
- Addiction recovery ministry programs
- WV Conference youth attending Youth 2019
- Disaster Recovery / Disaster Ministries (special offering not to be split among all offerings),



Disaster Response trailer is filled with flood buckets

Episcopacy

The Conference Committee on Episcopacy gathers four times a year to provide support to and evaluation of our Episcopal leader. The membership of the committee comes from all across the conference. They help provide eyes and ears for the bishop to know some of the needs which surface in the conference.

Bishop Steiner Ball serves as Resident Bishop of the West Virginia Area. In this capacity, she provides spiritual leadership for the entire conference, appoints clergy to local churches and charges and in extension ministries, and sets the vision and direction for the work of the conference.

While serving the West Virginia Annual Conference, Bishop Steiner Ball also serves the greater church through the Northeastern Jurisdiction and the Council of Bishops. For the past few years, she has performed a primary role in the General Church as one of three moderators for the Commission on A Way Forward. She worked hard shepherding the work of this group of people from all over the world. Although ultimately the products of the Commission were not selected in the prioritization at the special session of General Conference, this task consumed much of her time and she provided excellent leadership in the process. Partly through her leadership, bishops around the connection were asked to work with their delegations to help them arrive at the special session with “hearts of peace.” While this happened to varying degrees in other conferences, Bishop Steiner Ball met with the West Virginia delegation multiple times, leading us through a study of “The Anatomy of Peace.” The purpose of these episcopal conversations was not to determine how the delegates would vote, but how we would approach the work we had to do. I can say that I believe our delegates worked in a manner that represented our conference well.

In addition to her work with the delegation, the bishop visited all the districts and communicated with both laypersons and clergypersons. Some of these sessions were challenging because emotions were high, some of them required her to listen and respond pastorally in addition to sharing accurate and updated information. We are grateful that she was willing to make herself available for an exhausting schedule, but one which served our conference well. Bishop Steiner Ball also made a series of videos with our Communications Team which were ultimately shared throughout the whole church in preparation for the special session. In the aftermath of the Special Session, she again traveled around the conference holding three clergy sessions and eight lay sessions, as well as meeting with Conference Staff and leadership.

Other areas in which she serves the General Church are as vice-president of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and chair of the Finance Committee of the Council of Bishops, which puts her on the Council of Bishops’ Executive Committee. She coordinates and leads the training for new District Superintendents and Directors of Connectional Ministries, held annually in the late summer.

Bishops are elected and assigned by and within the Northeastern Jurisdiction and serve the entire church through the Council of Bishops. Assignments are made by the NEJ Committee on Episcopacy which meets regularly to have discussions with bishops and with members representing other conferences so that the committee is prepared for making

assignments for the new quadrennium. Mary Ellen Finegan and I serve on this Jurisdictional committee.

This year the Conference Episcopacy Committee completed the “area profile” for the Northeastern Jurisdiction. This is a multi-faceted document which gives a picture of the West Virginia Annual Conference which will be used by the NEJ Episcopacy Committee to evaluate current assignments and make new ones. This is particularly significant because there may be shifts in episcopal assignments depending on the actions of the General Conference around how many bishops will be in the Northeastern Jurisdiction. If we have less episcopal areas than we do now, then some episcopal areas may have to share a bishop. We already have two conferences which function as a “two-point charge” and share a bishop (Eastern Pennsylvania and Penn-Del). There is a possibility that there may be two other conferences that will have to share a bishop beginning in 2020. Our Area Profile, which was prepared by the committee with the help of the cabinet, staff, and leadership of the conference, will inform the NEJ Committee of the strengths and challenges of our area.

The Episcopacy Committee continues to consult with the Conference Trustees as they update and maintain the Episcopal Residence located in Teays Valley. We are grateful for the leadership that the bishop’s husband, the Rev. Barry Ball, provides in many areas, but particularly with the work involving the opioid crisis. This work has been recognized outside of our conference and is setting a standard for work within the denomination. In their personal life, the bishop’s family celebrated the marriage of their daughter, Sarah, in October, and welcomed Sarah’s husband, Cale, to the clan.

The West Virginia Conference is blessed to have Bishop Steiner Ball providing leadership for us, the Jurisdiction and the General Church. The Episcopacy Committee works with her to provide support and encourage balance as she faithfully follows her calling.

Judi Kenaston, Chairperson



On behalf of the Annual Conference, Bishop Steiner Ball receives an Ethnic Ministries award from Loretta Young

Equitable Compensation

Members of the West Virginia Annual Conference: I bring you greetings on behalf of the Equitable Compensation Team and I thank God for your faithfulness and determination in paying your apportioned gifts to the West Virginia Annual Conference. It is through this connectional giving that we can assist in the appointment of full-time clergy throughout our annual conference who are well educated and equitably compensated. Whether it is long term support, renewal leave, family leave, or short-term emergency situations, our team is ready to help and support the local church.

The 2016 Book of Discipline charges the Commission on Equitable Compensation to support full-time clergy serving as pastors in the charges of the annual conference by: a) recommending conference standards for pastoral support; b) administering funds to be used in base compensation supplementation; and c) providing counsel and advisory material on pastoral support to district superintendents and committees on pastor-parish relations.

To fulfill these responsibilities, our team meets to review applications from churches needing assistance in meeting the minimum base compensation for their pastors, review the conference application process, establish budgetary needs for the coming year, and recommend to the WV Annual Conference the minimum salary schedule for full-time appointed clergy. We monitor and distribute information, as needed, to the Bishop and Cabinet for help in the appointment process and long term strategy development of the WV Annual Conference. The table below shows income and expenses, as well as the year-end balance of the Equitable Compensation Fund for the previous six years. Since Equitable Compensation operates on a claim basis, control of expenses is not an exact science and will differ from year to year.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Budget	157,300	157,300	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Fair Share Income	138,400	137,737	131,831	129,359	128,827	127,857
Expenses	178,066	205,802	154,310	107,514	77,635	77,906
Year-End Balance	401,996	333,931	311,452	333,296	384,489	434,440
Claims	45	45	35	34	22	16

As indicated by the chart above, we celebrate with you that for the third year now our claims totaled less than our Fair Share Income! Through your faithfulness in apportioned giving and fewer claim expenses, we have been able to replenish an additional \$49,951 in our reserve fund. In 2018, Equitable Compensation was able to aid eight charges in our conference with funds to provide the minimum salary for their pastor. The amount provided by Equitable Compensation to assist charges in paying the minimum salary for pastors totaled \$32,102. In addition, Equitable Compensation was able to support five charges while their pastor was on medical leave (\$28,167) and three charges while their pastor took renewal leave (\$17,000). The total provided for medical/renewal leave was \$45,167. Our administrative expenses for 2018 totaled \$637.

We continue to urge our Bishop and Cabinet to work with charges to eliminate the need to rely on Equitable Compensation as a subsidy so that Equitable Compensation is more readily available for renewal/medical leave or emergency situations. We are extremely

fortunate to have a reserve account well managed by our conference treasurer's office but we cannot fully depend upon the availability of these funds in the future.

To fulfill our responsibility to the WV Annual Conference, the Equitable Compensation Team recommends and presents for adoption the following:

1. The Equitable Compensation budget for 2020 be set at \$142,500.
2. The 2020 minimum salaries of full time appointed clergy be approved as follows:
 - a. Category I -- \$37,000.00 (Members in Full Connection, Provisional Members)
 - b. Category II -- \$35,000.00 (Associate Members)
 - c. Category III -- \$34,000.00 (Full-Time Local Pastors)

RATIONALE: You will note that the minimum salary recommendations for each category is the same as last year. At the time of our discussion regarding minimum salary recommendations for 2020, the team decided it would not be prudent at that time to recommend increases for minimum salaries given the pending decision at the upcoming Special Called General Conference, the increase in health insurance premiums in 2019, and the acknowledgment that increases in salary also increase pension and apportionment amounts paid by the local church. The team will meet again this spring to decide if the minimum salary amounts need to be adjusted.

As always, the Equitable Compensation Team recognizes the delicate balance between a fair and equitable compensation amount for pastors and the additional financial burdens on local churches. The team's decision to hold the minimum salaries at the current level was based upon the team's loving response to the concerns that have been raised by individuals, charges and the Cabinet over the last several years. While we encourage charges to engage in stewardship programs that enable charges to provide equitable compensation for clergy and viable ministry programs, we acknowledge that any increase in salary has the potential to force individual charges to apply for salary supplements or to cut ministry opportunities.

On the next page, you will find a chart that illustrates the history of the minimum salary standards adopted by the Annual Conference for the last seven years. I provide you with this information as a helpful resource during our discussion regarding minimum salary standards at Annual Conference.

	Category I	Category II	Category III	Category IV
2012	\$ 31,900.00	\$ 29,900.00	\$ 29,200.00	\$ 26,200.00
2013	\$ 33,200.00	\$ 31,150.00	\$ 30,400.00	\$ 27,350.00
2014	\$ 34,500.00	\$ 32,300.00	\$ 31,500.00	\$ 28,400.00
2015	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 32,800.00	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 28,900.00
2016	\$ 35,500.00	\$ 33,300.00	\$ 32,500.00	\$ 29,400.00
2017	\$ 36,000.00	\$ 33,800.00	\$ 33,500.00	\$ 29,900.00
2018	\$ 37,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 34,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
2019	\$ 37,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 34,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Total Increase	\$5,100.00	\$5,100.00	\$4,800.00	\$3,800.00
Percentage Increase	15.9%	17%	16.4%	14.5%

3. Accountable Reimbursement Plan – The minimum amount for Accountable Reimbursement Plan will be \$2,000.00 per charge.

STANDARDS FOR CLERGY SUPPORT FOR FULL-TIME PASTORS OF THE WV ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

The WVAC Standard of Clergy Support for Pastors appointed to full-time ministry shall include the following: 1) A parsonage provided as recommended by the Conference Parsonage Standards, 2) Parsonage utilities as defined by Conference Fiscal Policy #7, 3) The means to participate in the Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP), 4) The means to participate in the Ministerial Pension Plan, 5) The means to participate in the Comprehensive Protection Plan, 6) An accountable reimbursement plan (sometimes called an expense allowance) to cover the costs of a pastor’s performance of pastoral duties including educational requirements, 7) Base compensation for the work required and in consideration of ministerial competence, skill development, and years of experience, and 8) The means to participate in the conference sponsored hospital and medical insurance programs. NOTE: Where a charge elects to pay part or all of a pastor’s self-employment tax, the amount of that tax paid for the pastor by the charge shall be considered part of the base compensation. (This is in keeping with IRS regulations and provides for parity of compensation levels among charges.) If a charge elects to pay this optional amount for one pastor, it shall be required to pay the same for any pastor appointed to the charge.

ELIGIBILITY/APPLICATION FOR EQUITABLE COMPENSATION: (Guidelines are established by the Annual Conference) To be eligible for Equitable Compensation, churches/charges shall: have a minimum of 125 members; pay 70% of the total compensation; be encouraged to pay their Fair Share giving; and submit to the Equitable Compensation team: 1) Charge Request Form, 2) The budget adopted by the church/charge for the year, containing an accountable reimbursement plan for the pastor’s expenditures, 3) A progress report that outlines plans for underwriting the budget if it is the first time a church/charge is requesting funds to provide assistance for a full-time appointed pastor/ministerial student,

providing that “no member in good standing, who is appointed to a pastoral charge, is denied the minimum base compensation”. (2016 BOD paragraph 625.9) Any church wishing to make such an application should be in consultation with their District Superintendent.

GUIDELINES FOR PROCESSING FORMS: Every charge requesting compensation support for a pastor shall submit all forms listed in the Eligibility/Application for Equitable Compensation paragraph above to their District Superintendent. These forms are to be submitted 6 weeks prior to the beginning of the appointive year or when a new appointment is made and assistance for financial support is needed to maintain the minimum compensation support set by the Annual Conference. Changes in classification must be cleared through the Board of Ordained Ministry upon recommendation of the District Committee and approved by ministerial members in Full Connection. The time table for processing charge request forms is as follows:

May 15: The District Superintendent will forward ALL forms to the Conference Treasurer’s office to the attention of the Chairperson of the Equitable Compensation Commission.

June 15: The Chair of the Equitable Compensation Commission will review and submit forms to the Conference Treasurer’s office for processing.

Fall: To expedite the processing of forms in a timely manner, District Superintendents shall place church/charge conferences that are requesting support from the Commission on Equitable Compensation at the beginning of their Charge Conference Schedules.

November 1: The District Superintendent shall forward all new charge request forms or continuation forms requesting financial assistance for the Commission on Equitable Compensation to the Conference Treasurer’s office to the attention of the Chairperson of the commission for processing. The pastor of each church/charge receiving compensation assistance shall also submit a progress report to the District Superintendent on or before November 1 of each year. Failure to process the request forms on time will cause a delay in payment of assistance to the charge.

LIMITATIONS OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT: The maximum amount the Commission will pay to any one charge is 30% of the total compensation (base compensation, medical insurance over 75%, personal pension contribution). No churches/charges receiving funds from General or Conference Board of Global Ministries, Black Ministries Fund, or any other Conference Agency for compensation support are eligible to receive funds from Equitable Compensation. The only exceptions to this rule will be churches receiving non-recurring grants from the General Board of Global Ministries for Church Extension.

EXPECTATIONS: Churches making application for supplement for the Equitable Compensation Fund shall: Assume an increasing share of the total compensation in each of four years as follows: 75% the first year, 80% the second year, 85% the third year, and 90% the fourth year. This effectively limits compensation support to four years for any charge.

To meet these expectations, churches/charges are encouraged to initiate evangelism programs that will promote membership growth, implement programs that are designed to meet the social, physical, and spiritual needs of church members as well as persons in the surrounding community, and develop an effective program of Christian stewardship. As always, a support team consisting of a District Superintendent, one member of the Commission on Equitable Compensation team, and a member from the Lay Ministry Team responsible for stewardship shall be available to visit each church/charge upon request.

Again, it is our desire to serve this annual conference in every way possible. If we can assist in any way, please don't hesitate to contact me or one of our team members.

Grace and Peace,
Michael Q. Atkinson, Chairperson



Youth members of the Annual Conference are acknowledged during the plenary

ETHNIC MINISTRIES
Native American Ministries (CONAM)

There is one Creator of heaven and earth. There are not “many” creators. Just one! All of human and nonhuman creation comes out of this one Creator. . . That being said, this one Creator self-reveals in and through a myriad of cultural realities in human and nonhuman persons throughout Unci Maka, our “Mother Earth”. . . For us First Nations people, following Creator-Jesus within our Indigenous cultural ways without submitting to the hegemonic cultural assumptions of today’s conservative evangelicals is tough.

Richard Twiss

*Rescuing the Gospel from the Cowboys:
 A Native American Expression of the Jesus Way*

During the past year the West Virginia Committee for Native American Ministries (CONAM) has continued developing the “Remembrance, Repentance and Reconciliation” programs deemed as critical several years ago by The United Methodist Church. Committee members Ellesa High (chairperson), Tracey Brown-Dolinski, Ed Grant, Ellen Krimmel, Ken Krimmel, J.F. Lacaria, Jay Parkins, and Rich Shaffer have worked to serve Native Americans within our conference and region, as well as to share their traditions and history with our churches.

For a fourth time, the CONAM helped open annual conference by “saging” or “smudging” the Chapel at WV Wesleyan College and by delivering a welcome greeting to all in attendance. Other activities during the period included holding a special Native American Ministries Sunday service, this year at the United Methodist Church in Shinnston, WV, which was live-streamed and then archived in the newly constructed WV CONAM Facebook page. With over a thousand online views of the service, this use of technology suggests that we have only begun to utilize a tool that would enable us to reach many more congregations and individuals around the state. The CONAM also created a six-foot-long banner that it carried last spring as part of the “United Against Racism” March in Washington, D.C. In the fall, the West Virginia CONAM traveled to the Northeastern Jurisdiction Native American Ministries (NEJNAMC) Annual Meeting held in Carlisle, PA. In addition to serving on the organization’s treasurer’s committee, I was appointed to the newly formed social justice committee, created to assist the NEJNAMC in keeping current on Native issues across the country.

Perhaps the most important new development for the CONAM was being able to connect directly with more Native people within the state. We significantly funded the Women of the East Drum Gathering that was held in 2018 in West Virginia. This event drew Native American women’s drums from Maine to South Carolina. In addition to financially supporting the activity, the CONAM also had a table with educational materials set up throughout the weekend, and on Sunday morning we held a special Native American Christian service celebrating Pentecost that featured Native drumming and singing.

In addition, the CONAM became aware of a Native American youth in West Virginia with a life-threatening medical condition. His family was transporting him to a hospital

ETHNIC MINISTRIES

out of state on multiple occasions for tests and treatment. Over time, the family's financial resources had been exhausted. The CONAM voted to assist this Native family with some of its medical travel expenses.

Other news: As chairperson of the West Virginia CONAM, I was invited to two gatherings of the Presbyterian Church, one in Cumberland, Maryland, and the other in Baltimore, to discuss how the WV Conference of The United Methodist Church has created a Native American welcome and blessing to open its important meetings—a welcome that recognizes the tribes that have lived for hundreds of years where such activities are held. After the discussions, and in consultation with other related Native peoples, these Presbyterian churches in Maryland voted to open all of their meetings in a similar fashion.

I also led a workshop, “Reconnecting with our Sacred Landscape” as part of the “Facing the Climate Crisis: Called to Save our Sacred Home” conference held in Pittsburgh, PA. This gave the opportunity to continue networking with Western PA CONAM leaders. Finally, last fall I led the Peace Tree Ceremony held annually at West Virginia University.

The West Virginia CONAM already is planning some exciting activities for this upcoming year. Please join us!

Ellesa (Elle) High, Chairperson

Religion and Race

The Commission on Religion and Race envisions resourcing local congregations and ministries in areas of racial equity and intercultural competence. CORR has compiled resources on subjects such as institutional racism; CR/CC appointments; engaging congregations in ministries with racially and culturally diverse populations; and helping congregations to cultivate the skills for respectful, civil conversations among diverse people. CORR will continue to research and find materials to add to our online database of resources which are available upon request. Additionally, CORR focuses on two areas of training and education.

1. CORR would like to expose youth and young adults of the WVUMC to cross racial/cross cultural (CR/CC) experiences and resources. This committee is interested in providing CR/CC training sessions for youth group leaders, counselors, and mentors as well as CR/CC training sessions for youth and young adults. Please contact any CORR member if you are interested in hosting this type of training.

2. CORR has a passion for helping congregations with considering CR/CC ministry in the discernment/appointment process and for walking alongside congregations in the initial stages of cross-cultural ministry. Thus, CORR is available to assist with preparing congregations for leadership transitions and cross-racial/cross-cultural ministry. Basically, CORR would like to consult with congregations considering cross-racial/cross-cultural appointments when requested by the Bishop and Cabinet.

In 2019, CORR has provided training on implicit bias in three districts. The implicit bias training was presented during leadership academies in the Wesleyan District, the Southern District, and the Northern District. Scripture lessons for the session were James 2:1-10 and James 3:13-18. The implicit bias training entitled “Without A Trace” focused on intercultural competence and related issues. Specifically, participants received information about recognizing and confronting hidden bias, partiality, and favoritism.

CORR welcomes future opportunities to advance racial equity in the West Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Rev. Felica Wooten Williams, Ph.D.

And the WVUMC Commission on Religion and Race

Evangelism

Restructuring the Director of Evangelism and Congregational Development Focus

The Conference Evangelism Team’s activities decelerated during the year as we adjusted to changes in the Conference leadership.

Rev. Amy Shanholtzer, the former Conference Director of Evangelism and Congregational Development, assumed a new role as the Mon Valley District Superintendent. With Rev. Shanholtzer’s departure from the Conference office, a talent search began, which ultimately led to the hiring of Mr. Ken Willard. Mr. Willard came to the Conference from the St. Louis area. He was a member of the Coaching4Clergy faculty. As an Associate Certified Coach with the International Coach Federation, a Christian leadership coach, an author, a public speaker, and developer of curriculum used by pastors and laity leaders, Ken has extensive experience working with pastors, laity leaders, local churches, and other church organizations around the United States. Ken’s mission is to help equip God’s people to expand God’s Kingdom.

To enhance Mr. Willard’s focus on his staff responsibilities, the Director of Evangelism and Congregational Development has been restructured and is now referred to as Director of Discipleship, Leadership and Congregational Vitality. The impetus for this title change comes from Matthew 28:19-20, which is the fundamental litmus test for all of the church’s activities.

Conference-approved Evangelist, Reverend Dr. Stephon Reed

The Conference-approved Evangelist, Reverend Dr. Stephon Reed has been busy conducting revivals. The Evangelism Team is encouraged by his efforts. John Wesley said, “Light yourself on fire with passion and people will come from miles to watch you burn.” The responses of those attending his services attest to the fact that Rev. Reed is definitely on fire with a passion for the Gospel.

The Evangelism Team encourages all District Superintendents and clergy to utilize Rev. Reed for your local revivals.

The Evangelism Team is also seeking other like-minded evangelists willing to train with Rev. Reed. We encourage each District to find and nurture a Conference-approved Evangelist.

Membership to Discipleship: A Vital Next Step

As a follow-up the 2018 Membership to Discipleship program, the Evangelism Team is urging all church leaders to participate in the Certified Lay Servant program, by taking at least the Basic course.

The team also encourages all District Superintendents and clergy to find meaningful ways to utilize Certified Lay Servants within the local congregation, District, and Conference. The pool of Certified Lay Servants provides more than adequate numbers to fill all openings in the Conference’s next quadrennium teams and committees. Clergy and District Superintendents, should make every effort to seek lay servants willing to serve.

Respectfully Submitted By,
Edward J. Corbitt
Chairperson, Conference Evangelism Team



Youth choir from Shenandoah Conservatory led the opening worship.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Global Ministries

Our Vision Statement: A church visible to all the world (so that the world will be convinced of the gospel of Jesus Christ)

Our Mission Statement: To equip and transform people and places for God's mission at home and around the world

The West Virginia Conference Board of Global Ministries continues to work toward fulfilling our vision statement and mission statement. We constantly are seeking ways to help local congregations engage in outreach ministries in their communities; in areas outside their communities yet within the bounds of the conference; and globally, meaning anywhere outside the bounds of our conference. We have renewed our efforts to strive to find means to make the church visible to all the world by helping the church move forward in mission and ministry. The church is not to be just a place of worship but “a way of being in the world.” (from Kingdom Come by Reggie McNeal).

One new endeavor to accomplish our vision and mission is the creation of an event scheduled for August 9-10, 2019, at the Bridgeport Conference Center, that is designed to help churches, parishes, and/or districts to move forward in mission and ministry. This event is called the RECLAIM! Event, an opportunity to embrace Wesley's radical missional spirit. Noted author Reggie McNeal will be the keynote speaker. Six (6) workshops will be offered to participants to assist them in exploring possibilities for mission and ministry beyond the church doors.

Many ongoing ministries through the board continue to take place to fulfill our vision and mission, and all are doing exemplary work. Following this report, there are many other reports from persons associated with our conference Board of Global Ministries. You will read about the amazing work of all seven (7) mission projects and our two (2) Church and Community Workers. Reports will also be found from our Conference Secretary of Global Ministries, who keeps the Board updated on our missionaries and the work of the General Board of Global Ministries; and from New Vision Depot, Disaster Response, Volunteers in Mission, and Living Hope High School.

Relatively new to the board are our coordinators for health ministries and for disabilities ministries, two areas we have neglected for a while. Look for those reports as well.

We also have some grants and loans available for specific ministries. Be sure to check out the guidelines for each of the following: Virginia Higgins Grant, Hunger Grant, Mission Ministry Grant, Revolving Loan and Grant, and Humphreys Memorial Scholarship.

I want to thank the Leadership Team who has worked closely with me to help make mission and ministry happen in our conference. Those members are Rose Sterling, Joyce Board, Judy Raines, Rev. Ray Stonestreet, Rev. Larry Buckland, Jeff Matheny, and Rev. Joe Kenaston.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

The Board would like to thank everyone who participates in any way with the mission and ministries of our conference and outside our conference.

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10 NIV

Pat Mick, Chairperson
Conference Board of Global Ministries

Conference Secretary of Global Ministries

It has been a pleasure serving as the Conference Secretary of Global Ministries in the WV Annual Conference. The primary role of the CGSM is to facilitate the connection between our United Methodist missionaries from around the world to the churches in our Annual Conference. Our global church has over 350 missionaries in over 60 countries around the world sharing the gospel, teaching and comforting people. This year I would encourage each church to develop a covenant relationship with one of our many United Methodist missionaries who are serving God around the US and around the world. I would like to improve communications between our missionaries and our local churches. I am also looking for a volunteer from each district to assist in this ministry. If you are interested, please contact me at jeff@pbo.bz.

Last fall I had the opportunity to again travel to Zimbabwe and work at the Old Mutare Mission which includes a rural hospital, a children’s home, a primary school, and a secondary school. While we were there we had the opportunity to visit with missionaries and Rodgers Wabwile, who is the student from Living Hope High School attending Africa University. It was certainly a pleasure to visit with all of them and see the difference they are making in the world by answering God’s call to ministry and service. One evening while we were at Africa University, we attended a student-organized choir concert which featured choirs from the university and churches in the region. Larry Kies who is an agronomy professor and a missionary was invited by the students to offer an invocation for the evening. It really struck me that a professor in agriculture has had such a profound impact on the students with his work and faith that they wanted him to open the concert.

The General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) has also created some new opportunities for missionary service through a program called Generation Transformation. This program has three potential opportunities for people to get involved in God’s work. The shortest program is the Global Justice Volunteer which lasts two months and is designed for people from 18 to 30 years old. The second opportunity is Global Mission Fellows, which are 20 to 30 years old and serve for two years. The third program is Mission Volunteers which is a flexible mission for people 18 and older. More details about each of these programs can be found at www.umcmmission.org/Get-Involved/Generation-Transformation. These short-term programs are a great way to get involved with work in the United States

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

and around the world.

Starting last year, I was asked to be a member of the Advance Committee of GBGM and this opportunity has given me new understanding in the work of our offerings. If anyone would like to have a presentation on the Advance, the work of GBGM, missionaries, or mission engagement please contact me at jeff@pbo.bz.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for our missionaries.

Jeff Matheny

Our Vision Statement: A church visible to all the world (so that the world will be convinced of the gospel of Jesus Christ)

Our Mission Statement: To equip and transform people and places for God's mission at home and around the world

Church and Community Workers

For more than 130 years, Church and Community workers have been serving the poor and disenfranchised. They serve in a variety of ways such as cooperative parishes, ethnic ministries, rural and urban ministries, disaster response ministries, congregational health and criminal justice ministries. During that time, the West Virginia Conference has been blessed by more than 100 Church and Community Workers. They serve God through their work in the communities where they are appointed by the General Board of Global Ministries.

The year 2018 was interesting for the Church and Community Workers of the West Virginia Conference. We had to say good-bye to Gayle Lesure after more than 25 years as a West Virginia Church and Community Worker. Although we wish Gayle much happiness in her retirement, we realize the void she has left in the Greater Clarksburg Cooperative Parish and in our conference and in our hearts. The Cooperative Parish has been approved for a new Church and Community worker and we pray God will send someone soon.

We were happy to welcome Rosemary Gratton to the House of the Carpenter site and look forward to seeing what she will bring to that ministry. Rosemary comes to us from Texas where she is an elder in that conference. Rosemary says she feels a call to work with the poor and fits in well at House of the Carpenter.

Rosemary joins Joanne Davis of Hope in the Mountains in ministry in West Virginia through their appointment as Church and Community Workers. We are blessed to have them and pray for all the work they have ahead of them. Look for their reports on the following pages.

The work of the advisory committee is to advocate for the Church and Community Workers and to encourage them in the work God has called them to do. Join with us in saying thank you for answering God's call to be in ministry in West Virginia.

Judy Raines, Chair
Church and Community Worker Advisory Committee

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Church and Community Worker

(Both Joanne Davis and Rosemary Grattan left their

Church and Community Positions prior to Annual Conference 2019.)

Hope in the Mountains

Joanne Davis

The past year has been a year of further discovery, and a chance to begin a new ministry!

The goal of Hope in the Mountains has always been to introduce and implement a new model of ministry to southern West Virginia. This new approach to ministry focuses not on simply giving away needed items like food and clothing, as critical as that kind of ministry continues to be. This new way of being in ministry asks us to build relationships with our neighbors by working together, *as partners and equals*, on projects of mutual interest. And as we traveled further into 2018, the road to such a ministry finally opened before us. We are beginning a new ministry that we hope will be a model for many such ministries in the District.

We have been encouraging our congregants to think of ways to turn their hobbies, interests, and passions into bridges to our neighbors. One congregant, whose woodturning group is based in the Greenbrier District, wanted to share his love of woodturning with the people of the Beckley area. After many months of searching, we were able to find a site appropriate for a woodturning ministry! We are now raising funds for the purchase of equipment and supplies, building relationships to help with some of the ancillary work that needs to be done, such as rewiring, and soliciting funds to help meet the operating expenses of this ministry. Our deep hope and prayer is that neighbors from every station and walk of life will be attracted to learning this art. We are making special efforts to reach out to those who are now unemployed, formerly incarcerated, or in recovery from the drug epidemic which has absolutely ravaged virtually every corner of West Virginia, particularly the southern counties. We believe that coming to classes to acquire this skill will help all of us develop social connections and new confidence, and will help make many of our friends more employable.

We are also in the beginning stages of establishing an after-school program in Sophia, a small community south of Beckley. We have recently trained a corps of potential volunteers in the Safe Sanctuary program and will now begin planning and executing a series of small events to help the people of Sophia get to know us. Having that group of Safe Sanctuary-trained servants at the ready will help us spring into action soon!

I made reference above to 2018 having been a year of further discovery. What I learned in my first 18 months here has been confirmed during 2018. Sometimes good things take a long time to develop, and patience is just critical. I come back often to my very favorite parable of all, the parable in Mark 4 of the seed growing secretly. The farmer plants and

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

waters and does not know when or even whether that seed will sprout. But sprout it does, in a miracle of God's unfailing goodness. How it happens is beyond the knowledge of the farmer, who is simply committed to playing her own role by planting and water. The rest she simply must leave to God. I have found this to be true of my work here in southern West Virginia. I have been planting and watering, and things are beginning to sprout. God is good.

The House of the Carpenter **Rev. Rosemary C. Grattan**

The major responsibility and focus for the Church and Community Worker at The House of the Carpenter has been to develop an Adult Mentoring program. In developing a mentoring program, we will work with an organization that provides the methodology, as well as churches and other organizations who will serve as resource partners, providing everything needed for a successful program, from mentors to prayer partners to cooks. We look to bring and recruit gifted people like cooks, who will be needed for a monthly fellowship gathering of mentors and participants of the mentoring program, because we believe that gifts of cooking, preparing, organizing, teaching, etc., are present right in the community. We believe in an asset-based community development (A-B-C-D) approach where everything that is needed is already present and existing in the people in the community.

To date, we have decided to contract with Think Tank, Inc. (based in Springfield, OH) for services related to poverty alleviation. Think Tank works in collaboration with Communities of Transformation (COT), which is presently operational and successful in the Alabama-West Florida Conference of the UMC, to bring us training, coaching, curriculum, online support and opportunity for exchange and learning with other members of Think Tank's network.

Our first step in working with Think Tank is to begin to recruit other churches in the Upper Ohio Valley area to work with us in developing communities who will, in turn, work with neighbors in their particular areas to provide mentoring. On February 20, 2019, we met over an early morning breakfast with the clergy members of churches we have been or hope to partner with.

As one of our first training tools, Think Tank will provide a cost of poverty experience (COPE) - a poverty simulation - giving churches and other resource partners a way to experience poverty in a simulation setting, in order to better understand our neighbors in poverty. Churches and resource partners will be invited to attend this COPE event as a training tool, in hopes of having a better grasp on what our neighbors in poverty may be experiencing. The process of developing a successful mentoring program continues from there, as we are made more aware of the harshness of living in poverty.

The House of the Carpenter's mission is to "meet the needs of today and build hope for tomorrow." We help to provide for daily needs through our Thrift Store and food pantry;

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

as well, we provide classes and tutoring that set the individual up for success, building hope for their future. In the process of developing a mentoring model, we hope to add other classes that address the mind, body and spirit; i.e., yoga, adult wellness classes, and Bible studies.

I also look forward to working with churches on an individual basis, where I have had the opportunity thus far to meet with pastors, mission teams, and United Methodist Women's groups. In these times, we have shared goals, hopes, and dreams. We are intentional about praying for one another in the ongoing work to which we feel our Lord is calling us.

Our constant prayer is that our work at The House of the Carpenter altogether positively affects lives so that individuals, families, and communities are changed for the better. Please pray with us as we continue this transformational work, in Jesus' name.

Volunteers in Mission



At the heart of Volunteers in Mission is the understanding of Christ's Love in Action. This may be carried out in many ways and around the world. When people hear the name "Volunteers in Mission" they think of service in places in the world with great poverty and deep need. This is one part of Volunteers in Mission but, by no means all that there is to mission.

This has been a great year for VIM. We continue to host teams from the 2016 flood, as well as sending out teams to Costa Rica, Guatemala, Puerto Rico, Living Hope High School, Alaska, and North Carolina, to name a few.

The team to Costa Rica had 15 members, four adults, and eleven youth. We had two teams with nearly 25 people going to help with recovery from the hurricanes in Puerto Rico. We sent a six-member team to North Carolina to help with the muck and gut of homes affected by Hurricane Michael. We had ten people who journeyed north to Alaska to work with the Fairbanks Rescue Mission, building cabins for those who have gone through a recovery program. The hope is to build a community to enable recovery to be long term, with a staff to support these in recovery as long as needed. We also hosted teams, as I am sure you remember the 2016 flood that devastated such a large part of our state. This year we hosted forty-one teams with 191 members. They have served in Clendenin, Richwood, Clay County, Rainelle, White Sulphur Springs, and other parts of the affected area.

VIM is also working within our conference to help churches be the presence of Christ's love in action. There are three projects, two of which we hope to have completed before Annual Conference. They are helping put a roof on a home for a family in need, working with a church to help replace the roof on their picnic shelter, and last but not least, working with a family who had a mudslide into their home. There is always something to

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

do. We are called to make disciples of Jesus Christ. I believe this is most effective when we put our love in action. Volunteers in Mission is a great place to let the love you experience in Christ to be made manifest in the world.

The other important part of UMVIM is people being sent out in mission. UMVIM journeys are self-funded or church funded. This may be the biggest issue for UMVIM as a whole. Sometimes the cost of the trips (Puerto Rico at \$1400 or Alaska at \$2300) makes people think they can't afford to go, and I understand this thinking. However, I have learned that many people are willing to help with the cost who are unable to go themselves. I personally have had dinners, sold hot dogs and any other things to raise money to help with the cost of the trip. Step out in faith and God will provide!

Rev David Stilgenbauer
revdaves@yahoo.com
304-210-6938

Abundant Health

“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” John 10:10b, NRSV

As United Methodists, we care about the health and well being of all people. In the Wesleyan tradition, the Christian faith is not a solitary journey. We are part of a larger community - our church families, our neighborhoods, and the world.

Global Health is a major area of focus for the ministry of The United Methodist Church, which aims to combat diseases of poverty such as malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis as well as provide health education, advocacy, and infrastructure. We have long been a key provider of health care through the hospitals, clinics and missions centers we have operated across Africa for more than 160 years. Now the church has a goal to **reach 1 million children** with lifesaving and health-promoting measures by 2020.

As a conference, we are looking to create a data-base of health ministries so as churches explore beginning a specific health ministry, there are helpful resources available. If you have a health ministry you'd like to share about, please contact me.

Additionally, I am looking for folks who would be interested in being part of an Abundant Health Ministry Team for the conference. If that's a ministry you'd like to be a part of, please get in touch.

Let's all do what we can to live an abundantly healthy life that honors the bodies and minds God created us with!

Clare Sulgit, Abundant Health Conference Representative
claresulgit@aol.com

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Disabilities Ministries

As your new coordinator for Disabilities Ministries, I want to thank you for the support in this new venture. What I have focused on this year has been to share the different kinds of disabilities and the awareness that happens each month. I have been sharing this through the Short Circuit. One of the important things that we must realize is that disabilities are more than just those things that we can see. I would love to hear from anyone who would have any ideas of things you would like to see happen in our conference. My hope is that each district might think about an event or gathering that would highlight ministries that churches could be involved in. If there are things already in place, please let me know so we can share across the conference and if there is any way that I can be of service please contact me. We need to make ourselves aware of those in our congregations that do suffer from many different types of disabilities.

God bless.

In Christ's service,
Michael D. Ludle

Celebration of Mission Event

The Celebration of Mission Event is an outreach ministry of the Conference Board of Global Ministries. 2019 marks the 22nd year that the Events have been held across the West Virginia Annual Conference. Since the Events take place in late spring, it is not possible to provide 2019 financial reports for the Conference Workbook. However, we gratefully report that **\$103,038.34** was raised for our WV Conference Mission Ministries by the 2018 Celebration of Mission Events. We commend our District Coordinators, District Teams and District Churches for a job well done. **We thank all persons, churches and groups who supported this vital project!** 100% of all cash gifts went to WV Conference Mission Ministries. The cash gifts provided \$10,422.00 for each Conference Mission Project and Volunteers in Mission, and \$5,211.00 for each of our two Church and Community Ministries. The cash figures do not include an estimated \$30,000 - \$40,000 in new donated material goods provided by the Celebration of Mission Events, which were held in each of our nine districts. Over the most recent decade, the Celebration of Mission Event has raised more than a million dollars, totaling **\$1,055,789.86**, in addition to an estimated \$475,00.00 donated in new tangible goods.

Ten percent of undesignated funds received are deposited in the UM Foundation Trust Fund for Mission Projects (\$9,240.34 in 2018). Each year, 3.5% of the average market value of the past 12 quarters is distributed to our Conference Mission Ministries (\$939.60 for each project for 2018). At the close of 2018, the market value of the Trust Fund was **\$296,635.63**. Individuals, churches and groups are encouraged to contribute to this fund, and help it grow for the long-term support of our Conference Mission Ministries.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

The Conference Celebration of Mission Event Team works with District Coordinators to provide mission events in all nine districts. **District Coordinators** are Karen and Tom Grafton (Greenbrier), Patsy Flensburg and Cynthia Eakle (Little Kanawha), Sharon Byrd (Midland South), Ginny Davidson, Barbara Metcalfe and Janice Watts (MonValley), J.J. Roller (Northern), Amanda & Nathan Epling (Potomac Highlands), Martha Wilkinson (Southern), Lauren and Nathan Weaver (Wesleyan), and Jane Morse (Western). The District Coordinators do us a tremendous service, forming district teams and seeking to enlist the support of all local churches to commit to at least one fund-raising event each year for the Celebration of Mission Event.

Proceeds and donated goods from the Celebration of Mission Events support the Conference Mission Projects, the Conference Church and Community Ministries, the Volunteers in Mission, and added for 2019, the New Vision Depot. **All Celebration of Mission Event cash gifts are remitted to the Conference Treasurer.** Local churches or individuals may send cash gifts for the support of the projects before and/or following the event, accompanied by the proper remittance number. The numbers for 2019 support are:

- #875-- Undesignated Gifts
- #886 – Southern Dist. Church & Community Min
- #880—Heart + Hands Outreach Ministries (was CDOM)
- #887 – Scott’s Run Settlement House
- #881-- Ebenezer Community Outreach Center
- #888 – Tyrand Cooperative Ministries, Inc.
- #883-- Heart and Hand House, Inc. (Philippi)
- #889 – Upshur Parish House
- #884-- The House of the Carpenter
- #892 – Volunteers in Mission
- #893 – New Vision Depot

The Celebration of Mission Event Information and District Schedules can be downloaded from the Conference Website under Change the World-Special Ministries-Celebration of Mission Event.

Respectfully submitted,

Belinda Toms and Cliff Schell, Co-chairs of the Celebration of Mission Event Conference Team

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

**2019 CELEBRATION OF MISSION EVENT
DISTRICT ROTATIONS**

DISTRICT	EMPHASIZED MISSIONS
Greenbrier	The House of the Carpenter Scott's Run Settlement House
Little Kanawha	Ebenezer Community Outreach Center Greater Clarksburg Cooperative Parish
Midland South	Heart and Hand House -- Philippi Southern District Church and Community Ministry <i>"Hope in the Mountains"</i>
Mon Valley	Heart and Hand House-Philippi Scott's Run Settlement House Volunteers in Mission
Northern	Ebenezer Community Outreach Center Southern District Church and Community Ministry <i>"Hope in the Mountains"</i>
Potomac Highlands	Heart + Hand Outreach Ministries-S. Charleston Tyrand Cooperative Ministries
Southern	The House of the Carpenter Upshur Parish House Volunteers in Mission
Wesleyan	Upshur Parish House Greater Clarksburg Cooperative Parish
Western	Heart + Hand Outreach Ministries-S. Charleston Tyrand Cooperative Ministries

PLEASE NOTE: The Rotation List is for the designation of tangible goods only. Cash gifts may be designated, but undesignated giving is encouraged. Undesignated cash gifts will be divided to provide an equal amount for all Conference Mission Projects and VIM and a 1/2 share for Church and Community Ministries when cash funds are distributed.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Disaster Response Ministries

Conference year 2018 brought with it a few minor disaster events. The year began with some communities around our Annual Conference experiencing loss of water, due to extremely low temperatures causing water lines to rupture. The West Virginia Disaster Response Ministries responded by dispatching pallets of bottled water from storage at New Vision Depot. These include areas around McDowell, Fayette, and Greenbrier Counties. Early in 2018, minor flooding took place in parts of southern and northern West Virginia. Your United Methodist Church responded once again by sending flood buckets, hygiene kits, and cleaning supplies to the affected areas. With flooding occurring in Wetzel County, the conference Disaster Response ministries responded by delivering four pallets of heater meals from storage at New Vision Depot.

Our ministry work at New Vision Depot continues to grow and become more efficient. This year we were offered a second building in the complex. This second building needed a great deal of repair. Many visiting teams have worked on this building throughout the year, creating a new production room which is functional at the time of this report. Soon an office for the Depot will be in operation, bunk rooms will be ready for work teams, bathrooms will be functional, and in the future kitchen facilities will be available. Many groups from around the West Virginia Annual Conference have shared time with us at the Depot helping to assemble or inspect flood buckets, hygiene kits, and school kits. These groups have also helped us to perform other work on the buildings and infrastructure of New Vision Depot. A big thank you goes out to all who have assisted in building this much needed extension of our Disaster Response Ministries with prayers, gifts, and labor. We need you all to help us do what we do.

Revs. Dan & Sue Lowther
WV Conference Disaster Response Coordinators

Long-Term Recovery from 2016 Flood – DR4273

The following is the 2018 report of activities from the Long-term Recovery Team working since 2016 on flood DR-4273 of West Virginia Severe Storm, Flooding Landslide and Mudslide. As a reminder for those reading this report, the initial flooding occurred on June 23, 2016, and was declared a Federal Disaster on June 25, 2016. Eighteen West Virginia counties were impacted; 12 counties designated for individual assistance. The death toll in this event was 23. As of June 2018, FEMA had provided \$120 million in FEMA Public Assistance; \$48.3 million in National Flood Insurance claims; \$52 million in Mitigation; and \$42.3 million in FEMA Individual Assistance.

The West Virginia Conference long-term recovery plan is on track. We employ two case managers and two worksite coordinators under the leadership and supervision of Director Jack Lipphardt, and Executive Director J F. Lacaria. As a team of six, and in regular

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

coordination with Dan and Sue Lowther, Conference Disaster Response Coordinators, and David Stilgenbauer, Conference VIM Coordinator, we continue to be present at all county and state LTRGs (long-term recovery groups) addressing unmet needs and WV VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Assisting in Disasters) meetings.

During 2018 we provided replacement housing for four households (ten individuals) through new construction. We assisted four other households by enabling them to purchase homes (14 individuals). These homes were not impacted by the flood and were remodeled under our oversight in cooperation with the new homeowners and our volunteers. Funding came from UMCOR, the WV Conference and WV VOAD partners. In addition, we have assisted 57 households (133 individuals) with smaller needs ranging in cost from \$116 to \$8000. The average cost per household was \$2550. We provided case management for all the above reported cases. In addition to assisting families with the restoration of their homes, we contributed \$3000 apiece toward seven bridge replacements (\$21,000 total), hosting a bridge building team from Orwigsburg, PA.

At this time, we are working closing with RISE WV to identify families whose applications for new homes are in jeopardy. Where families are falling through the cracks or stalled in their applications, we are able to step in and address their challenges to keep them moving forward toward full recovery. There are 240 cases that could potentially fall out of RISE WV from 1,369 applications. Of those 240 cases, we have already taken 13 cases which we will work to completion. Only one of these 13 requires more than minor repairs to close, one case needs mitigation and home replacement.

Partnerships with contractors, volunteer builders, VIM teams, and survivors continue to be the most gratifying part of our work. We have also strengthened our partnership with suppliers, from small businesses in recovering communities, “mom and pop” hardware stores, remodeled and recovered restaurants, etc., to big box stores, e.g., Lowe’s. At our last house blessing, two managers from the nearby Lowe’s traveled 40 miles round trip to attend the event because of their relationship with the survivor, the project, our work site coordinator and our case manager.

We communicate through Facebook under the guidance and assistance of the Conference Communicator which has proven invaluable. We conscientiously keep the churches of the West Virginia Conference aware of our work and alert to opportunities to contribute to another family’s recovery. As part of our report please read the following success story from Jack Lipphardt:

It began over breakfast at Tudor’s Biscuit World (some of you know the place). A pastor friend asked me what his congregation could do to help a flood disaster survivor. I replied, “Build them a house,” expecting him to consider providing a washer or dryer or perhaps some used furniture. He asked, “What would it cost?”

Surprised by his quick question, I said, “\$55,000 for a two-bedroom house, not counting unknowns around the foundation, HVAC, and furniture and depending on volunteer labor.” “Ok. Let me talk with our folk. If we can do something, can it be a project close enough that we can supply some volunteer labor?” Not knowing what to anticipate, I asked

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

our disaster case manager for the region to identify a client family within easy driving distance for church volunteers.

Skipping forward a bit, a client couple was identified. And as things unfolded, we watched the family configuration grow as, unfortunately, has become fairly common. Their home had been destroyed in the flood. State and federal programs could not help them because the flood had reconfigured the river's edge and a home could not be rebuilt on the property that now no longer exists. But we could build a house further upon their property. Hardly had we made the match when a daughter had to move home because of domestic violence, altering the size of the house to 3-bedrooms (parents, daughter, granddaughters), costing \$65,000 not including HVAC, foundation, and furnishing.

The pastor got back to me with a challenge: they would commit to \$40,000 if I could find additional support from other churches. The challenge had grown from \$15,000 to \$25,000 (to reach the \$65k). Two other churches raised \$10,000 and \$15,000! It was a "go"!

One more wrinkle: another daughter received a prison sentence for illegal drug activity, and the grandparents began the process of adopting two more grandchildren. Yep: before we broke ground, what began as a two bedroom home for a couple grew to a 4 bedroom house plan for nine people (grandparents, daughter, grandsons, granddaughters).

With other support from UMCOR, WV Conference disaster funds, and local donors, the footers and foundation were begun mid-summer. Our friends from Mennonite Disaster Service erected the house and had it dried within 3 days. Interior work is complete. Utilities are installed and operational. As I write this, the septic system is being completed. We met the goal of having them in their new home by Christmas (the septic system was operational by December 21 and the family was moving in!)

We've commonly and affectionately referred to this house as the "Church Build" home. I love it when the Church is the Church, joining hands with Christ - offering not only the purse but also muscle and sweat - to respond to people in disaster recovery.

John W. (Jack) Lipphardt, Director

WV United Methodist 2016 Disaster Recovery

Here is our 2018 report "by the numbers"

- We have operated on a \$750,000 grant from UMCOR in addition to our disaster response reserves and 2018 contributions totaling \$105,000.
- We have repaired 38 homes, rebuilt eight residences and replaced seven homes, impacting 164 persons.
- Our two case managers have served 45 families, opening 36 cases this year. They have closed 22 cases.
- We have paid vendors and sub-contractors \$445,100 for labor, materials, and services.
- We have welcomed 719 construction volunteers who have contributed 24,200 hours of work valued at \$600,000. We have provided housing for 705 volunteers over 190 days

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

and provided 434 meals to these volunteers. Teams have been housed in Clendenin UMC; First UMC and parsonage, Richwood; Jordan Chapel UMC, Canvas; the Richwood Armory; Holy Family Catholic Church, Richwood; and Camp Whitney, Clay. The first four sites listed were remodeled with conference and UMCOR funds so that they might host teams following the flood.

- **15,000** square feet of space is available at the New Vision Depot for production and storage of disaster response materials: **2000** flood buckets; **3000** health kits; **1000** school kits are currently in stock as well as **9** pallets of mops, **50** pallets of water and other response supplies.

J.F. Lacaria, Executive Director Long-Term Recovery



Campfires and s'mores were part of the fun at the celebration of the 60th anniversary of Spring Heights

GLOBAL MINISTRIES



UMC GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL MISSIONS
ADVANCE SPECIAL #3021425
LIVING HOPE HIGH SCHOOL
PO Box 2376
Bungoma, 50200, Kenya
www.LivingHopeHighSchool.org
P.O.Box 23 Riverton, WV 26814

Miracles In The West Virginia Annual Conference and in Bungoma, Kenya

In less than ten years, Living Hope High School has increased its support from 13 local United Methodist Churches to 16 UM churches in West Virginia, 66 individual United Methodists, and 18 United Methodist ministers in the West Virginia Annual Conference. These United Methodists are aglow through the work of the Holy Spirit in our midst. They have become the only supportive arm for Living Hope High School in Bungoma, Kenya. We receive no other funding except through sponsorships and donations.

The 86 student Kenya Accredited residential Christian school serves impoverished teens. Some have lost one or both parents due to AIDS or desertion, and others through disease. Some have both parents but live in abject poverty. All of these undergraduate high school students are sponsored by members of churches in the West Virginia United Methodist Conference! 68 college and training school students are sponsored by UM members. To what else can we, UMC members, attribute this miraculous outpouring, other than the Holy Spirit? **GOD IS AT WORK!**

The Lord has drawn us as a conference into this wonderful project. He has put a personal concern on our hearts for the physical and spiritual nurturing of these Christ believing young people. One of our own members, Marilyn Uhl, retired from teaching here in West Virginia and went to Kenya (un-sponsored by any church) in 2009 to follow the Holy Spirit's lead and to begin this mission project. Seven brick buildings being used as classrooms, a brick assembly hall, a newly wired computer lab, and a remodeled kitchen. Eight donated cottage dormitories are completed and occupied. A new deep well, 10,000 liter holding tank, faucets throughout the campus, and a beautiful tiled hand washing station have improved our sanitation considerably. Our new "AGAPE" brick science building, and the new "Healing Hut" (small dispensary hospital) is completed and is being used daily to treat and house our sick students. We now have a completed prayer pavilion, which is ready for use as a quiet prayer spot on campus. Electricity has been installed in the office, the computer lab, the dining hall, healing hut, and the new pavilion. We have dawn to dusk lights and an almost 6 ft. rod iron fence around the campus. The school has expanded to almost 9 acres including a soccer field, a volleyball court, and a permanent cow pasture and barn. A new chicken coop, housing 60 chickens has just been completed.

The students tend their own garden, milk cows, chickens, and banana grove while competing interscholastically in girls and boys volleyball, soccer, and track. A new track team has been formed because the Lord has sent us some outstanding runners. 100% of the students obtain a B-grade on their country's achievement tests and report cards in order to remain enrolled. This past year **our school placed first in the district's 144 high schools in Form 4 mock test and 7th in the Bungoma School District.** The students and faculty members feel God's benevolent hand on each of them. The students pray and worship with an intensity and dedication that inspires each of the sponsors to increase their prayer life and their dedication to follow Jesus Christ's example to feed the hungry and clothe the naked!

The faculty at the high school has expanded from its original 2 to 13 educated teachers. Nine local people are employed as full time service staff, cutting wood, cooking, etc. The wages of these permanent employees has definitely affected the economy in the local area. The number of construction workers who have been hired, and the supplies that have been purchased and used, have helped hundreds of families in the Bungoma area live at a higher standard. The school always uses local markets and suppliers for food, maintenance, construction, and supplies. We praise God for this opportunity! We are currently searching for a minister or ministerial couple to preach and offer guidance to our students. We can offer housing, medical insurance, meals, and a small living stipend. Call Helen Markwell if you are interested – 304-567-2254.

Living Hope High School is now an official UMC Advance designation for mission giving. You may send your donations by check payable to your local United Methodist church with the project name-LIVING HOPE HIGH SCHOOL and project number #3021425 on the check. Online gifts can be sent to: advancinghope.org. Click on the "give now" tab and use the number #3021425. We now have a new easy to use website-- livinghopehighschool.org. Additional information can be found there plus our monthly newsletters. We're being blessed and drawn closer to our Lord as He uses us to bless others. If your church would like to join in this journey of sponsoring a student, or helping one of our graduates attain further learning, or have a Living Hope speaker come to your church and give you further updates on new happenings, call District Superintendent-Scott Ferguson at (304) 822-4191 or Helen Markwell (304) 567-2254. Join us and please pray that the Spirit continues to lead us and provide for us at Living Hope High School. We keep Jesus FIRST!



GLOBAL MINISTRIES

All things are possible to those that believeth Mark 9:23

Burlington United Methodist Family Services, Inc.

“Changing lives by preventing harm and providing hope & healing to hurting children and families”

For BUMFS, Inc., 2018 has been a busy year. The children are still active in the tone chimes at Beckley, and the Rainbow Choir at Burlington, we manage to perform at many churches. **Ask and We Will Come!** Music is a way we can rejoice in the Lord. Sing to the Lord! Praise the Lord!

“For HE has delivered the life of the poor from the hand of evildoers.” Jeremiah 20:13
“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord.”
 Colossians 3:16

The staff at BUMFS is able to do GOD’s will as we continue to serve hurting children and families. Our continued growth in the community-based programs is just GOD reaching out to help others. We have opened offices in Point Pleasant, Williamson, Petersburg, Clay, Weston, Welch, and Wheeling, WV since last year. We are not staying within the walls of our Residential programs. We have served close to 2,000 clients in our programs, not counting Student Attendance Assistance (SAA) which serves over 4,000. Our SAA program was awarded the United Methodist Association Best practice award in 2018.

Once again, we are pleased to say that we had a clean audit. The opinion was clear and fairly stated. Everything is good here. We take pride in being good stewards of your money and material.

The residents continue to participate in monthly community service activities in the areas where they live. Examples of these activities are picking up trash at the Keyser Park, participating in canned food drives for the local food pantry, packing meals (20,000) for the Rise Against Hunger campaign, helping the residents of the Raleigh Center Nursing Home play BINGO, working at the New Vision Depot (the WV Conference’s Disaster Relief Warehouse), building shelves, moving shelves, moving supplies for flood buckets, hygiene kits, school kits, and putting together some of these supplies; and, for all, making bowls out of clay for Empty Bowls.

Thanks to fund-raising by you and our clients, each individual house had their own vacation plans and were able to do some pretty amazing things such as visiting Great Smoky Mountains; Ocean City, Williamsburg, Virginia.; Nashville, Tennessee; and Massanutten Water Park. They went hiking, zip-lining, four-wheeler riding, horseback riding, and visited amusement parks, trampoline parks, and arcades. Many great memories were made.

Our “Right from the Start” Program has expanded. We now provide services through the Helping Appalachian Parents and Infants (HAPI) program. The HAPI program allows the workers to stay with the families past the baby’s first birthday. Our Foster Care

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

numbers continue to rise due to the drug problems of our West Virginia families. We are approaching 150 kids in care. If GOD leads you to open your home to help a child in this way, please give us a call at 304-788-2342. We need more families. The children of West Virginia need you.

As always, you open your hearts at Christmas time. Thank you for your support in providing prayers, money, and gifts for our children and families.

Our Chaplains do a great job of getting the Word to our children. Vacation Bible School included games, crafts, worship service with Word and Table, and Prayer/ Praise services. For each service, we lit the globe that the bishop gave us at Annual Conference, reminding us that God brings light out of darkness, hope out of hopelessness and that we are all bound together as people of God. Nineteen of the youth went to Spring Heights for a week of camp.

Staff and residents had a dinner for the Raleigh County Sheriff's Department on July 19. The dinner was to show our appreciation for policemen and policewomen. The residents made thank you cards for them.

Our Apple Harvest and Pumpkin Festivals were successful. We still need your help. This year's events are-- October 5 and 6, 2019.

I am proud to say that we were awarded our re-accreditation of the United Methodist Association Eagle evaluation.

Thanks to the Burlington Auxiliary, the youth got to see "Jesus" at The Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, on October 30. On the first Saturday of November, Mountaintop Cooperative Parrish held their annual Booth Festival at the Deer Park Fire Hall. We thank you.

As always, I ask for your continued prayers and support for our mission "Changing lives by preventing harm and providing hope & healing to hurting children and families." Thanks again for allowing me to serve God through you.

Michael L. Price Sr., MS
President/CEO

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Ebenezer Community Outreach Center, Inc.

2018 was a fun and exciting year for Ebenezer Community Outreach Center, Inc., and the Huntington community.

We continue to provide a preschool program for youth ages two through five, which offers programs and activities that enhance children's social, developmental and intellectual development. The children also participate in a wide variety of field trips outside of the center.

The after-school program, Youth Energized for Success (Y.E.S.), has experienced the wonders of "reaching out to others." They made Christmas cards with candy canes attached for 86 veterans at the Barboursville Veterans Home. They participated in weekly tennis lessons provided by the Huntington Greater Park Board. They also visited Burlington 37 cemetery, a cemetery that is the final resting place for many of the 37 slaves that were freed by their owner after he moved to Ohio. Their history lessons ended with a trip to the Madie Carroll House in Guyandotte and the Highland Museum in Ashland, Kentucky. Other field trips and recreational activities closed out the summer.

Ebenezer's Baby Bassinette has continued to help needy mothers and newborns with clothing, diapers, wipes, formula, food, blankets, and other needs throughout the year. We sponsored mothers from Huntington Housing, Renaissance Center (drug rehabilitation center for mothers and their children) and Branches.

A local consignment shop continues to work with us to provide clothing to parents, Branches (local domestic violence shelter), Trinity clothing closet, and the community. This outreach is provided twice a month.

The Family Enrichment center continues to provide valuable information to parents on topics such as behavior management, latch key kids, domestic violence, and AIDS. Such information is provided by RADAR and local doctor offices.

Christmas is an exciting part of the year for the children. An anonymous donor donated new winter coats for 10 of our children. All children were sponsored with gifts from members of First UMC, Community of Grace UMC, Steele Memorial UMC and First Baptist Church as well as individuals from the community and Bella Consignment.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of service began with Marshall Students reading to the children and ended with the students cleaning out sheds and the playground.

Beverly Hills UMW donated spring jackets for about 40 after-school children, while Pea Ridge Woman's Club donated books for children of all ages. Steele Memorial UMC purchased a new refrigerator and First UMC purchased a new four-burner stove for our kitchen.

The "Undies" collected on Undie Sunday were shared with our parents and children and various organizations such as Trinity Clothing Closet, Branches, and Harmony House.

Volunteers are the most important part of the success of Ebenezer. We currently have students from Marshall University, area high schools and middle schools, as well as members of the community, who perform approximately twenty-five service hours a month.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

With the continued support from the staff, volunteers, the community, United Methodist Women, the Western District Office, and area businesses, Ebenezer Community Outreach Center will continue to strive by providing the community with these wonderful programs and activities. Thank you for another wonderful year.

‘REACHING OUT TO OTHERS’

Celes L. Sheffield, Executive Director

Heart and Hand House, Inc.

In 2018, Heart and Hand responded to more than 1,400 requests for emergency assistance from Barbour County families and provided additional assistance through our Home Repair and Construction Program, Thrift Stores, Christmas Basket distribution, Backpack Feeding Program and Community Garden Market.

More than 1,020 food boxes were distributed last year, providing over 37,380 meals and snacks to local individuals. During the summer, 19 volunteer Home Repair and Construction teams completed repair projects for 15 families and constructed one new home in the county. Our Belington and Philippi Thrift Stores continued to provide essential items such as clothing, shoes, and household goods to those in need. Proceeds from the sales of excess and non-essential goods helped support our other ministry programs.

At our Community Garden Market, more than 150 different producers brought in fresh, locally-produced foods and craft items last year, collectively earning nearly \$66,000. Low-income community members were able to use their SNAP EBT, WV Farmers Market Nutrition Program coupons, and food pantry vouchers at the market to increase their access to fresh, healthy foods. We also facilitated sales of produce to local schools and other institutions, providing an increased income opportunity for local farmers and increased access to healthy, local food for school children and other members of the community. Through our layette program and baby pantry, families with newborns and older infants received diapers, wipes, formula, and other essential infant-care items.

Partnering locally with Corley UMC, we continued to provide food to 155 elementary and middle school children each week through our Backpack Feeding Program. During the summer months, we also provided lunch for local children for three days a week and made backpack foods available for them to take home at the end of the week.

At Christmastime, we distributed food for a holiday meal, plus laundry baskets full of hygiene and cleaning items, underwear, hats, gloves, scarves and devotional material to 215 families. We are continually blessed by the outpouring of support and encouragement from our WV Annual Conference family and thank God that together we are able to meet the needs of so many.

Brenda Hunt, Executive Director

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Heart + Hand Outreach Ministries

Heart + Hand provides basic needs assistance to the most vulnerable in the communities we serve. Our main office is not far from where our mission project began over 50 years ago on D Street in South Charleston. From that location, we provide food, clothing, housewares, utility/rent assistance, diapers, work boots/shoes, and Christmas food and gifts for low-income families in South Charleston, St Albans, Tornado, Dunbar, Institute, Alum Creek, and Davis Creek.

In April 2018, *Heart + Hand* identified a need for weekend food for children attending South Charleston Middle School. All the children there received free breakfast and lunch on school days, but many students worry about having enough food over the weekend. Our volunteers pack and deliver food bags for 50 students every Friday.

The *Heart + Hand Upper Kanawha Valley* program targets the underserved residents of the Riverside High School district. Each Friday our caseworker takes a mobile office to Chesapeake City Hall. We help with utility or rent assistance, information about local food pantries and resources. Each applicant receives a bag of groceries.

Our *Heart + Hand Putnam County* program operates out of free office space provided by Winfield United Methodist Church. We are conveniently located next to the Putnam County DHHR. Our services there include utility or rent assistance, diapers, formula, local resource information and an emergency food cabinet with chunky soup and fruit.

The Christmas season starts with applications in September at *Heart + Hand*. Children living in poverty regularly experience times when there isn't enough to eat or water and heat at home. They may not expect Christmas gifts or a special meal. Our community came together to help us give 567 children special memories of Christmas 2018.

Seasonally we support children attending Camp CJ in Hinton. We provide incentives for students to do well in school. We donate blankets and clothing to shelters, recovery facilities, and schools. We deliver stuffed animals to nursing homes and schools. We give the surplus of books to shelters, libraries, and the literacy council. We respond when sponsored refugee families need a helping hand. We accept and distribute donations of medical supplies like walkers, crutches, and shower chairs. In partnership with East Bank United Methodist Church we work with mission teams from Roncalli High School in Indiana to do home repairs in the Upper Kanawha Valley area each spring and summer.

Annually, 5,000 individuals in over 2,000 households benefit from *Heart + Hand* programs.

We are blessed with the church collections from Undies Sunday. We distribute the new underwear and socks to children that benefit from our Christmas program. Families receiving clothing vouchers from our Thrift Store receive new underwear and socks. Your donations on Undies Sunday make a difference throughout the year.

Our thrift store is an example of community collaboration. Donors bring items of every kind that they no longer need. Volunteers sort through donations and stock our thrift store so that it is full, clean, and attractive. Our social services department gives thrift store

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

vouchers for free clothing, bedding, and housewares to those qualifying for assistance. The rest of our store creates a year-round fundraiser. Revenue from the store helps with our operating cost and supports Heart + Hand programs. Please come shop for clothes, shoes, books, craft items, glassware, furniture, collectibles, and more!

Volunteer – answer the call to service. We logged 19,258 volunteer hours in 2018! We are thankful to the church groups, those that come weekly, and all who just stopped by to help for an hour. We need more volunteers every day.

We partner with state and federal work release programs. Selected residents of DISMAS Charities volunteer with us daily for weeks or months. Many entered the prison system at a young age and were there 10 – 20 years. We can help obtain their birth certificate, driver's license, GED, life skills, resume writing, job search, and a housing plan. They watch us interact with others and feel the love given to all who walk in our doors. Their final day can be emotional as they express their gratitude. "The support and acceptance I received at Heart + Hand made me realize that there are people willing to give someone a second chance after they messed up. I became a hard person in prison but I'm a different person now and I'm ready to go do something good with the rest of my life. I won't forget what you did for me."

We are able to do all these things because of the support and prayers that we receive from you! God Bless you.

Vicki Ballengee, Executive Director

The House of the Carpenter



*"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and you shall love your neighbor as yourself."
"And who is my neighbor?"*

- Lisa teaches the money management class as part of Utility Assistance. While in the grocery, one of the participants approached her: "Lisa, I paid at least something on all of my bills and put \$5 into my savings account."
The Kingdom of God is coming near!
- A Christmas Kid sponsor bought her a coat, pants, tops and shoes. As she opened them with the school counselor she kept singing "Jesus loves me".
The Kingdom of God is coming near!

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

- Matt won Guys Grocery Games and is the chef in his own restaurant. He was the guest judge for the last Teen Cooking Boot Camp. The next day he brought gift certificates for the participants and their families to have dinner at his restaurant because “Those are awesome kids and I want to encourage them.” *T h e Kingdom of God is coming near!*
- She hates the world, school and everyone around her, but Peggy (a member of the UMW) befriended her, tutored her and brought out this loving, happy, intelligent young lady.
The Kingdom of God is coming near!
- Darrin is a professor of history at WLU. Later this summer he will once again walk into a room of Elementary students dressed as a medieval Viking. The kids love him, he makes history real, and the kids are a joy to him.
The Kingdom of God is coming near!
- She walked out of the grocery store and approached the donation table. She told us of the day she came to the food pantry needing help. As she extended her hand with the can of soup, she told us, “I still don’t have much, but I want to give something back.”
The Kingdom of God is coming near!
- The backhoe’s teeth dug into the soil removing the first scoop of earth for the foundation of the Youth Center. The entire Island shuttered, the hope of anticipation was becoming reality and it was overcoming the fear that “nothing good ever comes to the Island.”
The Kingdom of God is coming near!
- The WV State Police visited to ask if they could be part of the programs at the Youth Center when it was finished. They wanted to work with the children and youth to break down the barriers that often separate them.
The Kingdom of God is coming near!

Last year over 14,000 volunteer hours and a myriad of generous donations allowed ministry to take place more than 47,000 times. Yet, there is always another opportunity to impact someone’s life; another opportunity to serve. You are invited to share in the story of the Kingdom of God coming near.

“Truly, I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Scott's Run Settlement House



Scott's Run Settlement House is continuing to grow our mission to serve those in need in Monongalia County. Our service numbers for our food pantry and backpack feeding program have increased. In 2018, a week's worth of groceries was provided to 8,749 individuals and 803 children in twelve schools, totally more than 30,000 bags of food during the school year. Our backpack program has increased 292% since its inception in 2011.

Our seasonal outreach programs also continue to make a huge impact in Monongalia County. In 2018, a total of 1,197 individuals enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal; 156 people in 65 families were sponsored at Christmas; 182 people in 64 families were able to prepare an Easter meal and have treat baskets because of the generosity of churches, businesses, and sponsors; and 147 children received a new backpack full of supplies for school. SRSR added a senior feeding program in 2018 which provides additional food to over 40 seniors each month.

The services provided by Scott's Run Settlement House continue to make a difference in the lives of those who struggle to meet their most basic needs in Monongalia County. Your continued generosity and unwavering support of our work is what makes all this possible.

Jana Stanfield said, "I cannot do all the good that the world needs. But the world needs all the good that I can do." This demonstrates how important and significant your support has been; each donation, no matter how big or small, makes a real impact on someone's life. You have made it possible for Scott's Run Settlement House to provide greatly needed services to those most in need.

Thank you for illustrating God's grace and abundance through your continued support of our programs.

Shay Petitto
Executive Director

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Tyrand Cooperative Ministries, Inc.

Tyrand Cooperative Ministries has been meeting the needs of the less fortunate in Randolph County since 1962 and still remains dedicated to working toward alleviating hunger and other emergency needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ. The Year 2019 is starting out seeing a bigger increase in families and individuals needing assistance with food and utility bills. It is only by the Grace of God and your generous gifts that we can continue to meet those needs.

I am humbled by all the volunteers who give so unselfishly of their time and talents to make our ministry a success. We have a compassionate core of volunteers who help us with the ministries of Tyrand. At our Annual Volunteer Banquet in November, we celebrated our 146 volunteers who help us meet the needs of the less fortunate.

At this time last year, we were trying to raise funds to replace the 35 year-old baseboard heating system in our main two-story building, which houses the offices and the Thrift Store. Estimates came in around \$18,000.00 - \$20,000.00. We were blessed by receiving a grant from the United Methodist Foundation and a smaller grant from the Presbyterian Women of WV that covered two-thirds of the cost. God is good and with some private donations we were able to have the new HVAC system installed in September of 2018.

In 2018, our home repair teams worked at 25 homes. We are blessed by all our work teams that come throughout the year to work on homes in our area. Members of Christ Presbyterian Church in Pennsylvania come several times a year to help out with our fundraisers and if there is a need in the community that can not wait for the June work teams they will pull together a small team and spend a weekend helping that family.

The Highland Cooperative Parish sponsors a Ham and Bean Dinner Fundraiser for us each March. Members of this group also help us with our Annual Cakewalk/Auction that is held the first Saturday in April.

The drug epidemic is still a problem in our area. We continue to provide a safe work environment for all our staff and volunteers. Our volunteers have been trained to stay safe and still offer the love of Christ to those with addictions. We are very pleased with the panic buttons we had installed a couple years ago in the Thrift Store and the offices. We work closely with the Randolph County Office of Emergency Management in being prepared for any situation that should arise. We also continue to work with the RCOEM in Disaster Preparedness.

We continue to sell items on E-bay to help fund our programs. Our seller name is: **tyrand2009**. If you shop on Amazon you can select a charity to donate to through Amazon Smile. Donations can also be made through PayPal at tcm@frontiernet.net. We are grateful for any donations.

Our slogan "Faith and Action Joined in Love" is a constant reminder for us to be disciples of Christ and to help our brothers and sisters in need. We are appreciative of the Highland Cooperative Parish, the Wesleyan District, the other denominational churches that participate and all the churches in the WV Annual Conference for their continued support.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

I encourage each of you to visit and support Tyrand and all your Mission Projects. Keep all of us in prayer as we struggle to keep serving the less fortunate.

Blessings,
Belinda Toms, Executive Director

Upshur Parish House/Crosslines, Inc.



This late winter morning, as I write this report, I am listening to a chorus of birds chirping in the nearby trees. I cannot decide if their chirps are meant as a comfort or a challenge. It is comforting for me to hear the sounds of nature all around and to remember the words of Jesus in Matthew 6:26:

“Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?”

And yet, I am aware of the challenges that so many of our neighbors face: food insecurity, heat, utilities, clothing, shelter. It is difficult to hear these words when so many

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

people are facing these challenges. I am also aware that the words of Jesus found throughout the Gospels are calls to all of us to help God provide security to those who face challenges like these and other challenges of safety, of justice, and of hope.

In this past year, Crosslines, Inc., through the Upshur Parish House, has continued to serve our community with grace and hope. We continue to serve around 100 families per week in the 20 hours that we are open to the public. Through solid efforts of the Board of Directors, Crosslines has made some changes in the criteria of how often we can help a family and with how much. We continue to partner with other area agencies so that our families have the resources to solve these emergency situations. Because of these efforts, we ended 2018 with the solid financial resources to fulfill our pledges and to begin the new year.

Our food pantry has also had the resources and support needed to provide food throughout the entire year. Our lowest point of the year always occurs in August, but this year I was pleased to see that even that month there was plenty of food to share. We have added new freezers to accommodate surplus and we have increased the amount of food that we offer each family.

As I have reported for the last several years, my biggest concern for the low-income families of our county is adequate housing. We seem to be in the midst of an affordable housing desert and there are many, many who are homeless in the literal sense of the word. In this past year, we have had to discontinue offering a few nights of shelter through local hotels, mainly because there are no rooms available. Our need for a homeless shelter in this county is more crucial than ever. Crosslines and Parish House are connected to the work of the Upshur Homeless Coalition. This past fall, I was part of a team from the Coalition that gave an extensive report to the City Council about the problem. It is our hope that with City Council's support we can begin to offer solutions to this condition. I ask for continued prayers for wisdom as we deal with this issue.

We have entered into two new partnerships in order to add services for our neighbors. We have established a partnership with Holy Rosary Catholic Church establishing a Diaper Bank that is open at the Parish House to our families two days a week. Our other partnership is with Catholic Charities to provide Case management services for our neighbors two days a week. These services will help us to meet more needs for our neighbor families.

The work of Crosslines, Inc., and the Parish House is extensive and fills a void in our community. The unsung heroes are our volunteers. Hundreds and hundreds of volunteer hours make it possible to do what we do through Crosslines, through the Clothes Closet, and through other ministries of the Parish House. Whether it is working at the HELP desk or in the Food Pantry week after week, hearing stories and offering prayers or working at the Clothes Closet through endless hours of sorting, or the numerous trips to pick up commodities, cooking for the three hot meals offered each week, or the special projects such as Holiday meal distribution, the Christmas Day dinner, or the Annual Conference lunches, our volunteers are generous people who are helping to make certain that all families in our county thrive.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

This year, we added another storage building for the Clothes Closet that has also doubled as an additional selling place. We named this building *The Roy Mick Annex*, in memory of Rev. Roy Mick who inherited eternal life during this past year. Roy was on staff at the Parish House and used his expertise to help us complete many projects and day-to-day tasks. His sense of humor offered us many times of laughter. We miss him.

In addition to the services that we continue to offer, we have undertaken a major project to upgrade security and to make the whole facility safer. By the time Annual Conference meets in June, we will have completed an upgrade on the surveillance system, including the installation of cameras throughout the facilities, especially the most vulnerable spots. The public places, including gathering room, food pantry, food storage area, HELP desks, dining rooms, and Clothes Closet, will include complete surveillance. Panic buttons, that activate a call to our local 911 center, have been installed in all offices, the Gathering room, and in the food pantry. Emergency exit doors will be constructed in the two HELP desk offices.

Our computer system is also undergoing a check-up to make certain we are as safe as possible and to make certain the information is safely stored. This check-up requires an upgrade in all programs that we use, especially the data information for our neighbors and it will require new hardware.

We have had a review of our Sexual Misconduct and Boundary Policies. Changes have been made strengthening the policies. Training will occur before Annual Conference, with newly designed trainings that will happen every six months. New volunteers and staff members will be required to undergo this training before beginning their duties. Our volunteer policy has also been strengthened and background checks for all staff and volunteers will be conducted by June.

We are redesigning the parking area to include more handicapped parking. Plans are also underway to pave the parking lot and fix the drainage problem that results in ice through the winter months.

These changes have been challenging, but we feel that the safety of all our neighbors, staff, and volunteers is the most important way that we can offer hospitality and support. Continuing to improve safety conditions is a goal for the Parish House.

As usual we will be serving lunch during Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of Annual Conference. Come see us!

Soli Deo Gloria!

Rev. Alicia Randolph Rapking, Director

GLOBAL MINISTRIES



West Virginia Annual Conference

Board of Global Ministries



Guidelines for Virginia Higgins Grants

Mission Statement

The purpose of Health and Welfare Ministries shall be to assist United Methodists to become involved in Health and Welfare ministries and programs, especially in the areas of child care, aging, health care, and persons with handicapping conditions; and to assist organizations, institutions, and programs related to the West Virginia Annual Conference and other units of The United Methodist Church in their involvement in direct service to persons in need through both residential and non-residential ministries.

Application

Complete the application. Additional pages may be included—use the same numbering system for the items/questions as listed on the application. Completed applications must be postmarked by **April 15 of the current funding year**.

Priorities in Funding

Sixty percent (60%) of the available distributable income will be granted each year to the on-going mission and ministry of the Health and Welfare Institutions of the West Virginia Annual Conference.

Criteria for Funding General Projects

1. The remaining forty percent (40%) of the available distributable income will be granted to local United Methodist Churches, Outreach Agencies, and other conference structures engaged in Health and Welfare Ministries.
2. Funds will not be granted to for replacement of existing funds.
3. Funds will not be granted for salary support.
4. The group or agency making the application may submit only one proposal per funding cycle. If the proposal is not approved when first submitted, the group or agency must resubmit for the next funding cycle. However, no proposal will be considered for funding by the Health and Welfare Coordinator more than twice.
5. Projects will be funded for no more than a three-year period.
6. The maximum grant to any project will be \$5,000 annually.
7. Demonstration that the project proposal relates specifically to the Mission Statement of Health and Welfare Ministries.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

What Happens If Your Project Is Funded

1. You will receive a letter (or email notice) from the Health and Welfare Coordinator informing you of the approval and funds will be mailed to you by June 1.
2. Upon completion of the funding project and no later than December 31 of the current funding year, a written evaluation summary will be submitted to the Health and Welfare Coordinator.

The evaluation shall include:

- a detailed listing of expenditures for the project,
- a brief summary of accomplishments.

If all funds have not been spent by December 31, submit an explanation:

- that explains why funds have not been spent,
- that explains how and when the funds will be utilized or that the funds will be returned to Health and Welfare Ministries.

Designation of Payee

Checks will be made to the United Methodist sponsoring organization which has responsibility for seeing that the funds are distributed for the purpose intended. If, after a period of 180 days, the funds have not been utilized as specified in the grant, they shall be returned to Health and Welfare Ministries plus any interest earned while held by the payee organization.

Applications must be postmarked no later than April 15 of the current year.

Return completed application to:

Rev. Ray Stonestreet
Health and Welfare Coordinator
PO Box 478
Lavalette, WV 25535

If you have any questions, you may contact Rev. Stonestreet at rdstonestreet@gmail.com or 304-590-2847

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

The Byron and Elva Mary (Shaffer) Humphreys Memorial Scholarship

Guidelines for Application

The *Byron and Elva Mary (Shaffer) Humphreys Memorial Scholarship* was created in 2003 to provide financial assistance for students pursuing post High School education that might be unable to continue their education due to financial constraints. Mr. and Mrs. Humphrey felt they were blessed to have been raised in a Christian home, surrounded by good friends and a gracious Church that had a positive influence upon their lives. In thanksgiving for what they had received, they wanted to provide an opportunity for others to continue their education when it appeared that finances might make it difficult for impossible for them to continue. The *Scholarship* is awarded based on financial need and the ability of the student to achieve their desired degree/certification and enter into a chosen career field. The *Scholarship* can provide support for up to four years. More than one scholarship can be awarded each year.

The *Scholarship* is available for 4-year bachelor degrees, 2-year associate degrees, technical school training, and other programs that provide certification in a field of study with the approval of the Trustees of the United Methodist Foundation. All applicants must show the promise of being able to complete the degree or receiving their certification. Evidence of progress must be demonstrated to continue receiving support through the scholarship.

Applications for the *Scholarship* are available through the mission projects affiliated with the West Virginia Annual Conference. Currently these include the Ebenezer Community Outreach Center in Huntington, Heart and Hand House in Philippi, Heart + Hand Outreach Ministries in Charleston, House of the Carpenter in Wheeling, Scott’s Run Settlement House in Osage, Tyrand Cooperative Ministries in Mill Creek and Upshur Parish House in Buckhannon. The completed applications will be reviewed by the Project Directors in June and if funds are available in November. Upon approval by the Project Directors, copies of the applications along with a letter of approval will be submitted to the United Methodist Foundation.

The process for awarding the *Scholarship* is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees of the United Methodist Foundation. The Board of Trustees may delegate this responsibility to a committee in lieu of the entire Board needing to meet.

The *Scholarship* is unique in its approach to assisting students. The value of the award can increase each year. Whereas most assistance programs decrease as a student nears completion, the *Scholarship* will increase its support making completion more likely. The maximum award per year is capped at:

Year 1:	\$1,500
Year 2:	\$1,650
Year 3:	\$1,850
Year 4:	<u>\$2,000</u>
Total	\$7,000

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

All *Scholarships* awarded will be made payable to the institution where the student is enrolled once proof of enrollment is provided to the United Methodist Foundation. In order to receive support from the *Scholarship* application must be made each year. All applications are due by May 15th before the fall academic year and before October 31st for the spring academic year.

Guidelines for Hunger Ministries

1. Undesignated funds will be divided and sent out quarterly. Ninety percent (90%) of the total will go to projects within the West Virginia Annual Conference and ten percent (10%) will be distributed to Living Hope High School in Kenya. The money will be distributed proportionally with regard to the amount of each grant.
2. Once a project reaches one hundred percent payout of funds, through designated funds, undesignated funds, or a combination of both categories, that project’s grant goal will be considered attained.
3. The application must include a budget and documented expenditures of the previous year for grant consideration.
4. The application must be postmarked by **March 20** of each year. Project applications must be postmarked by the indicated deadline or they will not be considered. (Applications should be made in the first quarter of each year.)
5. Photocopies of previously submitted applications will not be considered.
6. Non-United Methodist projects may apply but must show co-sponsorship of the project with a United Methodist organization. There must be a direct relationship with the UM organization.
7. Hunger grants are to provide assistance for food pantries and other agencies dealing with hunger in our society. Hunger grant money is intended for use in purchasing food, food-related items, and storage (refrigerators, freezers, shelving). Funds are not to be used for administrative costs, salaries, clothing closets, or utility payments for clients.
8. The following will be the grant scale for Food Pantries:

<u>Annual Budget/Expenditures</u>	<u>Hunger Grant Goal Amount</u>
Up to \$10,000, inclusive	\$250
\$10,001 and up	\$500

9. The following will be the grant scale for Community Services Agencies with food programs:

<u>Annual Budget/Expenditures</u>	<u>Hunger Grant Goal Amount</u>
Under \$30,000	\$500
\$30,000 and up	\$1,000

Maximum Service Agency grant will be \$1000.

10. All Mission Projects of the West Virginia Annual Conference will automatically receive hunger grants of \$1000.
11. Maximum grants to any project within the Annual Conference will be \$1000.
12. If each grant receives the goal amount, the surplus funds will be distributed proportionally.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

West Virginia Annual Conference Board of Global Ministries

Guidelines for Mission Ministries Grant

Mission Statement

God's Holy Spirit calls the Church into being for mission. The Church experiences and engages in God's mission as it pours itself out for others, ready to cross every boundary to call for true human dignity among all peoples, especially among those regarded as the least of God's children, all the while making disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world.

Purpose of Grant

The Mission Ministries Grant is designed to provide churches and church ministries within the WV Annual Conference an opportunity to initiate new ministries in local communities or expand current ministries throughout the conference that will alleviate human suffering and/or seek justice especially to those who find themselves marginalized. This grant is intentionally established to support and encourage local creativity in response to local necessity.

Mission Ministries Grant

The geographic area that is included in the Mission Ministries Grant is any WV Annual Conference county, charge or church.

Criteria for the Grants

1. The Grant is to be used to help local United Methodist churches and church ministries undertake and establish a mission emphasis or expand a current ministry in their community which will alleviate human suffering and/or seek justice especially to those who find themselves marginalized.
2. Projects should be sponsored or partially sponsored by local United Methodist Churches, or other WV Conference bodies.
3. Any WV Conference Mission Project that is receiving Work Funds from the Conference budget is not eligible to participate in the grant program.
4. Requests by Church and Community Workers are only eligible if the grant application is originated by and in partnership with a local United Methodist church, charge or parish.
5. Funds will not be granted for replacement of existing funding.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

6. Funds will not be granted for salary support.
7. Maximum grant is \$3000.
8. Granted projects will be funded no more than three times or as long as monies are available.
9. A report on the most recently funded project including a financial statement needs to be on file with the Missions Coordinator before any additional requests are considered.
10. Applications are accepted any time during the year.
11. Signatures of the pastor, administrative board/Church council chairperson and district superintendent are required for the application to be considered completed.
12. It shall be the responsibility of the WV Conference Board of Global Ministries Leadership Team to determine eligibility for a grant and the amount to be granted.
13. The grant amount may be decreased or denied under any of the following conditions:
 - Only completed applications (all parts responded to) will be considered
 - The church is paying less than 100% of conference apportionments
 - Application does not show adequate need for the grant
 - Sponsorship by a local UMC, or other WV Conference bodies is not adequate
 - Application does not meet the intent of the grant (undertake and establish a mission emphasis)
 - The 2 attachments requested on the application have not been included, if appropriate
 - Inadequate number of partners
14. Complete and submit the evaluation report at completion of the project.

If you have any questions, you may contact

Gayle Lesure

PO Box 2043

Clarksburg, WV 26302

304-848-0251

cburgparishgayle@yahoo.com

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Revolving Loan/Grant Fund

West Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church
Maintained by the Board of Global Ministries

Loans

1. Capital Improvement* Loans, up to a maximum of \$50,000, are available to local churches, WV Conference mission projects, cooperative parishes, district camps, and the WV Conference camp. The loan may be a single payment loan (amount to be dispersed in one payment) or a divided payment loan (amount to be dispersed in more than one payment—as the group needs the money). An additional loan cannot be requested from the WV-UMC Revolving Loan/Grant Fund until a prior loan, from this Fund, has been paid in full.
2. Loans up to \$25,000 are to be repaid over a five-year period with monthly payments on principal and interest. Loans over \$25,000 and up to \$50,000 are to be repaid over a seven-year period with monthly payments on principal and interest. Loan recipients may refinance for an additional three years in the event of extreme hardship.
3. The current rate of interest for the Revolving Loan/Grant Fund shall be set at 2% below the current prime rate, shall not exceed 8%, and shall be no lower than 1%.
4. Loans cannot be used to pay off other loans/indebtedness or to replace funds from endowments, persons, organizations, etc. Loans cannot be used to replace funds for completed projects. Loans cannot be used for (church/mission project/parish/camp/etc.) salaries.

Grants

5. Capital Improvement* Matching Grants of no more than \$12,500 may be made to local churches, WV Conference mission projects, cooperative parishes, district camps, and the WV Conference camp when all other avenues have been exhausted, and an emergency or extreme need is shown to exist.
6. Grants cannot be used to pay off an existing loan from the WV-UMC Revolving Loan/Grant Fund, to pay off other loans/indebtedness, to replace funds from (endowments, persons, savings accounts, organizations, etc.), to pay for indebtedness for past projects, or to replace funds for past projects. Grants cannot be used for (church/mission project/parish/camp/etc.) salaries.
7. Local churches, WV Conference mission projects, cooperative parishes, district camps, and the WV Conference camp will not be considered for an additional grant for at least seven (7) years from the date of their last grant, unless extreme need or emergency can be substantiated (such as: fire, flood, tornado, etc.).

Grants and Loans----WV Conference Responsibility

8. It shall be the responsibility of the West Virginia Conference Board of Global Ministries--Leadership Team to determine eligibility for a loan or grant and the amount to be granted within the guidelines.
9. The WV-UMC Revolving Loan/Grant Fund must maintain a minimum balance of \$200,000 for any loan or grant to be considered, except in extreme emergency situations (such as: fire, flood, tornado, etc.).

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

10. The WV Conference Board of Global Ministries--Leadership Team may decrease or deny the amount of the loan or grant under any of the following conditions:
- Inadequate amount of labor being provided by the group
 - Inadequate amount of fund raising and/or pledging
 - Amount of debt the group may have
 - Inadequate amount of current funds available
 - The church is paying less than 100% of conference apportionments
 - Application does not show adequate need for the project
 - One or more of the five required attachments are missing
 - Yearly income is much greater than yearly expenses
 - Inadequate insurance
 - Errors on the application
11. The WV Conference Treasurer's Office will be responsible for administering the funds.

Grants and Loans---Applicant Responsibility

12. Complete the application. An incomplete application will not be considered. The application must also include the 5 attachments listed in #13 (below).
13. The applicant must provide:
- A description of the project, the need for the project, who will benefit from the project, and the approximate number of persons who will be served (Attachment A)
 - An itemized list of expenses/costs for this project (Attachment B)
 - Evidence that the grant has already been matched
 - The current budget of the applying group (church/mission project/camp/ parish) (Attachment C)
 - A copy of the deed for the property (Attachment D)
 - An original document, from an insurance agent, stating that the property has adequate insurance coverage. The document must also list the amount of coverage for the property. (Attachment E)
14. Evaluation---When the project is completed, complete the enclosed evaluation form within 3 months.
15. A group may not apply for a grant during the time that they have a loan.
 A grant may be applied for 5 years after a loan has been paid in full.
 A loan may be applied for 5 years after a grant has been issued.
 An additional loan may be applied for, after the prior loan has been paid in full.
 Grants may be applied for every 5 years.

**Capital improvement---any expenditure for physical improvements, including costs for: any change, alteration, rearrangement or addition to existing facilities; new construction; acquisition or improvements to sites, buildings, or service systems; acquisition of fixed equipment and similar expenditures*

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GLOBAL MINISTRIES

**WV Annual Conference—UMC
Disaster Response Ministries**



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GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Theological Implications for the Disaster Response

“We are not lords, but instruments in the hand of the Lord of history; and we can share in other people’s sufferings only to a very limited degree. We are not Christ, but we must have some share in Christ’s large heartedness by acting with responsibility and in freedom when the hour of danger comes, and by showing a real sympathy that springs, not, from fear, but from the liberating and redeeming love of Christ for all who suffer.

Mere waiting and looking on is not Christian behavior. The Christian is called to sympathy and action, not in the first place by his own sufferings, but by the sufferings of his brethren, for whose sake Christ suffered.”¹

There are many logical and practical reasons why churches respond to disaster. Sociologically² churches are grass roots institutions which...are being looked to for help, comfort and leadership in the times of stress and crisis. “They are among the basic institutions within any social unit...they have ‘territories’ within which they have social, physical, and economic, as well as ‘spiritual concerns’. They have visibility and strength which their individual members do not have.”

In practice, churches are involved in response to disaster from the very first hour. The church gives unique help in four areas.³

Spiritual (dealing with questions of life, death, eternal hope, why me?, why not me?, values, etc.)

Emotional (‘caring presence’, support, re-establishing a sense of community, resolving the emotional conflicts of such trauma.)

Physical (people involvement, clean-up, transportation, etc.)

Material (those areas which are crucial for living, but to which no other source can give.)

“These are all essential. They have to do with the quality of life for persons suffering great trauma from disaster. No one except the Church can really function well in these areas – especially the first two.”

Theologically, there are reasons central to the Church’s existence which calls for compassionate response to the needs occasioned by disaster. Churches “have a mandate: they must be concerned with the welfare of individuals. They must address the concerns of the poor, the needy, and the victimized.” The Church’s mission is found within the Biblical and theological background of our faith. The Church is about the reconciliation of people with themselves, with each other, and with God, in the face of disruptive forces within and without.

It is the Church which comes proclaiming, in a profound way, a significant message of continuity between what has been, what is now, and what will be in the future. It is the church that comes representing the essence of eternal values that transcend the immediate.

The task of the church, in the break-up of community occasioned by disaster, through its involvement in community organization, pastoral care, and involvement in local leadership, is to re-establish the presence of a supportive, caring community.

Through the work of local ministers, lay persons, pastoral counselors, and Church and Community Workers, the message is strong and clear. “You are a disaster victim, but you still have eternal strengths and potentials for coping. You have abilities to regroup. Most important, you have the unique qualities that God has given you to discover hope in the midst of disaster.”

The church is involved in disaster response to project a prophetic message related to the future. The prophetic voices of the church....seeks to prevent conditions which make the possibility of future disaster less prevalent than necessary.

¹ Bonhoeffer, Dietrick, *Letters and Papers from Prison*, p. 13.

² Molenaar, Neil, *The Role of Churches in Preparation for Longterm Recovery*, p. 8ff.

³ Miller, Virginia, *The Church’s Role in Disaster*.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

PREFACE

Our United Methodist disaster response effort has been for years called a ministry of pastoral care. We now realize the term pastoral care is insufficient to define what we do in our disaster response ministry. To many, the term means mental and spiritual health counseling. Yes, there is a counseling component, but our disaster response ministry is much broader.

To others, pastoral care is even more narrowly defined as services provided to or by ordained religious leaders. However, disaster response ministry is not the exclusive territory of clergy. Perhaps what we do is best described as a *Ministry of Care*.

Our multifaceted ministry of Christ's Church has theological, material, mental health, advocacy, and social service components designed to provide for the spiritual, emotional and physical recovery of disaster survivors and for the well-being of their caregivers.

Remember a disaster erodes some relationships and cuts others. The aim of our caring ministry is to strengthen and reconnect these relationships—between persons and God, persons and families, persons and communities. Whatever you plan, do it so relationships are built and/or restored, not further damaged.

The parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37) tells of two religious officials and a man from Samaria. The Samaritan holds no religious office, and is, in fact, of a race despised and considered “unclean” by those arrogant officials. When the three are confronted with a call to care, it is the Samaritan who answers and gets the approving nod from Jesus. He performs his caring ministry at some cost and personal risk. Those hearing Jesus tell of it were no doubt surprised to hear that an “unfit” Samaritan is portrayed as capable of compassion.

The story is a reminder to any who call themselves followers of Christ that when strangers lie wounded, each of us is called to respond. We have no choice but to set aside our personal agenda and embrace inconvenience in order to offer care, always at some cost and risk. All of us, laity and clergy alike, are God's designated caregivers, urged by Jesus “to do likewise.”

Mission Statement

Compelled by Christ to be a voice of conscience on behalf of the people called Methodist, West Virginia Disaster Response Ministries works throughout the West Virginia Annual Conference to alleviate human suffering and advance hope and healing.

Values

The work of the West Virginia Annual Conference Disaster Response Ministries is grounded in faith in God and in the communities we serve. This gives us the courage to serve boldly in the presence of Christ to alleviate human suffering and advance hope and healing.

- WV Annual Conference Disaster Response Ministries provides practical, proactive support to the most vulnerable survivors of chronic or momentary emergencies stemming from natural or civil causes.
- The WV Annual Conference Disaster Response Ministries honors cultural differences. We deliver aid to people without regard to race, religion, politics, gender or sexual orientation. We seek input from local communities in identifying needs and developing innovative solutions.
- All people have God-given dignity and worth. The most essential partner in the West Virginia Annual Conference Disaster Response Ministries work is the beneficiary.
- WV Annual Conference Disaster Response Ministries works with partners—especially those who are indigenous to the affected locale. Civic organizations, faith communities, school leaders, and other local resources are great assets to sustainable recovery and development, particularly after massive traumatic events.
- WV Annual Conference Disaster Response Ministries is a good steward of its gifts and grants.
- WV Annual Conference Disaster Response Ministries does not tie the promise of its relief and development activity to any religious or political viewpoint.
- The WV Annual Conference Disaster Response Ministries professional staff incorporates best practices and standards to provide innovative, effective, and integrated ministry.
- The WV Annual Conference Disaster Response Ministries welcomes the good efforts of countless individuals and churches who support us through gifts, prayers, and service.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

West Virginia Annual Conference The United Methodist Church

Disaster Response Coordinator/s (DRC)

Job Description

Summary: With the assistance of the Conference Disaster Response Committee, the DRC coordinates the development and implementation of a Conference-wide disaster response plan, which includes the effective utilization of the human and material resources of congregations and the Conference to meet the immediate and long-term needs (physical, emotional, and spiritual) of persons caught up in disaster.

Duties: Reports directly to the Conference Director of Connectional Ministries/Assistant to the Bishop. Maintains and trains on a regular basis a network of district disaster response coordinators, who, with input from parish coordinators, provide initial and updated assessments of needs throughout the course of a disaster. Gathers and provides information regarding a disaster to the Conference Disaster Response Committee and, together with the Committee, determines a proper course of action to meet the needs arising out of a disaster. The WV Annual Conference Disaster Coordinators maintains appropriate connections with the WV Council of Churches, other faith communities, and government and private social service agencies, which are active in times of disaster. The WV Annual Conference Disaster Coordinators provides for the accountability of funds collected and distributed over the course of a disaster.

Qualifications: Is a United Methodist clergy or lay member of a United Methodist congregation. Understands the importance of and is committed to the timely response of the Church during disaster. The person must be able to devote the time necessary to lead the Church during disasters. The person must have the ability to inspire volunteers and the teaching skills to help train them.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

WV Conference Policies and Procedures for Disaster Response Ministries (Adopted: 2013, Global Ministries Team)

Administrative Policies

There are levels of disaster: local, parish, district, annual conference, and national. As the scope of disaster extends beyond a particular level, the next level's resources are accessed. For example, if a local church can handle the needs of a localized disaster, then there is no need to seek further assistance. If not, resources should be found at the parish or district levels. If a Parish Coordinator, District Superintendent or District Disaster Coordinator senses the disaster is beyond the scope of the parish or district, then the Annual Conference Disaster Response Coordinator should be notified and annual conference resources made available.

District Disaster Response Coordinators

Each district shall have a district response coordinator to coordinate district disaster response and cooperate with the annual conference response coordinator. The district coordinator and the parish coordinator (s) should work together to provide response to disasters beyond what a local church can handle. The district coordinator along with the District Superintendent will decide if the Conference Disaster Response Coordinator needs to be contacted. The district coordinator will become a member of the Annual Conference Adhoc Disaster Committee, when the affected area is within the district's boundaries.

Annual Conference Disaster Response Coordinator (s)

The coordinator(s) is responsible to coordinate conference response to disasters as they occur. The Episcopal office and Conference Coordinator (s) will assess whether UMCOR should become involved. The conference coordinator (s) is responsible for the disbursements of conference funds and the signing of vouchers.

- In some level II and all level III and IV disasters, any active clergy serving as the West Virginia Conference Disaster Response Coordinator must be relieved of pastoral duties in the local church for at least one month. A supply pastor should be appointed and paid with disaster funds. The District Superintendent should interpret this necessity to the congregation.
- The West Virginia Conference Disaster Response Coordinator should serve at least four years, and should be recruited with the understanding that she/he will enroll in training classes offered by UMCOR in the form of UMCOR's Training Academy or Jurisdictional Academies. The West Virginia Annual Conference will be responsible for cost associated to this training.

Annual Conference Adhoc Disaster Committee

This committee is comprised of the Bishop, the Director of Connectional Ministries, the Director of Leadership Formation, Division of Health and Welfare Chairperson, the VIM Coordinator, the Director of Communications, the Conference Disaster Response Coordinator(s), the Treasurer, the Global Ministries Team chairperson, and the District Superintendent(s) and district disaster coordinator(s) of the affected area(s). The Director of Connectional Ministries serves as the chair of the adhoc committee. The adhoc committee will act upon requests that exceed the pre-approved voucher limits and/or require dealing with special circumstances. The adhoc committee will meet when a disaster requires further action and/or long term support.

Response to Damage to Church Property

1. There are immediate grants to churches, affected by a disaster, of \$1000 per church (rebuilding church property or serving the citizens of the disaster area) upon request of the district superintendent of the district where the church is located. The grants will be disbursed by the Conference Disaster Response Coordinator(s).
2. Additional grant requests (to help churches restore church property) will be acted upon by the Conference Adhoc Disaster Committee.
3. Local churches may make application to the Revolving Loan Fund for emergency grants through the Division on Missions.

Limited Access to Disaster Area

Disaster response training is mandatory for anyone wishing to help in a disaster area. Admission to a disaster area or contact with victims/families will be prohibited unless the person can provide disaster training certification. Person trained by the WV Annual Conference can be identified by proper badging credentials.

Financial Policies

The primary purpose of Disaster Response is to meet the needs of the people through agencies and programs. A disaster response fund exists for disbursement of funds. This fund is comprised of donations given by individuals and organizations for disaster response.

1. The conference disaster response coordinator(s) is responsible for the disbursements of funds and reports the status of the disaster fund annually to the Conference Global Ministries Team and the Annual Conference. Vouchers will be signed by the disaster response coordinator(s) and sent to the Conference Treasurer for checks to be written from the disaster response fund. The voucher limit is \$5000 per voucher. Reimbursements for expenses incurred by the Disaster Response Coordinator(s) are approved by the Director of Connectional Ministries.
2. The Adhoc Disaster Committee will meet and act upon requests that exceed the approved limits and/or require dealing with special circumstances.
3. When a disaster requires further action and/or long-term support, a meeting of the Annual Conference Disaster Adhoc Committee will be called.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Planned Reserves

When possible and prudent, a balance of \$100,000 should be reserved for the next possible disaster. Twenty percent of the balance should be reserved for administration.

Description of Responsibility in Disaster Response

Bishop:

Preparation

- Appoints a Conference Disaster Response Coordinator who will serve at least four years.
- Appoints a Conference Disaster Adhoc Preparedness and Response Committee. Assures that the committee formulates a conference disaster preparedness and response plan.
- Appoints the Conference Disaster Response Coordinator as Chair of the Conference Disaster Committee.
- Appoints a Cabinet or staff person representative to represent the Bishop on the Conference Disaster Response Committee in her/his absence.
- Empowers the Cabinet or staff representative, in the absence of the Bishop, to implement the response plan when disaster strikes and to contact UMCOR for assistance.
- Is aware of the assistance UMCOR can and cannot provide.
- Assures that the Cabinet is trained by UMCOR at least every four years.
- Encourages District Superintendents to have disaster response programs annually at district pastors' meetings and district conferences.
- Establishes contingency plans for a conference wide financial appeal.
- Supports and encourages that the One Great Hour of Sharing offering be observed in all Districts and Local churches.
- Assures that conference property is prepared/protected and insured in case of disaster.

Response

- Implements Conference Disaster Response Plan as needed.
- Establishes communications with disaster response leaders within the Episcopal Area.
- Offers support, spiritual guidance, resources and assistance.
- Notifies UMCOR of Disaster needs as soon as possible
- Considers a conference wide financial appeal.
- Tours damaged areas as soon as possible to offer hope and encouragement.
- Appoints temporary assisting pastors to any disaster affected congregations when the pastor-in-charge may be overwhelmed by duties of both church and community
- Meets with Cabinet, Disaster Response Committee and UMCOR, if invited, to determine course of action for response.
- Encourage conference to participate in response and recovery efforts both physically and financially.

Conference Disaster Response Coordinator

Preparation

- Chairs the Conference Committee, serving at least four years.
- Coordinates the work of the Conference Committee.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

- Works with District Superintendents to identify appropriate persons to serve as District Coordinators.
- Assures that positions related to response are filled on the district and conference levels by individuals who have skills related to the tasks.
- Assures that persons in positions related to disaster management and response are aware of and trained in their duties.
- Assures that training curriculum is updated and maintained for all response teams.
- Maintains a list of Conference Committee members and their contact information.
- Creates and maintains a database of volunteers to perform all Disaster Response Team ICS functions.
- Maintains a list of ERT and other trained individuals and teams in the conference including their contact information.
- Develops and maintains a list of all conference equipment and supplies to be needed for response teams.
- Maintains records on trailers and equipment available within the conference for disaster response.
- Maintains a copy of all disaster forms and plans.
- Collects/Stores emergency response materials and encourages districts and local churches to do the same.
- Is aware of warehouse space that could be available for use in response.
- Is aware of resources including transportation for donated goods.
- Meets with conference committee at least twice annually.
- Provides guidance and support for the conference committee's training.
- Attends trainings/conferences on disaster preparedness and response and encourages committee to do the same.
- Becomes trained and knowledgeable in UMCOR's Connecting Neighbors program.
- Maintains relations with other disaster response agencies, such as WV VOAD.
- Represents the Conference as a member of WV VOAD, maintains relations with county and local EMA's, State and FEMA VALS.
- Encourages local churches take the One Great Hour of Sharing special disaster offerings annually.

Response

- As soon as feasible after the onset of a disaster, provides for an initial assessment of damage.
- Alerts the Bishop and other applicable cabinet members and staff to the estimated extent of the disaster.
- Makes contact with the DS and District Coordinator of the affected areas to help determine the need for a conference response.
- Makes contact with Partners and attends VOAD briefings. Sees that the work of the UMC is in cooperation with other response agencies active in the disaster.
- Makes contact with EMA and FEMA to exchange contact information.
- Visits the disaster area as soon as possible for situation assessment.
- Works with the Conference Communicator to establish a single point of contact for media referrals and inquiries.
- If UMCOR is invited to respond, works with the Volunteer Coordinator to secure housing for any UMCOR Team members who will be arriving at the disaster site.
- Work with VIM Coordinator to determine needs.
- Provides ongoing updates to all who need to know.
- Sends available emergency response supplies as requested by District Coordinators/ DSs
- Communicates needs to those who need to know.
- Meets with the District Coordinators as often as needed and at least monthly during times of response.
- Coordinates transition to Recovery Phase with Conference Committee and VIM Coordinator.
- Assists in the establishment of long-term recovery committees.
- Work with the local churches and communities for best recovery efforts.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

District Disaster Response Coordinators

Preparation

- May serve on and attend meetings of the Conference Disaster Response Committee. Helps to interpret the work of the committee to local laity and pastors. Is a liaison between the district and the Conference.
- Is familiar with, and supports the Conference Plan and is an ambassador to the district educating and providing accurate information on the work of the conference committee.
- Coordinates with the District Superintendent and establishes a means of communications for emergencies.
- Establishes relationships with emergency managers in each county or city in the district and offers appropriate support during disaster events.
- Identifies individuals for a District Disaster Response Committee.
- Serves as chair of the District Disaster Committee
- Leads the committee in developing a district response plan that includes:
 - A) Organizing a District Early Response Team
 - B) Caring for people of the district
 - C) Caring for district facilities
 - D) Caring for others in the conference and beyond
 - E) Developing a call chain
- Recruits volunteers to fill district positions necessary for response.
- Assures that everyone involved in District response is aware of and trained on their duties.
- Arranges ERT training and has at least one ERT in the district.
- Work toward securing equipment for disaster response in the district.
- Arranges "Connecting Neighbor" training for the local churches in the district.
- Arranges for other disaster training as appropriate.
- Maintains records of established disaster response teams and trained individuals in the district.
- Offers presentations on disaster preparedness and response for district pastors' meetings, district conference and local churches.
- Makes contact with each church in the district to make introductions and exchange contact information for use during disaster.
- Encourages collection of emergency supplies and assist local congregations prepare for the One Great Hour of Sharing programs annually.
- With District Superintendent and pastors in the District, identify churches that agree to serve as:
 - A) Disaster operations centers
 - B) Temporary Shelters
 - C) Places to house volunteers
 - D) Places to collect, warehouse and distribute donated goods.

Response

- Gathers damage information from pastors in the area if affected by the disaster.
- Confers with District Superintendent on damage reports.
- Visits the affected area as soon as possible for situation assessment noting extent to which the disaster has affected local communities, churches, and church property. Report findings to DS and Conference Coordinator and notes the potential need for ERTs
- Tours the affected area, if available, with the Conference Disaster Assessment team and the Bishop.
- Coordinates response efforts if the district is affected.
- If district is not affected, may help with coordination efforts in other districts.
- Informs Conference Disaster Response Coordinator of needs and locations for supply delivery, distribution points, volunteer check-in, etc.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

- Meets with Conference Committee and VOAD to be briefed on the disaster and to determine response program and options.
- Encourages the acquisition of volunteers and financial and material support from the district.
- Assist in Long Term Recovery as long as needed.
- Support transition from relief to recovery.
- Stays informed of recovery efforts and communicate with Conference Coordinators.

District Superintendent:

Preparation

- Shall be familiar with the Conference Disaster Response Plan and keep a copy of the plan available.
- Appoints a District Response Coordinator.
- Familiarizes self with UMCOR principles and response procedures.
- Establishes a communication system with the District Coordinator for use during disaster.
- Makes disaster response training a part of district pastors meetings and district conferences annually.
- Encourages churches to be prepared with training and plans.
- Actively engages and encourages district pastors and lay leadership to participate in annual One Great Hour of Sharing program.

Response

- Establishes communications with the Conference Disaster Response Coordinator and the District coordinator.
- Coordinates with District Leadership Council to assure that office and parsonage are adequately insured and otherwise secured for potential disaster probabilities.
- Contact the district coordinator and pastors in the affected communities and gathers information on damage to church owned property as well as the extent of damage in the affected community.
- Gets caregivers into the community immediately if there has been loss of life, or destruction of church property to assist the local pastor and augment what the local congregation can do.
- Contacts the Conference Coordinator with any requests for assistance.
- If a pastor is likely to be overwhelmed with church and community duties, appoints a temporary assisting pastor.
- District Superintendents need to be involved and visible, business cannot be conducted as usual for some time, damage to church property, if it occurs, can consume much of the District Superintendent's time.
- Visit affected area as soon as possible after event to offer hope and encouragement and a caring Christian presence.
- Accompanies the Disaster assessment team to the affected areas.
- Tours the affected area with the Bishop.
- Connects and confers with District Lay Leader.
- Meets with Bishop and Conference Committee to determine extent of response.
- Encourages district churches that are unaffected, but near the disaster area to share their resources.
- Encourages pastors and laity to take plenty of time in decision making following disaster. Works with affected clergy to develop their own recovery plan.
- Serves as fiscal agent for district grants.
- Assist in transition from relief to recovery.

Higher Education and Campus Ministry

The Board supports and has oversight of campus ministries at eight institutions – Concord University, Fairmont State University, Glenville State College, Marshall University, Potomac State College, University of Charleston, West Liberty University and West Virginia University (WVU). Six of the campus ministries are classified as “full-time” with the campus ministry receiving salary support and regular operating support. At Marshall University and West Virginia University, the campus ministers have one hundred percent of their time dedicated to campus ministry. Campus ministers at Concord, Fairmont, Glenville, and West Liberty serve churches in addition to serving the campus. This is the first year for this operating model at Concord. Campus ministries at Potomac and the University of Charleston are served by a local church with the ministers dedicating a portion of their time to campus ministry. The Board has developed a simple grant process to provide monetary support for their efforts.

The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry has had a productive year as it strives to better understand its role in providing direction and support for campus ministry. A key aspect of this role is to develop a process for assessing the vitality and effectiveness of campus ministry. It was determined that this task could not be accomplished without having a better understanding of the nature of campus ministry on each of the campuses. The Board Chair along with Shea James on the conference staff committed to visiting each of the campus ministries. At the time this report was prepared, visits had been completed for Glenville, Concord, Fairmont, Marshall, West Liberty, and Potomac State. Visits are planned for the remaining institutions prior to the start of Annual Conference.

Typically, each Campus Minister has identified a core of students who are engaged in a myriad of activities revolving around worship, study, and service. The Board wants to ensure that all activities support the United Methodist mission captured in the following statement:

Through the presence of campus ministries, we will discover, develop and deploy passionate spiritual leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The Board has begun work on developing common elements that need to be present for each Campus Ministry. The presence of these elements will provide the Board with the ability to better assess how activities are supporting the mission. If changes are needed, the Board is committed to providing any necessary support, including financial resources and professional development.

One of our conference-sponsored Campus Ministry units will be transitioning after July. The Glenville State Campus Ministry will cease to exist in its current configuration. A campus pastor will no longer be appointed, and the campus ministry will not receive funding from the Conference. The Glenville Campus Ministry Board has resources to continue ministry on campus and is discerning how it will continue to serve students.

Mark Stotler, Chairperson

Nurturing Leaders. Changing Lives.



HIGHER EDUCATION & MINISTRY

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Report for Year 2018

The United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

1001 19th Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37212

As the leadership development agency of The United Methodist Church, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) builds capacity for United Methodist lay and clergy leaders to discover, claim and flourish in Christ's calling in their lives. The agency creates connections and provides resources to aid in recruitment, education, professional development and spiritual formation. Every elder, deacon and licensed local pastor benefits from our training and candidacy programs. Many young adults find help in clarifying God's call in their lives through our discernment opportunities.

Through its Office of Strategic Leadership, GBHEM refined plans for a center for leadership development and spiritual formation. It is drawing on research to plan the expansion of leadership training offerings to churches and communities through a range of means such as face-to-face training, online conferencing, consulting, and recommending resources and experts.

The Division of Ordained Ministry (DOM), using extensive research on the components of effective ministry, introduced a new formation process, Effective Ministry 360 (EM360), which guides pastors and congregations to plan and execute mission and ministry objectives. EM360 also offers assessment modules for candidacy, district superintendents, eight-year clergy assessment and Course of Study. DOM provides introduction and orientation sessions about the process.

The Division of Higher Education (DHE) has initiated research to inform a "leadership pipeline" process for university leaders on United Methodist campuses. Among the books GBHEM published this year, "Missio Dei and the United States: Toward a Faithful United Methodist Witness" (book and study guide) exhibits the best of church and academy collaboration. Contributors explore how the church can reengage its Wesleyan heritage as it participates in God's mission.

The Office of Loans and Scholarships announced an increase in the maximum amount of money United Methodist students can borrow to pursue their education. The annual maximum is \$10,000, with a lifetime maximum of \$40,000. On average, the agency distributes \$5.5 million in scholarships annually.

Partnering with churches and institutions, GBHEM has promoted projects, programs, initiatives, education and leadership development in various cultural contexts within United Methodism and in pan-Methodist relationships. The agency expanded the Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development, supported the work of regional networks with the International Association of Methodist Schools, Colleges, and Universities, and established Regional Hubs for Leadership, Education and Development. In 2018, hubs were active in nations in Africa, Asia, Europe and England, North America and South America.

Justice and Advocacy

“Taking an active stance in society is nothing new for followers of John Wesley. He set the example for us to combine personal and social piety. Ever since predecessor churches to United Methodism flourished in the United States, we have been known as a denomination involved with people’s lives, with political and social struggles, having local to international mission implications. Such involvement is an expression of the personal change we experience in our baptism and conversion.

The United Methodist Church believes God’s love for the world is an active and engaged love, a love seeking justice and liberty. We cannot just be observers. So we care enough about people’s lives to risk interpreting God’s love, to take a stand, to call each of us into a response, no matter how controversial or complex. The church helps us think and act out a faith perspective, not just responding to all the other ‘mind-makers-up’ that exist in our society.”

Excerpt from *The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church 2016.*

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The Justice and Advocacy Committee of the West Virginia Annual Conference is comprised of representatives from each district, ex officio members from agencies and at-large members. The Committee has met three times this year: during Annual Conference, a retreat in Buckhannon at the Upshur Parish House where we visited three mission projects and had our passports stamped; and in Charleston for a legislative update and discussion about General Conference. Members of the Committee participated in the Race to End Racism in Charleston and have been working with WVIRM regarding asylees. In addition to other communications modes, members share information via a Facebook page. The Committee works with Jeff Allen, executive director of the West Virginia Council of Churches, to explore our shared interests and review the WVCC’s Public Policies handbook.

I also serve as the Peace with Justice Coordinator for the Conference and have appreciated the guidance of the Justice and Advocacy Committee regarding disbursement of funds. This year I attended a Hunger Conference in Washington, D.C., and the Peace With Justice gathering in New York City.

We are ably served by Deborah Coble, the Conference staff person assigned to guide our Committee work.

Blessings,
Martha Hill, Chairperson

Conference Lay Leader

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ. I look forward to our time together in Buckhannon at West Virginia Wesleyan College as we celebrate together our love of God through worship, song, and fellowship. We will have times of teaching with our new Conference Director of Discipleship, Leadership and Congregational Vitality, Ken Willard. I extend a personal invitation to all Annual Conference members and visitors to attend these training sessions as Ken shares his expertise with us. Ken has ten years of experience coaching pastors and churches to help them become vital congregations.

I have remained very busy serving in the position of Conference Lay Leader. During this year I attended, as one of your elected delegates, the Special Session of General Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. I spent much time in preparation for this Conference through meetings, listening sessions in each district, reading, scripture study and most of all prayer. I know many of you prayed for your delegation and Bishop Steiner Ball for months prior to the Conference. I felt uplifted by your prayers and truly appreciated your cards, notes of encouragement and especially the prayers. We started the conference with a day of prayer and worship. This was a very moving time together as the General Conference provided a time to open ourselves to the Holy Spirit as we prayerfully considered actions that would “Do No Harm,” “Do Good” and show us how to “Stay in Love with God.” We are waiting for decisions of the Judicial Council to know what was actually accomplished during our time in St. Louis. Regardless, we need to stay focused on God and the main reason the church exists - to bring people who do not know Christ into a relationship with him.

As I traveled across our conference to visit several of our mission sites, I saw the Holy Spirit working among you through the support you give the missions through your church apportionments. These contributions enable our mission outreach servants to make a difference in the lives of people who find themselves in situations beyond their control. As I continue to visit the mission projects I am utilizing the Missions Passport the West Virginia Annual Conference initiated to encourage us to visit all of our mission projects. If you do not have one of these Missions Passports, ask your pastor or your District Superintendent. And then visit and discover these remarkable sites firsthand.

Please remember. God is still in control. We the church are still the body of Christ and Jesus AND He continues to call us to be His hands and feet as we spread the Good News of salvation around the world.

May God bless each of you in your ministries where you worship, work and fellowship with one another.

Rich Shaffer
WV Conference Lay Leader

Lay Servant Ministries

According to the *Discipline*, “a lay servant serves the local church or charge (or beyond the local church or charge) in ways in which his or her witness, leadership, and service inspires others to a deeper commitment to Christ, and more effective discipleship.” I think we all understand that our clergy are in ministry, but do we remember that as laity, we are also in ministry? The work of Lay Servant Ministries is to remind the laity of the church that we all have a call from God to use our gifts for the work of the kingdom, to help equip the laity to do that work, and to hold each other accountable in that work.

In The United Methodist Church, one of the most visible expressions of lay servant ministries is the certification as either a Certified Lay Servant, Certified Lay Speaker, or a Certified Lay Minister. Each of these requires particular course work, approval, and continuing education. As I write this report, District Lay Ministry teams have scheduled eleven basic courses and at least 28 advanced courses across the Annual Conference this year. I am grateful for the district offices, district Lay Ministry Coordinators and teams, and instructors who make this possible through their hard work and gifts.

Last year, 115 lay people completed the Basic Course in our Annual Conference. As the cabinet discerns ways to equip more people throughout the West Virginia Annual Conference to discover/discern and live into their calling from God, the Cabinet has set a goal of a 15% increase in the number of people completing the Lay Servant Basic Course for 2019 over 2018. To quote Ken Willard, Conference Director of Discipleship, Leadership, and Congregational Vitality: “It is our belief that this course will provide a strong foundation for individuals in churches throughout our conference. Furthermore, we feel that this can be the entry point for a funnel which will lead to more local church leaders, more people pursuing some form of local church pastoral leadership, and eventually increase our pool of ordained clergy.” Our goal is that in 2019, at least 133 people will complete the Basic Course; the hoped-for fruit of this goal is that more people will be led to discern their call from God and then be equipped and inspired to act on it. We want to develop strong lay leaders for the local church and help those called to clergy leadership to find their way. We will need the help of everyone in the Church to accomplish this goal.

There are those among us who are called to certified lay ministry. Certified Lay Ministers are responding to a call that requires a long-term ministry commitment. I’m excited to report that two districts held certified lay ministry classes in 2018, graduating over 30 new certified lay ministers. Classes are currently being considered in at least 3 districts for 2019. Each district has been asked to appoint a District Certified Lay Ministry Coordinator. This is a new position, separate from the District Lay Servant Ministries Coordinator. The Coordinator serves as a member of the District Board of Ordained Ministry, allowing a CLM specialist to participate in the work of the committee. In addition, the District CLM Coordinator serves as a resource for those interested in pursuing this certification, and an organizer for district CLM classes. I am grateful for the District CLM coordinators and their work.

As the Annual Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries, I believe one of the ways I can help with the task before us is to increase and facilitate communication regarding lay servant ministries. Email groups have been established for District Lay Ministry Coordinators and District Certified Lay Ministry Coordinators so that I can share event information, inspiration, and ideas. My goal is that this becomes a life-line between us. Please help me keep this line of communication current by notifying me of changes in the District Coordinator positions.

One of my goals is to offer resources to districts and the Annual Conference that will increase everyone's awareness of the opportunities and requirements for certified lay servants, certified lay speakers, and certified lay ministers. Knowledge of the purposes of these certifications can increase our ability to use them. Watch for newsletter articles and digital posts that can be shared with your congregations.

How can you help?

- I truly believe that one of the goals and joys of every pastor is to help laity hear their call and answer it, leading people toward increased discipleship. Increase your knowledge and awareness of the certifications offered to laity. Become aware of the opportunities offered to equip laity and share the information with your congregation. You are often the gatekeeper! Please be a good one. I pray you will be open to the leadings of the Holy Spirit as you proactively encourage the laity in your churches to hear their calls to ministry.
- I pray all of the laity of the church will listen to God's direction and will "step out of the boat" into ministries of witness, outreach, nurture, and generosity. I hope you will find the lay ministries program to be available and helpful to you.
- I ask all of those involved in lay servant ministries to continue to spread the word, to be an educated and joyful witness to the work of God in this program.
- Be creative in the ways you offer this ministry to others. Isaiah speaks to us about God when he writes, "I am about to do a new thing: now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43:19).¹ Find the new way.

Kimberly A. Matthews
Annual Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries

Older Adults

According to **The United Methodist Discipline** there may be a council on older adult ministries in each annual conference. The purpose of this team is to strengthen the older-adult ministries in the local churches and districts of the annual conference. The WV Conference Older Adult Ministry Team (OAM) strives to be good stewards of our time and travel costs. Most of our meetings are held by conference call.

You may remember our project last year was to sponsor a Build a Ramp Workshop which provided a demonstration and information for groups in local areas to use to assist persons in need of better access to their homes. The OAM Team also offered two grants of \$500 each to groups who were building ramps. There were only two applicants; and only one qualified for a grant. The United Methodist Temple in Beckley has an on-going ministry of building ramps; they applied for a grant and received a check for \$500 from the OAM Team's funds following Annual Conference last summer.

This year we have discussed ways in which we can be of benefit to the older adults in the Annual Conference. We answered the question posed by the Leadership Team of the Covenant Council on our last conference call. The question posed was, "*How does this ministry team work to discover, develop and deploy disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world?*"

The group answered the question in these ways:

- The recruiting, fellowship and reaching out to those in the ramp building ministries.
- By encouraging older adults to mentor younger adults in their churches.
- By encouraging churches to make wellness calls to their older adults who live alone.
- By encouraging churches to develop ministries of prayer that can be done by all age groups via phone or computer.
- By encouraging churches to participate in studies such as **Living Well, Dying Well** by Bishop Reuben Job (available through Cokesbury).
- By connecting with groups such as AARP and the Alzheimer's Association to provide informative programs to older adults and their care-givers.
- By highlighting programs such as the Faith in Action Ministries in the Parkersburg, Wheeling, and Charleston areas where seniors' needs are being met daily. There are opportunities to volunteer as well as receive care by these ministries.

The Older Adult Ministry Team would like to know about the unique ministries that are being done in your church or district. We want to highlight and tell YOUR stories. What you are doing may be replicated elsewhere as we strive to meet the needs of the Older Adults in our churches and community. And, what are you doing to mentor the next generation? Our team would like to collect those stories. You may send them to me at the e-mail address below.

Rev. Janet Flanagan, Chairperson
Flanaganjanet8@gmail.com

304-539-1415

Ordained Ministry

The WV Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry continues its work of discovering, developing and deploying passionate spiritual leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The Board's primary work is in the area of discovery, development and deployment of individuals living into the call of specialized ministries within the life of the church.

The Board of Ordained Ministry is comprised of 40 members representing all nine districts, including both active and retired Elders, Associate Members, Deacons, Local Pastors and Laity. The Cabinet representative to the Board, Rev. Melissa Shortridge, assists in clear communication between the Board and the Cabinet. This year has been one of transition in leadership as our Chair, Rev. Sharletta Green, found it necessary to resign from the Board to address the needs of her local church and family. The entire Board thanks Rev. Green for her leadership and hard work over the past two years.

Rev. Green's resignation led to a reconfiguration of the Board leadership team. The Executive Committee now includes: Board Chair (Rev Dr. Jay Parkins), Vice-Chair (Rev. Judy Liston), Registrar (Rev. Jacob Steele), Secretary (Rev. Sara Facemyer Lamb), Chair of the Order of Elders (Rev. Michael Estep), Chair of the Order of Deacons (Rev. Claudia Fizer), Chair of the Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors (Rev. Gwen Wolford), Cabinet Representative (Rev. Melissa Shortridge), the Chair of Enlistment and Recruitment (Rev. Larry Buckland), Registrar of Local Pastors (Rev. Richard Justice), Chair of Conference Relations Committee (Rev. Timothy Allen), Vocational Discernment Coordinator (Rev. Suzanne Ellis), and Residency Co-Director (the Rev. Bart Thompson). The Rev. Dr. Bonnie MacDonald, Annual Conference Director of Leadership Formation and Ministry Staff, is the conference staff liaison to the team.

One of the Board's primary tasks is the review and recommendation of candidates for Associate, Provisional and Full membership to the Clergy Executive Session. This process is completed through a thorough review of written materials and a full day of interviews in small groups and before the full Board. A chaplain spends time with the candidates throughout the day to offer spiritual support. Rev. Tom Nolan is our chaplain for this quadrennium. We are thankful for his leadership in worship and the pastoral presence he provides for the candidates, as well as members of the Board, during our time together.

Though the Board usually completes the interview process over the course of two interview sessions in the mid-winter months, the dates of the special General Conference led the team to schedule and complete its work in one longer interview session on January 27-30, 2019. The Board interviewed, approved and will recommend the following to the Clergy Executive Session at Annual Conference:

- 5-Full Membership/Elders' Orders
- 1-Full Membership/Deacons' Orders
- 7-Provisional Membership/Elders' Orders
- 1-Provisional Membership/Deacons' Orders.

DISCOVERING

The Board of Ordained Ministry oversees the “Inquiring Candidacy Program” which is led by Rev. Suzanne Ellis. This program includes a two-day retreat and four group mentoring sessions for persons who are sensing a call to some kind of ministry. Mentors assist inquiring candidates to discern where God is calling them (licensing, ordination or some area of lay ministry). Peer group relationships, as well as support from peers and mentors, have proven to be beneficial to all involved in this program. This year, twenty-five (25) candidates participated in the program. Seventeen (17) of these candidates registered for Pastor Ministry Licensing School in April.

In addition, the Board collaborated with other entities in the conference in offering DiscoverU, a grant program assisting seven (7) young people in discerning their call to ministry. We are thankful for the work of all who assist with these programs and the leadership they offer our inquiring candidates.

DEVELOPING

Residency

The Residency program is a defined program of study and growth experiences for provisional candidates. Our residency program is led by a team of three clergy this quadrennium: Rev. Bart Thompson, Rev. Alan Williams, and Rev. Alicia Rapping. Their dedication and hard work in building the depth of experiences and quality educational programs for our candidates is deeply appreciated.

The residency group met for a week long immersion experience on August 6-10, 2018, at Saint John XXIII Center in Charleston, WV. This year the group began a tradition of excellence by having our residents learn, spend time, and create contact with a United Methodist Scholar. They were blessed to have as our first residency scholar the Rev. Dr. C. M. Kempton Hewitt. He is a retired New Testament professor from the Methodist Theological School in Ohio. He taught about exegesis in the parish and how to craft sermons that meet a challenging and changing world.

The curriculum at the immersion week also included exposure to diversity, a short mission trip, order formation, worship and liturgy, the craft of preaching, church history, and WV Conference leadership expectations. Additionally, carefully selected mentors are leading yearly class covenant groups that meet between sessions of Residency. The covenant groups meet to foster formation, support, and leadership development in the provisional residents.

In spring of 2019, the group participated in a Residency field trip to Atlanta, Georgia. Residents explored our General Board of Global Missions and learned more about our world connection. They also, examined the role of the church in social justice and racial issues by going to the Civil Rights Museum and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Park and gravesite.

The Board congratulates the following people who completed residency this year: Jim Burrough, Lisa Fox, Michael Loudermilk, Randy Mitchell, Bonnie Starkey, Nathan Weaver, and Joe Webb.

The residency team is looking forward to the next immersion week at the St. John XXIII Center in Charleston this August 5-9, 2019

Course of Study

The Rev. Richard Justice works to keep the participants in the Course of Study moving forward with their education. The Board celebrates the hard work of all our Full-Time and Part-Time Local Pastors, as they continue to complete their Course of Studies work. Thirty-four (34) classes were completed through our regional schools and eighty (80) classes were completed through our extension school in 2018. These men and women make up a majority of pastors in the West Virginia Conference.

This year the Board of Ordained Ministries approved financial grants to those pursuing completion of the Advanced Course of Study, providing up to \$350 per class. We also continue to support Licensed Local Pastors with \$200.00 per course for extension schools and \$350.00 per course for regional schools. Full grant information may be found on the Conference website.

DEPLOYING

The Board of Ordained Ministry plays a supportive role in the lives of ordained and licensed clergy throughout their careers. The board oversees continuing education funds enabling fulltime clergy to receive up to \$600 every two years for continuing education endeavors. Detailed information on how to access this program is available on the Conference website.

In addition, the board supports clergy in appointments beyond the local church and assists clergy in discerning the viability of non-traditional appointments. The Conference Relations Committee also provides support and oversight to ordained clergy transitioning in their conference relationship (i.e. leaves of absence, retirement, etc.).

In the coming months, the Board leadership will be meeting and joining with other leaders of the annual conference in discerning the impacts of the special General Conference on our work and policies. We will continue to learn and grow in our roles as we seek to care for clergy from the beginning of the inquiry process through retirement.

As your new chair, I covet your prayers on behalf of the full board as we continue our work in equipping and caring for those who serve our churches throughout the West Virginia Annual Conference.

Walk in Peace,
Rev. Dr. Jay D. Parkins, Chairperson

Order of Elders Coordinating Committee

“Ordained persons exercise their ministry in covenant with all Christians, especially with those whom they lead and serve in ministry. They also live in covenant of mutual care and accountability with all those who share their ordination, especially in The United Methodist Church, with the ordained who are members of the same annual conference and part of the same Order. The covenant of ordained ministry is a lifetime commitment, and those who enter into it dedicate their whole lives to the personal and spiritual disciplines it requires.” —The 2016 Book of Discipline

To live out our covenant in the Order of Elders we:

- Gather regularly for continuing spiritual formation (Bible study, issues facing church and society, theological exploration of vocational identity, and leadership).
- Assist in plans for individual study and retreats
- Promote a bond of unity and a common commitment to UMC mission and ministry
- Nurture mutually supportive and trusting relationships among order members
- Hold order members accountable to the above purposes

The Order of Elders encountered a significant challenge when our chair, the Rev. Julia Halsted, unexpectedly passed away on April 8, 2018. With that grief, and in the absence of Julie’s leadership, the Coordinating Committee pressed on and offered the Order leadership.

In Fall 2018, the Coordinating Committee provided a time apart for elders. Entitled “Seeds of Hope,” elders focused on the practices of sabbath rest, eating well, exercise, and having fun. Carolyn Nettles, Andrew Tennant, Felica Wooten Williams, Annette Carper, and a guest dietician provided leadership to encourage clergy health.

On September 27, 2018, Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball invited me to return as chair of the Order. My previous term as chair was cut short when I became a member of the Cabinet. I intend to finish this quadrennium as chair.

As the 2019 General Conference approached, and anxieties among elders serving under appointment rose, retired elders were invited to be in prayer for fellow elders under active appointment. Some retired elders made personal contacts with fellow elders, assuring them of their prayers and concern, sharing wisdom and encouragement. I offer gratitude for those retired pastors, and I covet their continued prayers for fellow members of the Order.

On May 2 the Coordinating Committee will gather to plan a May 21 gathering of the Order, at West Virginia Wesleyan College, with Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball, to worship and pray, to process GC2019 together, and to prepare for the June session of the West Virginia Annual Conference.

As we exercise our ministry in the Church, we are promised that we do not need to do it alone. Rather, our covenant as an Order provides accountable support and strength that come from sharing the journey together. Even in uncertain days, this covenant provides strength.

Sincerely submitted,
Rev. Michael Estep, Chairperson

Order of Deacons

Members of the Order of Deacons are ordained clergypersons called to a lifetime ministry of Word, Service, Compassion, and Justice. As servant leaders, Deacons help form and nurture disciples of Jesus Christ. By teaching and proclaiming God's Word, leading in worship, and assisting with the administration of the Sacraments, we strive to connect the gathered community of faith with its ministry and mission to the poor, the sick and the oppressed in the world. Our obedience to God's call and faithfulness to covenant undergird our mission of equipping and empowering the laity, of witnessing to the love of Christ through transformational ministries in our communities, our conference and in the world.

Annual Conference 2018 was a time of transition for our Order, as Rev. Janet Harman retired, having finished a ten-year Deacon Associate ministry at St. Marks UMC in Charleston. We also wish to note that on March 25, 2018, our sister, Phyllis Kohl Coston, went on to Glory. As WVWC professor and founder of The Learning Center, Phyl's life vocation and ministry was to students with learning differences, who she helped realize their potential in attaining college degrees. She had transitioned from Diaconal ministry to Ordained Deacon in 1997 and served as the first chair of the WV Conference Order of Deacons.

Presently our WVAC Order of Deacons is twenty-two members strong. Thirteen of us are in active appointive ministry and the balance are serving in retired relationship. Three of our members are serving in other conference areas, and one appointed here is a member of another conference. Thanks be to God, we also have prospects among exploring candidates and commissioned members yet to come for ordination. "Active" or "Retired," we are by no means static as to ministry and mission and/or number and connection within the Order.

WVAC Deacons presently serve in a variety of specialized and complementary ministries which include Christian education, music, hospitality, chaplaincy, Higher Education, senior adult ministry, financial stewardship, worship arts, youth ministry, UM agency leadership, disaster recovery, and special education teaching. Some of us are Deacon Associates, giving servant leadership alongside our Elder brothers/sisters in the local church, while others serve in pastoral or chaplain capacity with sacramental privilege. By design, Deacons must discern and secure their own place of ministry/employment and seek approval and appointment by the Bishop. In this way, we are authorized by the church in our ministries as ordained clergy to the community-at-large, local congregations, and in district

and conference level capacities that connect the church and the world. While Deacons are not itinerant clergy by definition, our unique ministries often require us to travel near and far to serve God in ministries of compassion and justice to connect the church and the world.

Last May (after the 2018 report was written) we celebrated mission and ministry and fellowshiped together at our Spring Retreat. A majority of the Order participated over the course of three days and two nights. We will have returned to The Log House At Sweet Trees Spiritual Retreat Center at Harrisville the first week of April to enjoy one another's company, surrender to a time apart for reflection and refreshing, and take stock of how it is with our souls in the midst of our distinctive Deacon ministries.

For Thursday, September 27, 2018, Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball called the Order of Deacons and Order of Elders together at the Seeds of Hope Day Apart held in Weston. We met separately as Deacons in the morning at St Matthew UMC for worship and fellowship. Then we joined the Elders and Bishop Sandra for lunch at Broad Street, followed by Day Apart session with our Bishop into the afternoon. The purpose/focus of our time together was to worship, fellowship, and to reflect on our ministries in light of God's call for us to connect the church and the world. We found the new format of gathering energizing and fruitful.

Please join us as we pray without ceasing for the church and the world . . . for our leaders and for all those seeking to be disciples of Jesus the Christ. May our loving and merciful God find us faithful.

Peace of Christ,

Reverend Claudia A Krebs Fizer, FD-R

Chairperson, Order of Deacons, WVC-UMCWVC-UMC

Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members

The Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members is organized in each Annual Conference in order to provide mutual support of all licensed clergy for the sake of the life and mission of the church ¶323. All Local Pastors and Associate Members hold membership in the Annual Conference Fellowship by virtue of their clergy status. Over 50% of the active clergy in the West Virginia Annual Conference are Associate Members or Local Pastors. Many Local Pastors are bi-vocational, serving the church in part-time status. Part-time designation, in most cases, refers only to the level of income and benefits these clergy receive. The majority of the part-time clergy in the WV Annual Conference serve multiple church charges, as do full-time clergy.

Local Pastors are examined each year by their District Committee on Ordained Ministry and must be deemed effective and fit to continue in pastoral duties in order to receive an appointment by the Bishop. Unlike Associate Members, Local Pastors are not guaranteed an appointment.

The Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members of the WV Annual Conference meet at least once a year. The annual meeting of the FLPAM takes place during

Annual Conference on the campus West Virginia Wesleyan College. This is traditionally a lunchtime gathering on the first day of conference and includes all active and retired Local Pastors and Associate Members and their guests. Around the tables clergy and guests receive refreshment both physically and spiritually as testimonies of God's faithfulness are shared and individual concerns expressed. The chair of the fellowship convenes this gathering and generally offers a short message of encouragement following the meal, as well as shares announcements pertinent to Local Pastors and Associate Members. Greetings are often given by our Bishop and/or cabinet members and the time is closed with prayer for one another, The United Methodist Church and the Annual Conference worship and business.

This year the WVFLPAM will meet on Thursday, June 13, for luncheon and fellowship. Buffet lunch will begin at noon. All Local Pastors and Associate Members and their guests are welcome to participate. The cost to attendees will be \$5.00, with the Conference budgeted funds making up the difference. The Bishop and cabinet members are always welcomed as guests of the Fellowship when their schedule permits. Following this year's luncheon proposed legislation for the 2020 General Conference regarding licensed clergy will be presented.

Plans and registration for the Annual Gathering of the National Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors to be held in Tipp City, OH, September 17-19 with Mike Slaughter as presenter/educator can be found at NFAMLP.org, as well as, other great resources and links.

If there are any questions regarding The Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members at any time, feel free to contact me at dgwolford.gw@gmail.com or 304-813-0176.

Sincerely,
Gwen Wolford, Chair of WVLPAM



A vote is taken at the Clergy Executive Session

Pensions

Recommendations Approved by the 2019 Annual Conference

I. Pensions

- A. That the Past Service Rate (pension rate for service rendered prior to 1982) increase from \$588.00 to \$600.00, effective January 1, 2020.
- B. That the fair share figure for past service pensions (Pre-82 Service) remains at \$100,000.
- C. That clergy who are appointed three-quarter time and half-time and are eligible to participate in the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) be eligible to earn benefits under the CRSP plan.
- D. Approve a formula to determine the share of unfunded pension obligations for churches wishing to exit the denomination using a weighted formula based percentage of apportionments.

II. Hospital Medical Insurance

- A. That the apportionment for the health insurance program increase by \$425,000 from \$3,900,000 to \$4,325,000.
- B. That \$100,000 be apportioned for the Medical Insurance Reserve account.
- C. Health Care Premiums shall increase as follows:
Single premiums from \$658.00 per month to \$690.00 per month.
Family premiums from \$1,579.00 to \$1,814 per month.
- D. The Board of Pensions shall administer the Health Insurance Plan and be authorized to make
such changes as will be of benefit to the local church and all persons covered by the plan.

Medicare Eligible Participants

- E. To be eligible for the West Virginia Annual Conference health insurance supplement to Medicare coverage at retirement, you must have been under full time appointment status for seven consecutive years immediately prior to your retirement date. Persons who have had an interruption in the last seven years of their appointive service, but have remained in relationship with the West Virginia Annual Conference, may have their eligibility reviewed by the Board of Pensions on a case-by-case basis.
- F. If an Eligible Employee and/or his Dependent(s) are not enrolled in the Plan within the applicable sixty (60) day enrollment period, or within a period described under "Special Enrollment Procedure", they must enroll during the Plan's Open Enrollment Period, [March 1st – March 31st], a nonparticipating Eligible Employee may elect to enroll themselves singly or with his or her Dependents in the Plan and a Participating Employee may elect to add, modify or eliminate coverage

under the Plan. Any changes elected during the Plan's Open Enrollment Period shall be effective as of the first day of the Plan Year, [April 1st], immediately following the close of the Open Enrollment Period.

- G. The Plan will coordinate prescription drug claims as if the participant is a Medicare participant and will subsidize reimbursement at 50% of the first dollar of the Medicare Part D "Donut Hole" prescription drug expense of \$3,820 to \$5,850 up to a maximum reimbursement of \$1,015 per Calendar year.

III. Miscellaneous

- A. That the first Sunday in November 2020 be observed as the Day of Remembrance Sunday, and that offering be designated for the support and development of our Disaster Response Depot and Mission Central HUB.
- B. That the moving expense allowance for retiring clergy and spouses of active clergy who have died within the year be set at a maximum of \$4,000. Moving expenses shall be limited to actual costs up to the maximum allowable amount.
- C. The maximum individual emergency benefit shall not exceed \$2,500 per calendar year, with a lifetime benefit of \$7,500.
- D. That the following special grants and pension adjustments be approved:

SPECIAL CASES:

Dependent Adult Children:

Esther Louella Feather

Wilma Wayne.

Amy B. Conner

- E. Funding for the Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP) will be billed directly to each church in the Annual Conference by using a formula that reflects each pastor's compensation as a percentage of overall conference compensation.
- F. That the Executive Secretary of Pension Funds, Inc. be authorized to sign all documents on behalf of the Annual Conference that binds our pension agreements with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits.
- G. That the resolution **Rental/Housing Allowances Retired or Disabled Clergy** of this Conference be adopted (see Resolution #2 in Section 6 Resolutions).

CONFERENCE BOARD OF PENSIONS-PENSION FUNDS, INC.
FUNDS HELD BY WESPATH AND UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION AS OF
DECEMBER 31, 2018

- 1. Deposit Account** The “Checking Account” maintained by the General Board of Pensions through which the West Virginia Annual Conference Pension Plan makes deposits and payments.

Balance, 12/31/2018: \$12,036.26

- 2. Past Service Funding Account (Pre 1982 Service)** The past service liability account for clergy who have retired and to which is credited the conference’s level annual payment toward its past service liability and to which are debited the amounts required to pay benefits to retired clergy, widows and other claimants.

Balance, 12/31/2018: \$11,481,802 overfunded (134%)

- 3. Superannuate Endowment Fund** An account not belonging to the West Virginia Annual Conference Pension Plan, but created by the General Board of Pensions from assets of earlier pension plans of the United Methodist Church and from which the West Virginia Annual Conference receives interest earnings which are credited to the Deposit Account to reduce the Conference’s annual payments in its Pension Plans.

Balance, 12/31/2018: \$534,459.04

- 4. Defined Contribution (DC) and Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) Clearing Account** - An account established at the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits to clear DC and CPP payments in accordance with the Modified Direct Bill Program used to receive and credit participants’ retirement contributions.

Balance, 12/31/2018: \$ 294,289.61

- 5. Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) Defined Benefit (DB) Clearing Account** - An account established at the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits to clear DB payments in accordance with the Modified Direct Bill Program used to receive and credit participants’ retirement contributions.

Balance, 12/31/2018: \$ 1,133,449.36

- 6. Deposit Account Excess – United Methodist Foundation of WV** – An account established to invest balances with our local United Methodist Foundation for earnings and liquidity purposes.

Balance, 12/31/2018: \$ 2,309,379.19

- 7. MPP Annuities Reserve Fund** – Reserve set up to absorb any market downturns in funding MPP account balances in pay status to retirees.

Balance, 12/31/2018: \$1,927,493.78

- 8. Undesignated Pension Funds, Inc. Reserve** – a reserve fund set up to allow flexibility between Pension requirements and Health Care issues as the Board of Pensions see necessary

Balance: 12/31/2018: \$ 525,850.45

Retired Ministers' Housing Loan Fund

History

At the 1981 session of the West Virginia Annual Conference, upon recommendation of the Board of Pensions, a Ministers' Retirement Housing Loan Fund was established to provide low interest loans to ministers at or near retirement for the purpose of purchasing a retirement home. The Board of Pensions, at their August 19, 1999 meeting revised this fund to be loans of no more than \$100,000 per family.

Pension Funds, Inc. administers this housing loan fund through the Executive Secretary's office. The fund is supported by gifts, Day of Remembrance offerings, and interest earned on existing loans.

Eligibility

All United Methodist ministers retiring in the current calendar year and surviving spouses of deceased ministers (provided application is made within one year after the minister's death) are eligible to receive loans from this fund. Applications may be secured by writing the office of Pension Funds, Inc., P.O. Box 2469, Charleston, WV 25329, attention Jim Berner. ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 1. Applications will be reviewed at the Board's February meeting.

Donations

Donations of money, stock, bonds, real property, and other convertible assets are welcomed. The Executive Secretary of Pension Funds, Inc., and the United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia, Inc. will cooperate to provide channels of giving and investment for persons who would like to provide gifts to the Retirement Housing Loan Fund.

Loan Fund Guidelines

Loans are available to surviving spouses of deceased ministers and to ministers of the West Virginia Annual Conference who will qualify for pension after serving on a full-time basis as a Local Pastor or Conference Member at least ten (10) consecutive years immediately preceding the date of retirement.

The following criteria will determine the availability of loans:

1. Fund Balance.
2. Number of Applications received.
3. Applicant's financial need.
4. Nearness of applicant to retirement (must be within one year of retirement). This provision does NOT apply to surviving spouses.

The purpose of the loan is to assist in the purchase of primary retirement housing. Loans will NOT be made to assist in refinancing a house or to purchase a second home if the first home is sold.

Loans will be limited to eighty (80) percent of the appraised value or purchase price of the property, whichever is least. If the home is later sold, the loan is NOT assumable.

Interest rates shall be two thirds of the prime rate as reported in the Wall Street Journal with a minimum rate of 6% on the day the loan application is received in the office of the Executive secretary of Pension Funds, Inc. Loans shall be amortized over a period of not more than twenty years. All costs relative to loan procurement shall be borne by the borrower.

The borrower shall provide the following documents:

1. Deed of Trust
2. Evidence of property and liability insurance
3. Termite inspection (existing home) or termite treatment (new homes)
4. Promissory note covering the full amount of the loan
5. Certificate of title or final title letter
6. Appraisal
7. Home Inspection and survey

Clergy Emergency Fund Policy

The purpose of this fund is to provide emergency funds for clergy and their families when faced with **medically related** expenses that would create financial hardship to them or their family.

Active clergy families under appointment in the West Virginia Annual Conference or retired clergy families may request up to \$2,500 annually with a \$7,500 lifetime cap for this fund. Clergy who have previously exhausted their lifetime limit will be eligible to access emergency funds under the new guidelines up to the new limits.

ACTIVE CLERGY FAMILIES

All requests from active clergy must be referred by their District Superintendent. The request must be in writing (email or letter) and be accompanied by a receipt, letter or estimate, either of which describing what the medical necessity of the money is to be used for. In the case of an estimate, once the money is used, a receipt is to be forwarded to the Treasurer's Office to complete the documentation. Funds may be sent directly to the recipient or the District Superintendent for distribution. Records of disbursements will be kept in the Conference Treasurer's Office.

RETIRED CLERGY FAMILIES

All requests from retired clergy must be referred directly to the Conference Pension Officer (Conference Treasurer). The request must be in writing (email or letter) and be accompanied by a receipt, letter or estimate, either of which describing what the medical necessity of the money is to be used for. In the case of an estimate, once the money is used, a receipt is to be forwarded to the Treasurer's Office to complete the documentation for that transaction. Funds will be sent directly to the recipient. Records of disbursements will be kept in the Conference Treasurer's Office.

Rules

The WVAC Rules Committee met on March 14, 2019, to consider submissions for rule changes and make editorial changes to the Conference Rules. The committee accepted a request to make editorial changes concerning the use of the words “Congregational Development” in our rules in order to recognize the current nomenclature of “Congregational Vitality” surrounding that area of work.

The committee also moves the following changes to our rules to the Annual Conference:

To Amend B.IV.1 of our rules as found on page 450 of the 2018 Annual Conference Journal as follows:

IV. MISCELLANEOUS STANDING RULES OF THE CONFERENCE

1. Election of Trustees for West Virginia Wesleyan College. The Board of Trustees shall consist of not less more than twenty (20) elected members ~~nor more than thirty-six (36) persons~~. In addition, the Board of Trustees shall include the President of the College, the Bishop of the West Virginia Area of The United Methodist Church, the President of the Alumni Association, the President of the Faculty Council, the President of the Staff Council and the President of the Student Senate and the President of the Community Council all of whom shall be ex officio members of the Board, with vote. ~~The Bishop of the Western Pennsylvania area of The United Methodist Church may become an ex officio member, with vote. Of the Board on a year-to-year basis if he/she acknowledges annually in writing a willingness to accept such membership on the Board of Trustees.~~

Members of the Board of Trustees shall be elected by the West Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church at its regular annual session in accordance with ¶634.4.c.3. Persons shall be nominated by a Special Nominating Committee. The Special Nominating Committee shall include the resident Bishop of the West Virginia Area of The United Methodist Church who shall serve as chairperson; the President of West Virginia Wesleyan College; the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of West Virginia Wesleyan College; and two persons appointed jointly by the resident Bishop and the Chairperson of the Board, including a clergy person in Full Connection with the West Virginia Annual Conference, and a lay person who is a member of a local church within the bounds of the West Virginia Annual Conference. The latter two persons shall be members of the Board of Trustees. Trustees shall be of legal age as determined by Civil Law.

Rationale: *Following the October 2018 meeting of the WVWC Board of Trustees, the Board Chair formed a committee asked to recommend a new structure of the Board of Trustees. The Committee was asked to consider two general tasks: (1) how to modify the current councils to create a structure that aligns with the new strategic plan and (2) whether and how to modify the Board's membership and size. After reviewing relevant criteria from the Higher Learning Commission, the guidelines for United Methodist-Related Schools, Colleges, and Universities from the University Senate, speaking with Bishop Steiner Ball and Bishop Moore*

Koi Koi (Western Pennsylvania Area) and following the meeting of the Board of Trustees February 10-12, 2019, this revised rule is submitted to the Rules Committee of the West Virginia Conference for its submission and recommendation to the June 2019 session of the West Virginia Conference. This revision reduces the size of the board, removes the special ex officio membership status of the Bishop of the Western Pennsylvania Conference and brings the language up to date concerning the Student Senate. The former "Community Council" was renamed "Student Senate" some years ago, and this revision aligns this reference in the Conference Rules.

To Amend Rule B.II.6.a, found on page 439 of the 2018 Conference Journal as follows:

II.6.a. «Purpose: To provide support services for the ordained minister's career development for appointed and retired clergy including personal and career counseling, continuing education, assistance for retirement and all matters pertaining to ministerial support. all clergy and their immediate families in the areas of counseling funds, peer support, retreats and other opportunities for spiritual, emotional and physical wellness.»

Rationale: *The Clergy Support and Pastoral Care Committee submitted this request to help clear up the language concerning their mission as a team.*

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Scott Sears, Chairperson



Conference attendees enjoy a special meal at Annual Conference

Trustees

United Methodist properties are held in “trust” for all United Methodist people – past, present and future. The responsibility of trustees in the church is to hold that property in trust not just for a present generation, but honoring the past and looking to the future.

In these days when we as United Methodist people are making decisions about our values, beliefs, opinions, and interpretations of who we are, and our role as the Body of Christ, we continue to be reminded of the importance of holding in “trust” all that has gone before us, what is our mission as a Church today, and what of future generations. Since the early years of the Wesleyan movement – the beginnings of our former Methodist, Evangelical United Brethren and United Methodist tradition – meeting houses, churches, and church related properties have been governed by an understanding of being a “connection.” The Model Deed of 1763 established by John Wesley and the first Methodists, and the Deed of Declaration (1784) served as the precedent for matters of property to be included in the Book of Discipline.

“All properties of United Methodist local churches and other United Methodist agencies and institutions are held, in trust, for the benefit of the entire denomination, and ownership and usage of church property is subject to the Discipline.

This trust requirement is an essential element of the historic polity of The United Methodist Church or its predecessor denominations or communions and has been a part of the Discipline since 1797. It reflects the connectional structure of the Church by ensuring that the property will be used solely for purposes consonant with the mission of the entire denomination as set forth in the Discipline.”

(Paragraph 2501, 2016 Discipline)

The Annual Conference trustees are charged with maintaining that trust through the legal responsibilities of holding of donations, bequests, real or personal property for the Annual Conference (Paragraph 2512, 2016 Discipline); the trustees are directed by the Annual Conference in regard to investing, buying, selling, transferring, or conveying funds and properties that are held in trust. As directed by the Book of Discipline, “the board (of trustees) shall make to each session of the annual conference a full, true, and faithful report of its doings, of all funds, monies, securities, and property held in trust by it, and of its receipts and disbursements during the conference year.” (Paragraph 2512.6)

The following areas are reported to the conference: 1) The Episcopal Residence; 2) Spring Heights; 3) Property Insurance; and 4) Closed Churches Property and 5) Resolutions.

Episcopal Residence

The residence provided for our resident bishop in Putnam County is being regularly maintained and kept up in ongoing consultation with Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball and her husband, Rev. Barry Ball. Our thanks and appreciation are expressed by the trustees to our

Director of Administrative Services, James Berner, for his regular routine assistance with the coordination of maintenance and upkeep. The Conference Episcopacy Committee consults with the trustees about the residence and episcopal family needs. Before the end of calendar year 2019, both the Conference Trustees and the Conference Episcopacy Committee will jointly review the needs of the residence in anticipation of the 2020 Jurisdictional Conference episcopal assignments.

Spring Heights

As a conference owned property, the trustees continue to address the year-to-year maintenance needs of the Spring Heights camp facilities outside of Spencer, WV. The trustees recommend the amount of \$30,000 in the Spring Heights Maintenance Fund in Category III of the 2020 Conference Budget. This line item in the Category III budget is administered by the trustees. The trustees continue to follow the Spring Heights 2014 timbering plan, in consultation with Natco Forestry Services, for future timbering. During calendar year 2018 the trustees assisted in replacement of the roof on the Camp Office building as well as maintenance and repair on the camp pool. Cost of this work (\$21,207) was taken from the Conference Property fund.

Property Insurance

The trustees appreciate the guidance and consultation given by our Conference Risk Manager, Mr. John Thompson. Conference properties, vehicles, and mission projects (through our Affiliation Agreements) are covered by insurance provided by the Annual Conference. As reflected in the financial reports of the Conference Treasurer the cost of property insurance for 2018 was \$ 230,615. (see Property Insurance Account report from Conference Treasurer). The trustees are being watchful and concerned about the rising costs of property insurance with our conference related mission projects. Addition of property and buildings creates increased costs. During the next Conference year (2019-2020) the trustees will be in discussion with the Connectional Ministries office and Conference Board of Global Ministries about the increasing costs of property insurance. The trustees are requesting an increase in the Property Insurance line item of the Annual Conference budget in the amount of \$290,000 (a \$30,000 increase).

Closed Churches Property

Effective January 1, 2016, the disciplinary process regarding closed churches (formerly known as “abandoned and discontinued churches and properties”) changed in the Discipline. The trustees continue to work with the Cabinet to carry out Paragraph 2549 (2016 Book of Discipline). We thank our former Trustee Agent, Rev. Cliff Schell, and our new agent, Rev. Charles Hicks, for their work on sales and conveyance of closed church properties. The following report is submitted from the agent regarding the work: Conveyances of Properties

General Conference 2019

Throughout the year, prior to and following the special session of the General Conference 2019, the trustees have been in dialogue and study regarding any legislative changes as a result of the actions of the General Conference in relation to “exit” or “disaffiliation” issues.

As of the writing of this annual report, we await interpretation and ruling from the Judicial Council of The United Methodist Church regarding any changes in the Book of Discipline in relation to local church properties (adopted at the 2019 Special Session of The General Conference).

The Conference Trustees are committed to holding in “trust” all United Methodist properties in the most appropriate and faithful way. The trustees are in frequent consultation with the Resident Bishop, Conference Chancellor, the Cabinet, the Conference Treasurer and other conference’s Boards of Trustees.

Trustee Resolutions

We recommend adoption of the following resolutions presented by the trustees –

2019 Resolution #1 - *Closed Properties, and the Sale and Other Disposition of the Same*

2019 Resolution #2 - *Closed Church – Real & Personal Property Funds*

2019 Resolution #3 - *Proceeds of the Sale of GlenWood Park Retirement Village*

I appreciate each of the trustees for the work, consultation, and leadership that they provide. The Conference Trustees are thankful for the consultation and assistance given by our ex-officio members (Robert File, Chancellor; James Berner, Treasurer; Joe Kenaston, Dean of the Cabinet, Bonnie MacDonald and Ken Willard, Connectional Ministries, and John Thompson, Risk Manager). We especially appreciate the years of service given by Rev. Clifford Schell as Trustee Agent upon his retirement from that role in December 2018. We are pleased that Rev. Charles Hicks has assumed that responsibility as of January 1, 2019.

May God be glorified in all that we do!

Grace and peace,
William H. Wilson (Bill), Chairperson

CLOSED CHURCH PROPERTIES CONVEYED
MARCH 1, 2018-February 28, 2019

PROPERTY/COUNTY	YEAR CLOSED	DATE CONVEYED	CONSIDERATION
Ashworth Mem.-Matoaka/Mercer	2017	06/2018	\$7,000.00
Christ-Shinston Church & Par Harrison	2016	05/2018	\$50,000.00
Delohia/Nicholas	2018	08/2018	NA Reverted
Ebenezer/Cabell	2017	06/2018	\$5,000.00
Folsom/Tyler	2014	07/2018	\$2,500.00
Glen Falls/Harrison	1968	11/2018	\$2,500.00
Green Hill/Barbour	2017	08/2018	\$1,000.00
Hammond Church & Parsonage Harrison	2018	07/2018	Merged w/Duff St.
Harrison St. Church/Parsonage Ritchie	2018	10/2018	\$25,000.00
Lane/Summers	2017	06/2018	\$3,000.00
Logansport/Marion	2018	11/2018	\$3,000.00
Moore's Chapel/Mason	2018	01/2019	\$20,000.00
Mt. Zion/Pocahontas	2018	05/2018	Trans to Levelton Chg
Pierson Chapel/Nicholas	2018	10/2018	\$40,000.00
Roderfield/McDowell	2017	11/2018	\$2,000.00
Simmons Cemetery/Upshur	1966	12/2018	\$1,000.00
Spring Hill Addition/Tyler	2007	08/2018	\$1,000.00
Sulphur/Mineral	2018	05/2018	Reverted
Stonewall Church & Parsonage Harrison	2017	11/2018	\$90,000.00
Valley Grove/Kanawha	2017	04/2018	\$50,000.00
Selbysport/Garrett, MD	2018	02/2019	\$20,000.00
Anmoore/Harrison	2018	02/2019	\$40,000.00

UNDER CONTRACT AWAITING FINAL PAYMENT

First-Monongah/Marion	2016	Due 2019	\$20,000.00
Hartmansville/Mineral	2018	Due 2019	\$15,000.00
Napier/Braxton	2017	Due 2019	\$1,200.00
Bell Chapel/Wirt	2014	Due 2019	\$1,000.00
Fairview/Lewis	2018	Due 2019	\$3,000.00
Brisco/Jackson	2018	Due 2019	\$3,500.00
Walnut Grove/Lincoln	2016	Due 2019	\$1,000.00
Zion/Potomac Highland	2019	Due 2019	\$1,000.00

United Methodist Men

Greetings on behalf of the West Virginia Conference's United Methodist Men. We moved forward on several fronts during 2018 as we remained focused on inviting men to grow in Christ so others may know Christ.

There are about 70 chartered local church men's organizations in the conference. We work in our churches and communities and at the district and conference levels. At the conference level, our signature events are an annual retreat for the men and Circuit Rider, a gathering for Scouts. Both are held in September at WVU's Jackson's Mill. The retreat has been held at the Mill annually since about 1946. Last year's Circuit Rider was the 30th.

At last year's Circuit Rider, 420 Scouts and Scout leaders camped in the grassy area in front of the Dining Hall. They cooked, played games and visited numerous educational stations to learn about a variety of things such as fossils, ATV safety, geo-caching, and the Bible. Last year 17 Scouts and adults earned "Bible Basics RP3" patches, thanks to the leadership of past men's president Bill Atwell. Also, 18 people from a total of three scout councils took the scouts' mandatory youth safety training class. The entire Circuit Rider weekend for Scouts is free, other than transportation and three meals. These are our future leaders! It's no surprise that United Methodist Men consider Scouting to be a ministry.

Rev. Mark Lubbock, a deployed staff member of the General Commission on United Methodist Men, was the guest speaker at the 2018 retreat. Larry Coppock, who retired last year as the General Commission's director of scouting ministries, was a special guest. Music was provided by Mercy's Reign.

Conference Scout Coordinator Ralph Herron was named West Virginia United Methodist Man of the Year. In November Herron was honored with a certificate and wooden plaque during a meeting of the Mon Valley District United Methodist Men at Life UMC in Fairmont.

The Palmer Award, which is given annually to the church with the largest number in attendance at the retreat, went to the Spruce Street UMC of Morgantown. Six flood buckets were collected and turned over to Rev. Dan Lowther, co-ordinator of Disaster Response Ministries for the conference. The Arnold Eddy Golf Outing, which raises funds for the Circuit Rider, attracted 37 golfers.

George Hohmann was elected president. Immediate past-president Don Davis was elected treasurer, succeeding Danny Murphy. Ed Altizer was elected secretary, succeeding the late Ed Rancjik.

Looking ahead, we want to provide the support needed to help local church men's groups thrive; we want to improve communications with local men's groups, and we want to continue to improve and enrich the Circuit Rider and the retreat.

To learn more about the West Virginia United Methodist Men, please visit our website at <http://wvcummen.org>

Blessings,
George Hohmann, President

United Methodist Women

My name is Sue Dostal. I am a member of Cross Roads United Methodist Church in the Western District.

United Methodist Women focuses on women, children, and youth. We advocate for the marginalized and disadvantaged. We take a stand where it is necessary to support one of our priority issues; such as Maternal and Child Health, Climate Justice, Economic Inequality and Human Trafficking. Mission needs to be carried out with education, preparation, action and advocacy, and mutual learning and partnerships.

United Methodist Women provides educational experiences that lead to personal change in order to transform the world. One way to accomplish this is through the Reading Program. It offers five categories from which to read: spiritual growth, education for mission, nurturing for community, leadership development, and social action.

United Methodist Women prepares women and girls to be leaders in their community, church, school, district and conference. Leadership Development Days are offered annually to equip women with opportunities to learn particular responsibilities for the office that is held within United Methodist Women, to participate in worship, workshops, and network with other participants. It also connects the leadership of United Methodist Women to that of the church.

Each spring we offer a Spiritual Growth Retreat where participants build on their faith journey. They experience worship, music, great speakers and spiritual growth. The retreat is open to anyone who would like to participate. The theme for 2018 was *The Power of Relationships* with Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball and Rev. Barry Steiner Ball as guest speakers. Music was provided by Rev. Dr. Bruce Reed from Midland South District and Kathy Upton from Greenbrier District. The Power of Relationships was based on the book *Anatomy of Peace*. This event is open to anyone and is held at Cedar Lakes Conference Center in Ripley, WV.

2018 brought about our quadrennial Assembly held this year in Columbus, Ohio. Over 6,000 women converged on Columbus to celebrate United Methodist Women putting Faith, Hope, and Love into Action. This 4-day event offered exciting workshops, inspired worship, Town Hall meetings, exhibits, social justice rallies, special guest speakers and fellowship. Our next Assembly will be held in Orlando, Florida in 2022.

Mission u is another opportunity for women to study current issues that impact society with particular attention to the responsibilities of women fulfilling the mission work of the church. Last year, Mission u was held at West Virginia Wesleyan College in July and the theme was *Power of Identity*. The studies presented included “What About Our Money?” and “Embracing Wholeness: An Earth Perspective for Covenantal Living.” Study leaders included Sue Owens from South Carolina Conference, Rev. Janet Harman, and Rev. Ken Peters. The youth and children’s studies referenced *Is it Just Money* and *Money Matters* which gave the youth and children some ideas about where the money goes and what can be done with it through United Methodist Women. Study leaders were Gail Douglas-Boykin of the New York Conference for the youth, Katelyn Lewis and Kasey Akens for middle school,

and Justus Robinson with Hannah Willey assisting for the elementary group.

Every year our study leaders, Dean and Assistant Dean for Mission u attend training. This training is a means for teaching the prospective study to the members of the conference. It also teaches the connectedness between the current study and society and how all of this is connected to the PURPOSE of United Methodist Women.

2018 Annual Meeting was held at Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church in Parkersburg. The theme was *Power of Belonging* with Rev. Dr. Bill Wilson as the guest speaker. Offerings were accepted Friday and Saturday in the amount of over \$2,500. The offerings support Church and Community Workers and a National Office initiative.

Beginning in 2018, each district team was responsible for sponsoring a district-wide Mission Encounter to take place at one of the conference mission project sites, a Church and Community Worker's site or any other type of mission site within their community. The participation from each district was phenomenal. There was quite a bit of work done at each of the projects by the attendees.

This year we are celebrating 150 years of United Methodist Women putting Faith, Hope and Love into Action all year long. As we "Move Forward" into the coming years, our hope is for continued work in supporting the marginalized and continued education and connectional efforts for the growth of United Methodist Women.

Sue Dostal, President

United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God, to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Young Adult Ministries

From the rising of the sun to its setting, praised be the name of the Lord! As Young Adult Ministries chairperson I can faithfully report that Young Adults are being activated in ministry within the West Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church. From determining their calling with DiscoverU, to being at the helm to combat racism through the ACT Now to End Racism event in Washington, DC, and even young(er) adult clergy gathering at Blackwater Falls for a spiritual formation retreat, young individuals are seeking ways to engage in their faith in a plethora of ways. While the Young Adult Ministries team does not lay claim to any of these marvelous celebrations of ministries, the team has supported financially any young adult that has sought to be engaged in the ministry opportunities.

Previously, it was reported that the Young Adult Ministries team was working on a Ministry Action Plan. I celebrate that the Ministry Action Plan has been completed, with room for setting goals toward resourcing, retaining, and reaching young adults throughout the connection. While there have been many celebrations, the challenge of creating and

maintaining a sustainable team still lingers. In looking to the Young Adult Ministries team guidelines as set forth by the Conference Journal in Section XI the team is charged with “strengthening young adult ministry in the local churches and districts of the annual conference; to advocate for matters that are important to young adults, to take responsibility for conference-level young adult ministries.” Should you have a calling toward such ministry, we ask that you be a part of our team.

To that end, we continually seek your prayers as the West Virginia Annual Conference of The UMC.

Micah Blanks
Young Adult Ministries Chairperson

Youth Ministries

My name is Bree Moll. I am sixteen years old, and I worship at First UMC Webster Springs. I have served on the Conference Council on Youth Ministry (CCYM) for four years. I have attended and helped plan many youth-led events such as Rally on the Mountain and Fall Workshop. I’ve been on the Youth Service Fund Committee, volunteered as the communication chairperson, and am excited to serve as the chairperson for the 2018-2019 conference year. I was baptized at Rally on the Mountain in 2017 along with my three siblings. The Conference Council on Youth ministry has encouraged me to take significant steps in my faith journey and helped me grow closer to God.

One of the things that I appreciate about CCYM is that we open doors to a lot of people who would not usually have opportunities available to them. For example, the Youth Service Fund gives grants to young people who feel called to serve in mission work, and who need financial support to live out God’s call in their lives. This year we focused on strengthening one another as leaders and disciples, establishing a deeper connection with God, and creating life-long faithful friends. As members of CCYM youth vision, plan, and lead during youth events. My peers and I led small groups at Rally on the Mountain. Small groups had intense conversations about what it means to be a disciple and follower of Christ. I grew as a leader; I had to build trust with my group and encourage them to be honest and faithful in our discussions. I chose to be open and vulnerable with them. It was hard to lead by example, but I felt like God was calling me to do that. I was awed at how God can bring a group of strangers together, and because we all wanted to grow in our relationship with God, we were able to develop deep relationships with each other.

Rally on the Mountain was held at Winterplace in July of 2018. This year we focused on prayer and youth were able to walk a prayer labyrinth, pray with prayer stations, and create prayer bracelets. The theme for the event was “Challenge,” and we challenged young people to grow in their prayer lives. Fall Workshop was held at Cedar Lakes in November 2018, and the theme was “Run the Race” drawn from Hebrews 12:1-2. My peers and I dreamed of creating a color run as part of the event, and we were able to successfully host a color

run for all of Fall Workshop's participants with the help of our awesome adult volunteers! At Fall Workshop we were excited to offer time for youth to pray, be intentional about their faith, and focus on Christ in worship in a variety of ways.

Madison Ulaki from St. Marks UMC in Charleston traveled to the Philippines with the Northeastern Jurisdiction's Mission of Peace in January of 2019. Mission of Peace is a journey which leads each participant to discover God's Spirit at work in the world. The Mission of Peace travels to a different country each year, and in 2020 the Mission of Peace trip will be to India. The West Virginia Conference is looking forward to sending youth on this once in a lifetime experience. We are also excited to host youth from around the Northeastern Jurisdiction November 1-2, 2019, for one of our annual gatherings.

As previously mentioned, this is my fourth year serving on CCYM and my first year serving as chairperson. I certainly I hope it is not my last. I will continue to serve on CCYM wherever I am needed! I am passionate about CCYM because of the impact it has made on my life and how I have grown as a disciple of Jesus Christ. CCYM encourages youth to grow as disciples, and it is a place that fosters youth leadership. Youth are motivated to be leaders. Shea and Joe challenge us to step up and speak our minds. At CCYM, we know our opinions matter. CCYM is blessed to be a small group of people who are deeply committed to growing in their faith, who pursue Christ with their whole lives, and who serve with compassion and conviction. Thank you to the fantastic adult volunteers for all the time and energy they put into making CCYM meetings and youth events possible. A special thank you to Joe Hill and Shea James for guiding us and empowering us to follow God's call.

Thank you to the West Virginia Conference for continuing to make youth ministry a priority. We hope that you will share the amazing work that CCYM has done over the past year with the youth in your congregations and that you will encourage them to take a step as a disciple and join us!

Bree Moll
CCYM Chairperson

United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia, Inc.

Creating a culture of generosity in the West Virginia Annual Conference...

The United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia, Inc. helps create a culture of generosity that transforms the world by raising, managing, and distributing funds that serve the needs of all people and communities. Through Christian stewardship and partnerships with donors, churches and other ministries, the Foundation makes disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world by helping individuals and communities grow closer to God’s image. We welcome opportunities to lead discussions, classes, and workshops about stewardship and planned giving. Remember that as you plan for:

- ◆ Clergy gatherings and retreats or leadership academies and training;
- ◆ Gatherings of churches or church groups, parishes, or districts; and
- ◆ Meetings with individuals who are interested in learning about legacy giving.

Need to fill the pulpit on a particular day? Contact Rev. Jeff Taylor or Kim Matthews, CLM. We are willing to travel to churches to preach or teach. Let us know how we can help you with funding your ministry!

FINANCIAL & ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Investment Returns: The Foundation’s investment returns, net of all fees, through December 31, 2018, as well as the historical averages, along with comparative benchmarks, are as follows:

Investment Fund	1-year 2018	3-Year Average 2016-2018	5-Year Average 2014-2018	10-Year Average 2009-2018
Fund A—Fixed Income Fund	-0.56%	1.56%	0.54%	2.63%
<i>Benchmark*</i>	<i>-0.57%</i>	<i>0.73%</i>	<i>0.29%</i>	<i>1.76%</i>
Fund B1—Conservative Balanced	-4.17%	4.64%	2.78%	4.84%
<i>Benchmark*</i>	<i>-4.82%</i>	<i>3.93%</i>	<i>2.61%</i>	<i>4.03%</i>
Fund B2—Moderate Balanced	-4.49%	5.30%	3.51%	5.92%
<i>Benchmark*</i>	<i>-5.28%</i>	<i>4.65%</i>	<i>3.31%</i>	<i>5.21%</i>
Fund B3—Aggressive Balanced	-6.76%	5.95%	3.51%	6.21%
<i>Benchmark*</i>	<i>-7.85%</i>	<i>4.97%</i>	<i>3.16%</i>	<i>5.75%</i>

* The benchmarks are customized to match the asset allocation in each Fund, adjusted for fees.

The market downturn of the last quarter of 2018 gave away all the gains of the first three quarters, and then some, causing all of our Investment Funds to suffer losses for the year. Even so, we beat the benchmarks in all four funds, which is always our goal. As of the writing of this report (March 6, 2019), the market and our returns are recovering.

Sustainable Investing

The Foundation practices sustainable investing. This means we invest with Christian values in mind in addition to the investment return bottom line. The first part of sustainable investing is social screening; that means we do not invest in companies that receive a significant portion of their revenues from the manufacture, sale, or distribution of the following: alcohol, tobacco, pornography, gambling, weapons, or private prisons. Sustainable investing means we also make a conscientious effort to invest in companies with policies and practices that are socially responsible, consistent with the goals outlined in the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church.

Receipts and Assets Under Management

The Foundation received a total deposits/gifts for the year 2018 of over \$4.5 Million. We distributed over \$4.3 Million for charitable purposes, and over \$225 Thousand to beneficiaries of lifetime income gifts. Total receipts for 2019 (through March 6, the date of this report) amount to over \$785,000.

As of March 5, 2019, The United Methodist Foundation manages a total of over **\$102 Million in assets**. We celebrate and give thanks to all former and current staff, Board members, church leaders, and especially to the generous donors who have trusted this ministry enough that they made legacy gifts to provide lasting impacts. Our goal, however, is not to build up the Foundation, but to create a culture of generosity that enhances and expands ministry in the name of Jesus Christ in the West Virginia Conference and beyond.

FOUNDATION GRANTS

Each year, we tithe our anticipated revenues for grants to churches and other ministries around the Conference. In 2018, our Grants Committee awarded \$89,000.00 in ministry grants to the churches and agencies of the West Virginia Annual Conference. These grants funded several vital ministries, including a college internship project, accommodations for disaster recovery teams, outreach for the blind in a community, addiction recovery, and support for a youth center, among other things. Grant applications are accepted throughout the year; guidelines for applications and submission deadlines can be found on our website (www.umfww.org).

SAVE A TREE, PLANT A TREE

Save a tree, and we'll plant a tree! In an effort to encourage good stewardship of the earth, for each account holder who changes from mailed paper statements to using the online Account Portal, The Foundation will make a donation to a non-profit organization that will plant a tree in a United States National Forest. Not only can you save trees by reducing the paper used for printing statements, but also you can plant a tree!

Account Portal credentials are available for donors who created Foundation accounts, to pastors, and to officers responsible for monitoring the accounts. Multiple officers can have access. To receive credentials to access the Account Portal, email The Foundation at info@umfwv.org, or go to our website (www.umfwv.org) and click the green box that says "Plant a Tree." We hope you will consider the possibilities of our Account Portal and help us to save a tree and Plant a Tree!

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Please be sure to visit the Foundation's Ministry Fair Table during Annual Conference. You are invited to join us for lunch on Saturday, June 15 to learn more about our ministry. *All are invited, but space is limited, so please contact us to make your reservation.*

LET US TELL YOU MORE

Our mailing address is P. O. Box 3811, Charleston, WV 25338-3811.

To be added to our mailing list, contact us at info@umfwv.org

Contact Jeff Taylor at jefftaylor@umfwv.org

Contact Kim Matthews at kimmattthews@umfwv.org

For accounting questions, contact Susannah Carpenter, CPA, our Director of Finance and Administration, at scarpenter@umfwv.org

United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia, Inc.

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Visit our website at www.umfwv.org

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WVWC President's Report

Joel Thierstein, J.D., Ph.D.

Greetings from West Virginia Wesleyan College. We wish you a warm welcome as you come to our campus for the 2019 West Virginia Annual Conference.

Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball and I continue to work together to strengthen the relationship between the College and the Church. Our vision for a new College / Church liaison position came into being this past year with the addition of Lauren Weaver to our staff. Last July, Lauren assumed the newly created position of United Methodist Church Liaison and Spiritual Life Coordinator at West Virginia Wesleyan College. Since joining the College, Lauren has begun to build relationships between the College and United Methodist Churches across the state of West Virginia. She has engaged congregations in many ways including visiting with youth groups and acting as a reader on Sunday mornings. Lauren has also begun the extensive work of engaging with the many spiritual communities of the College.

The College also continued its expanded relationship with local Methodist churches this past year. This relationship was highlighted by a joint worship service at the Wesley Chapel with many congregations of the Wesleyan District during Holy Week called, "The Seven Last Sayings of Jesus." Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball delivered a wonderful message. The Wesleyan Religious Life Counsel enjoyed helping to plan and lead the service.

The campus community continues its extensive community engagement work. Our student body participates in community service through their Greek affiliation, their athletic teams, their churches, and their personal affiliations. Over 100 students are directly involved with the Center for Community Engagement (CCE). Our service scholars (78 students) alone did over 12,000 hours of community service. Campus community participation ranges from working with the local schools -- pre-K through 12th grade students -- on things like math and reading to dealing with social justice and human rights around issues like poverty to addressing regional issues like childhood obesity. This year, CCE students served during Fall Break in Webster County and during Spring Break in Nashville.

It has been an exciting year, and West Virginia Wesleyan College continues to move in positive directions. Last fall, we began a student driven redesign of our library. Remodeling began just after Christmas and is slated to be completed in August. In the Fall, we also transformed our old auditorium (Atkinson) into a black box theater. This spring, the students are beginning the thought process around the redesign of the student center. Finally, this past year, Wesleyan began a strategic planning process. The planning process will be ongoing, but this year's portion of the plan will begin to be implemented this summer.

In this era of profound change, West Virginia Wesleyan's liberal arts curriculum becomes a tremendous asset to the students who come from around the world to study at WVWC. According to AACU, a liberal arts education is "an approach to learning that empowers individuals and prepares them to deal with complexity, diversity, and change." Education, also, continues to be in a time of profound change. As we move toward personalized education and individual learning pathways, we are mindful that the journey to intellectual and spiritual enlightenment is not a solo journey.

As we walk this journey together, we continue to be grateful for your kind and generous prayers and support.



Mission Statement

West Virginia Wesleyan College challenges its students to a life-long commitment to develop their intellectual, ethical, spiritual, and leadership potential and to set and uphold standards of excellence.

Firmly rooted in the liberal arts tradition and closely related to The United Methodist Church, the College is a community of learning based on fundamental principles formed at the intersection of Christian faith and liberal education: intellectual rigor, self-discovery, human dignity, mutual support, social justice, self-discipline, mental and physical wellness, the appreciation of diversity and the natural world, and the judicious use of resources.

The College recognizes and affirms its interdependence with the external communities-local, regional, national, and global-and its covenant with the people of West Virginia to share its educational and cultural resources.

Wesleyan Ranked Highest in West Virginia by Forbes, U.S. News, and the Wall Street Journal

Wesleyan was the only West Virginia school listed among 200 colleges and universities across the country in **Forbes** "Grateful Grads 2018—200 Colleges with the Happiest, Most Successful Alumni."

For the eighth consecutive year, Wesleyan had the highest state ranking in the Best Value category in the **2019 U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges**. The private residential United Methodist College was listed as the 15th Best Value School in the South. Wesleyan has been the only West Virginia school listed in this category six of the past eight years. The magazine also ranked Wesleyan as a first-tier school in the South Regional University category, a classification the College has enjoyed since 2011.

Wesleyan also received the highest ranking among any public and private West Virginia school in the **Wall Street Journal's** annual college and university rankings. Wesleyan was again listed among the Best Southeastern Colleges in **The Princeton Review** and was one of three in-state schools to be included in the list of schools named as "Hidden Gems in the Northeast" by **College Raptor**.

In addition to these noteworthy rankings, Wesleyan has led the Mountain East Conference since it was formed in the number of academic awards and has enrolled more West Virginia PROMISE Scholars than any other private school since the program's inception.

Last spring, the College announced that 97% of the 2017 graduating class were either enrolled in graduate or professional school or placed in a job. That statistical profile represented 85% of the class.



Boston University School of Theology •

Dear Colleagues in Ministry: Greetings from Boston University School of Theology (BUSTH) as we live together as disciples in uncertain times!

BREAKING NEWS:

- **Students:** We continue to increase and celebrate diversity in our student body, creating remarkable opportunities for in-depth exchanges and fruitful collaboration.
- **Faculty:** We welcomed two amazing faculty this year: **Shively Smith** as Assistant Professor of New Testament, and **Nicolette Manglos-Weber** as Assistant Professor of Religion and Society.
- **Online Lifelong Learning:** We are launching a new Online Lifelong Learning Program at the School, offering webinars, workshops, and reading groups for professional enrichment.
- **Scholarships:** We continue our offer of free tuition to UMC registered candidates for ordained ministry, and we continue to build student scholarships and housing as a central campaign priority. New scholarships include the Korean Student and African Student Scholarships, and leadership fellowships for promising leaders: Raíces Latinas for Latinx leaders, Sacred Worth for leaders in the LGBTQIA+ community, Howard Thurman for African-American leadership, and Indigenous Studies Fellowships.
- **Faith and Ecological Justice Program:** This new student program undertakes initiatives to increase ecological awareness, education, and activism in ecological justice.
- **Theology and the Arts Initiatives:** Recent exhibits and events include “Moments in Time” and “Transcending Conflict.”
- **Grants:** Henry Luce Foundation has awarded a 3-year grant to support the Educating Effective Chaplains Project. The grant supports work with other seminaries to develop models that can better prepare chaplains for effective ministry.
- **Website:** After several years of planning, a new School website will launch in Fall semester 2019.

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

- **Creative Callings:** Our vocational project is an exciting partnership with local churches, seeking to create “a culture of call.” It is sponsored through a grant from the Lilly Endowment.
- **Engagement with the UMC:** Many of our students are delegates, project leaders and assistants, and class participants in General Conference 2019.
- **Congregational courses:** The Continuing Scholar program offers current BUSTH courses to alums and local clergy as continuing education credit for a small fee per course.
- **Doctor of Ministry:** The DMin in Transformational Leadership is soaring with lively student cohorts that are broadly ecumenical, culturally diverse, and global. The model includes intensives, online courses, and faculty mentoring.

- **Religion and Conflict Transformation Clinic:** The Clinic provides internships and workshops that foster justice and peace-building.
- **Travel seminars:** These courses engage students with immersion journeys to the Arizona-Mexican border, Israel and Palestine, Argentina, and other sites of learning and ministry. Attendees from the recent Serbia and Croatia Seminar presented to the 2018 Parliament of the World's Religions in Toronto, Canada.
- **Ecumenical partnerships:** We continue to build robust Communities of Learning with the Episcopal Church and United Church of Christ, and to develop new communities with the Unitarian Universalist and Baptist Churches.
- **Partnership with Hebrew College:** Together we are able to enrich interreligious learning through joint courses and public events, and also co-sponsor *The Journal of Interreligious Studies* and *State of Formation* cohort of emerging leaders.

TAKING ACTION GLOBALLY AND LOCALLY:

- **Campus action:** Work to improve accessibility and sustainability. BUSTH is the first certified Green School in BU and participates actively in the Green Seminary Initiative. It has also been named as one of the "Seminaries that Change the World" for the second consecutive year.
- **Internships in global service and peacemaking:** We provide internships that support students who engage in ministry with churches and service organizations across the world.

COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE: Celebrating differences while joining in action.

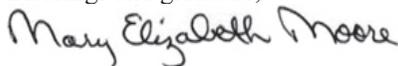
- Faculty and students have led and participated in UMCOR; support efforts with victims of hurricanes and fires; protests on behalf of Puerto Rico, Texas, and Florida; protests of white supremacist movements; services with immigrants and DACA young people; and ecumenical and interreligious witnesses for justice in the city of Boston.
- Through student-led Town Hall meetings, the community has had deep conversations on issues that divide (including theological differences). We seek to foster respectful listening that builds community life and communal action.

OTHER NOTABLE NEWS:

- 2019 marks the 180th year of the School of Theology, originally founded as the Newbury Bible Institute in 1839.
- Our major development campaign for BUSTH will end in September 2019, and we continue working toward grand success for the future of our School and the vitality of your ministries.

As BUSTH looks to the future, we celebrate transformational leaders of the United Methodist Church, who keep the word of Jesus Christ alive. Your living legacy and faithful witness give us hope and courage for the future.

Blessings and gratitude,



Mary Elizabeth Moore, Dean

Drew University Theological School

Drew University Theological School continued its multi-year self-transformation by launching its new curriculum for the Master of Divinity in the fall of 2018. This entirely reconceived degree seeks to form graduates that are rooted in the Christian story and traditions, capable of effective and creative leadership, and spiritually and socially resourceful for cultivating the transformative gospel of Jesus Christ in, with, and for the church and the world. A new two-year degree, the Master of Arts in Theology and Ministry also launched and offers students the opportunity to prepare for public leadership or a specialized vocation through deep theological and ethical reflection informed by biblical, historical, theological and practical sources.

New pathways in the Master of Arts, the Master of Sacred Theology, and the Doctor of Ministry were also created as part of the curriculum transformation process which seeks to more intentionally focus the school's service to the church, as well as to the academy and civil society. Drew welcomed 145 entering students this academic year, its largest entering class in over a decade, with an overall enrollment of 350 for the current academic year. In the coming year a new 5-year strategic plan will be developed, new degree delivery options that increase accessibility and affordability for prospective students, as well as new partnerships with annual conferences, other church bodies, and values-based organizations that share and strengthen Drew's mission to advance peace, justice, love of God, neighbor, and the earth.

Duke Divinity School

In August of 2018, **L. Gregory Jones**, the Ruth W. and A. Morris Williams Jr. Distinguished Professor of Theology and Christian Ministry, began serving as dean following Elaine Heath's departure. Jones, who earned M.Div. and Ph.D. degrees from Duke, was previously dean of Duke Divinity from 1997-2010. Jones was asked to lead the school in enhancing its ties with church constituencies, strengthening its academic credibility, attending to cultural challenges, and addressing financial challenges. As he assumed the role of dean, Jones noted, "We need to build bridges across various divides in the church, the academy, and across society. Christian faith can play a significant role in this bridge building." This academic year Duke Divinity School has been working steadily on these tasks.

Admissions: Duke Divinity School welcomed an entering class of approximately 200 new students from 30 different states and several countries, including China, South Korea, the UK, and Zimbabwe. Our Master of Divinity program remains central to our identity, enrolling 112 students. Our Master of Theological Studies and Master of Arts in Christian Practice programs received enrollments of 24 students and 14 students, respectively. The Master of Theology (nine students), Doctor of Ministry (22 students), and Doctor of Theology (four students) all had strong enrollment. Our new Certificate in Theology and Health Care saw enrollment double this year to eight students. The ages of students enrolled in the M.Div. program range from 21 to 69, with a median age of 23, and students from minority groups

comprised more than 22 percent of incoming M.Div. students, with black students making up 15 percent. Across all degree programs at the Divinity School, 32 percent of the incoming class identified as a race/ethnicity other than white (an increase from 26 percent last year). Black students made up 18 percent of all students; Hispanic students, two percent; Asian students, seven percent; and American Indian students, one percent. For the first time, the majority of students entering the Doctor of Ministry program identify as an ethnic group other than white. Female students made up 51 percent of incoming M.Div. students, while males were 49 percent. It was only the second time in school history that the incoming cohort of M.Div. students had a female majority (2005 being the other year). Across the degree programs, 42 percent of students in the incoming class were female, and 58 percent were male. There were 23 denominations represented in the M.Div. entering class, with 55 percent affiliated with the United Methodist Church (up from 41 percent last year). Nondenominational students made up 17 percent of the new M.Div. students; Baptists, eight percent; and Anglican-Episcopal, three percent.

New Faculty: Several new faculty members joined the Divinity School community in July 2018, demonstrating Duke Divinity School's ongoing commitment to the church, the academy, and the church's witness in the world.

- **Christopher Beeley**, the Jack and Barbara Bovender Professor of Theology, Anglican Studies, and Ministry and director of the Anglican Episcopal House of Studies, is an Anglican priest and a founding member of the Episcopal Gathering of Leaders. He has ministered in parishes in Texas, Indiana, Virginia, and Connecticut. Prior to joining the Duke faculty, Beeley taught for 16 years at Yale Divinity School.
- **David Emmanuel Goatley**, research professor of theology and black church studies and director of the Office of Black Church Studies, is ordained in the National Baptist Convention, USA, and serves in leadership capacities with the NAACP, Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Society, and the Baptist World Alliance and the World Council of Churches. For 23 years, he was the executive director of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Society.
- **Jan Holton**, associate professor of the practice of pastoral theology and care, is an ordained elder in the Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. Holton most recently served in an extension ministry with Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS) in New Haven, Conn., and was a member of the faculty at Yale Divinity School from 2006 to 2015.
- **Patrick T. Smith**, associate research professor of theological ethics and bioethics and a senior fellow at the Kenan Institute for Ethics at Duke University, is also associate faculty with Trent Center for Bioethics, Humanities, and the History of Medicine. Smith is licensed and ordained with the National Baptist Convention, USA, and comes to Duke from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and Harvard Medical School.

United Methodists: Professor **Kate Bowler's** memoir, *Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved*, made *The New York Times'* hardcover nonfiction bestseller list and received significant national recognition in mainstream and Christian media. The related podcast, "Everything Happens with Kate Bowler," returns for a second season with new episodes on how people have faced dark times in their lives. Bowler, **Sujin Pak**, and **Edgardo Colon-Emeric**, all United Methodist faculty members, received tenure and promotion to the rank of associate professor in recent months. On July 1, 2018, Pak began serving as vice dean of academic affairs and Colon-Emeric started as director of the Center for Reconciliation. **Jeff Conklin-Miller** began serving as director of the Methodist House of Studies at the same time. Beginning February 1, 2019, **Lacey Warner** fills the new role of associate dean for Wesleyan engagement.

Looking to the Future: The Divinity School continues to discern fresh strategies to respond faithfully and wisely to the changing dynamics of the church, the academy, and the world. An example of our strategic work is a new focus throughout the school on Thriving Communities. Through this focus, we are concentrating on the centrality of healthy congregations and gifted pastors in cultivating thriving communities. This approach offers opportunities to build on Duke Divinity School's traditional strengths, but in a new key. We look forward to cultivating even stronger synergies among our work with the Clergy Health Initiative, Thriving Rural Communities, Hispanic House of Studies, and a revised Field Education program (all generously supported by The Duke Endowment), alongside longstanding commitments to the Office of Black Church Studies, the Anglican/Episcopal and Baptist Houses of Study, and initiatives in Leadership Education; Theology and the Arts; and Theology, Medicine, and Culture.

Duke Divinity School is grateful for the strong ties that bind "the people called Methodist," and we look forward to serving together as we bear witness to God's future with hope.

Respectfully submitted, L. Gregory Jones, Dean, Duke Divinity School



GAMMON

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

653 Beckwith Street SW
 Atlanta, GA 30314
 404.581.0300
www.gammon-itc.org

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 co-educational, 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 your support of theological education, and for your commitment to ensuring that God's church will be served by persons who are called and trained to lead us forward.

Grace and Peace,
Ken J. Walden, Ph.D.
President-Dean

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

In 2018-2019, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary focused on the following priorities:

- **Responsive and Relevant Theological Education:** Respond to the educational and professional development needs of prospective students, alums, clergy, and laity by providing relevant theological education in a variety of formats and investing in our competent and diverse faculty.
- **Inclusivity in Our Relationships:** Ensure we are equitable, just, and inclusive in our relationships with the variety of diversity we encounter (e.g., racial, cultural, sexual orientation) within both our seminary and local communities.
- **Ensuring a Vibrant Future:** Establish a vibrant future by investing in employees, instituting new policies and procedures, caring for the earth, and generating gifts to sustain the seminary for generations to come.

RESPONSIVE AND RELEVANT THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

New Partnership with North Central College

We are partnering with North Central College to offer students the unique opportunity to take graduate-level courses in religious studies while completing their undergraduate degrees. Beginning in Fall 2019, students will be able to take classes at the seminary's campus, and transfer graduate courses towards undergraduate work. For more information, please visit www.garrett.edu/news.

Creative Course Opportunities

Faith in Place Environmental Justice Course

This past spring, Garrett-Evangelical partnered with Faith in Place to offer a dynamic new course titled "Organizing for Environmental Justice." Faith in Place is a state-wide organization working with over 1,000 houses of worship to protect our common land, air, and water. The class met at various locations around the city. Students increased their awareness as leaders, organizers, managers, and advocates for the care of the earth and environmental justice by reading and discussing literature on these topics and witnessing the work of leaders and organizations committed to these ends during the site visits. They also faced the complex challenges facing individuals and communities suffering from environmental injustices. The seminary continues to develop creative partnerships like this one to better equip our students to serve the needs of the church and world.

Connectional Learning

Connectional Learning is the name for Garrett-Evangelical's new take on continuing education. We seek to create education and training suited to your unique professional, vocational, and spiritual needs. Whether you are clergy, laity, or spiritually curious, we welcome you to explore our programs that are designed to be relevant, responsive, and reachable. We are actively preparing our Fall 2019 offerings to announce them at our Annual Conference visits. There are several highly anticipated online course and webinar offerings, including "Thriving Ministry with Young Adults: Holy Yearning, Holy Listening, Holy

Partnerships” and “Financial Management for Churches and Nonprofits”.

There is a wealth of information and resources on our website, including past webinar recordings and on-campus lecture opportunities. To learn more about our offerings and stay up to date on future programs, please visit www.garrett.edu/connectional-learning.

INCLUSIVITY IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

Since the launch of our strategic plan in 2015, we have been working to pay greater attention to race, diversity, and inclusivity in our community. This work began with a Racial Equity and Diversity Inclusion Audit. We have been working through the results of the audit to inform changes we need to make in our community. Last year we created a community statement that names, celebrates, and affirms the variety of persons we encounter as well as challenges the seminary with specific goals to fulfill its commitment to grow and serve all persons equally and justly. We have secured a staff member to act as Manager of Inclusion and Community Engagement, and we continue to offer training opportunities, lectures, and discussions opportunities on race, diversity, and inclusion.

ENSURING A VIBRANT FUTURE

Hope for Creation and Green Seminary Certification Program

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary is committed to addressing the urgent environmental crises facing the world’s peoples today and to promoting the just and wise care of God’s creation for the flourishing of all. This commitment is rooted in an affirmation of God’s love for the world, an embrace of our human vocation to be faithful stewards of the good earth, and an active hope in God’s promise to establish justice and righteousness throughout the land.

We are in the midst of integrating sustainable practices and ecological awareness as a participant in the Green Seminary Initiative (GSI) for the Seminary Environmental Certification Program. A three-year program, this certification will assist Garrett-Evangelical as it integrates care for creation into areas of education and spiritual formation; liturgy, ritual, and worship; building and grounds management; community life; and public leadership. We initiated a thriving composting program, enacted a waste audit, and hosted an Interfaith Climate Action Summit in April to engage our local community around responses to climate change.

Thank you for your continued interest in our work. We are grateful to serve The United Methodist Church and the church at large. For more information about Garrett-Evangelical, I encourage you to visit our website, www.garrett.edu, or visit us on campus.

Cordially,

Lallene J. Rector, President

ABOUT US

Garrett-Evangelical is the result of the interweaving of three institutions:

- Garrett Biblical Institute, the first Methodist seminary in the Midwest, was established in 1853 by some of the same church people who founded Northwestern University.
- Chicago Training School, established in 1885, was an important force for women in ministry and for developing service agencies throughout Chicago. Chicago Training School merged with Garrett Biblical Institute in 1934.
- Evangelical Theological Seminary, located in Naperville and founded as a seminary of the Evangelical Church (later the Evangelical United Brethren) in 1873, joined with Garrett Theological Seminary in 1974 to form Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Methodist Theological School in Ohio

www.mtso.edu

Thank you for this opportunity to bring you news from MTSO.

Full-tuition pledge extended to those pursuing United Methodist candidacy

MTSO has announced a groundbreaking full-tuition pledge to every prospective student who is pursuing United Methodist candidacy as an elder or deacon. The school's financial-aid experts will assist the prospective student in locating and applying for scholarships from numerous sources. If scholarships from those sources don't cover the full tuition, MTSO and its donors will make up the difference, leaving the student with no out-of-pocket tuition expense. This pledge is extended to qualified prospective students who apply by July 1 for the 2019-20 academic year. The MTSO admissions staff is happy to answer questions at 800-333-6876 or admissions@mtso.edu.

Master of Arts in Social Justice program launched

In August of 2019, MTSO will welcome the first students pursuing the school's new Master of Arts in Social Justice degree. This 39-hour, two-year professional master's degree takes full advantage of MTSO's unique ethos. The MASJ offers an interdisciplinary core curriculum combining ethics, theology, public leadership, sacred texts, and spirituality. Students also will choose from among social justice-oriented elective courses to sharpen their focus in areas of interest such as race, immigration, human sexuality, climate, disability, and labor exploitation. MASJ core classes include on-campus and online learning. All on-campus core classes will meet on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Coursework includes a cross-cultural immersion trip and a customizable 280-hour internship.

Ohio Northern and MTSO announce 3+3 M.Div. program

Ohio Northern University and MTSO have teamed up to offer incoming college students a unique 3+3 program leading to a Master of Divinity degree. The program is the only one of its kind in Ohio and one of only a few in the country. The typical path to an M.Div. requires

seven years of undergrad and graduate study. Through the 3+3 program, students will save time and money by completing the degree in six years. Starting the program at ONU in Ada, they may choose one of three majors: religion, youth ministry, or religion and ecology. The next step is three years of study at MTSO. After their first year at MTSO, 3+3 students will complete a Bachelor of Arts degree from ONU. After completion of seminary coursework, they will earn an MTSO M.Div.

Respectfully submitted,
Danny Russell, Director of Communications

United Theological Seminary

459 men and women are being equipped as faithful, fruitful pastors and Christian leaders for the Church:

292 Masters Students

167 Doctoral Students

Third largest United Methodist seminary in the United States

Founded nearly 150 years ago by Bishop Milton Wright, father of famed aviators Wilbur and Orville Wright, United has continued that spirit of innovation through:

Online degrees:

98% of master's students have taken one or more course online while studying at United.

United students live in 39 different states.

Week-long intensives fulfill UMC residency requirements.

Live Interactive Virtual Education (LIVE):

New grant brings the latest technology in virtual education.

Participate in on-campus courses via webcam and enjoy live lectures and real-time discussion with faculty and peers.

Doctor of Ministry Degree:

Become a doctor for the Church, addressing a real problem or challenge in your church or community.

Study under a mentor who is an expert in their field and learn alongside a small group of dedicated peers.

3-year program that allows you to complete project as you go, leading to a 78% program graduation rate in 2017 (vs. 54% average among other seminaries)

Practical education designed to resource the Church:

The majority of United faculty have pastored churches.

91% of entering United students are already serving in ministry, bringing that context to the classroom.

A focus on Church Renewal:

165 Course of Study students

42 students in the Hispanic Christian Academy (3-year Spanish online course of ministry program for Hispanic lay pastors and leaders)^{iv}

Certificates in Church Planting, Disability Ministry, and Supervision

Academic AND Spiritual Growth:

95% of students say the United community supports both their academic and spiritual growth.

Diverse Christian Views:

Over 30 different denominations

19 international students from 15 different countries

96% of students feel their views are respected in the classroom/seminary community and say they have been taught to respect the views of others.

47% of students who reported are African-American, 43% Caucasian and 10% represent other ethnicities

We thank God for the men and women coming to United because God has called them to serve the least and the lost. We pray as the Lord Jesus instructed his disciples saying, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2).

Dr. Kent Millard

President

United Theological Seminary

- *Data represents Fall 2018 headcount enrollment, unless otherwise specified.*
- *ATS 2017-2018 Annual Data Tables. Data represents Fall 2017 headcount enrollment.*
- *ATS 2017-2018 Strategic Information Report for United Theological Seminary. Graduation rates represent the percentage of students who were able to complete their chosen degree within a specified period of time which approximates two times the normal length of the degree.*
- *Data represents unduplicated headcount enrollment in the 2017-2018 academic year.*
- *United Theological Seminary 2017-2018 Student Satisfaction Survey, in which 30% of students responded.*

Wesley Theological Seminary

Fostering wisdom and courage

Wesley Theological Seminary, celebrating our 60th year in Washington, DC, has equipped Christian leadership for nearly 150 years. We prepare students to lead innovative ministries while remaining grounded in our biblical and theological traditions. President David McAllister-Wilson writes in his new book, *A New Church and a New Seminary*, “Leadership requires a seminary to foster both wisdom and courage.”

Our faculty is chosen to prepare these kinds of leaders. In the past year, we welcomed Academic Dean Phil Wingeier-Rayo, Ph.D., plus two new faculty, the Rev. Lorena Parrish, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Urban Ministries and Director of the Community Engagement Institute, and the Rev. Anna Petrin, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Worship and Chapel Elder. Learn more about all the remarkable scholars on Wesley’s faculty at <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/faculty-2/>

Whether you are clergy or laity, an alumnus or a prospective student, looking for master's or doctoral work, or continuing education or simply deeper knowledge, Wesley stands ready to support you in your current and future call to ministry. Here are a few ways Wesley can help you grow in the wisdom of the faith and the courage to lead.

Discover exciting pathways to seminary studies

Wesley offers an 81-hour Master of Divinity, a 36-hour Master of Arts and a 60-hour Master of Theological Studies. **Wesley equips all those called to serve for ordained Elder and Deacon ministries or to other ministries beyond the pulpit.**

Some are able to take advantage of our modern and affordable on-campus housing and food service to be full-time residential students, living in an exciting international capital. But we understand the struggle to balance life, family, ministry, and finances. So, **Wesley's Master of Divinity degree can now be completed via online, weekend, short-term intensive, and weeknight courses in 5 years**, designed for those with busy ministry, work, and family lives. Check out upcoming flexible course offerings for Summer and Fall 2019 at <http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/try-a-class-3/>

In our 3+3 Fast Track B.A./M. Div. program, in partnership with Shenandoah University, students enter ministry with less debt after earning their degrees in six years.

Learn more at www.wesleyseminary.edu/3+3degrees.

Wesley provides **more than \$2 million dollars annually in scholarships** thanks to the consistent support of graduates, congregations, and friends. Our new **Generación Latinx Scholarship** joins our many merit-based scholarships that enable students to afford seminary education. **The Community Engagement Institute at Wesley** embraces a vibrant vision to be the premier center for churches and faith-based organization to engage their communities. **Our Community Engagement Fellows program** prepares students to **engage in entrepreneurial ministry**. **Generous stipends are available for each Fellow** while they complete their M.Div. degree. Students can focus their fellowship on Public Theology, Urban Ministry or Missional Church. Meet our current Fellows at <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/community-engagement-fellows/>

Take your ministry to the next level

Wesley is a leader in Doctor of Ministry programs in specialized tracks that can include international study. **Our 2020 tracks** will include **Church Leadership Excellence**, offered in conjunction with Wesley's internationally respected **Lewis Center for Church Leadership** and **Life Together: Spirituality for Transforming Community**, and a track designed for military chaplains.

Find out more or apply at www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/.

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/ice/programs/public-theology/public-life/

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/.

Enrich your congregational outreach and explore new dimensions of ministry

The Lewis Center continues to be on the leading edge of research for the local church. The Lewis Center's *Leading Ideas* e-newsletter is now the go-to source for over 20,000 people in ministry each week. From this we've launched a **new podcast – *Leading Ideas Talk***. Sign up or listen at www.churchleadership.com/. And look for new practical online courses at lewisonlinelearning.org

From their new location at The Methodist Building on Capitol Hill, the **Center for Public Theology**, under the leadership of Distinguished Professor of Public Theology Mike McCurry, equips pastors, seminarians, people of faith, and the media to create spaces for civil dialogue at the intersection of religion and politics. In its second year, the **Center's Faith and Public Life Immersion for undergraduates** offers a week-long experience of study and encounters with public theologians and those advocating for justice in Washington. **For more information, visit <http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/>.**

The **Luce Center for Arts and Religion** is 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.**

The innovative **online Health Minister Certificate Program** prepares congregations for public health work in their parishes. Contact Tom Pruski at tpruski@wesleyseminary.edu for more information or to register for future certificate classes.

The African American Church Studies Master of Divinity specialization gives contextual preparation for the opportunities and challenges our future leaders may encounter in African American churches, while the **Public Theology specialization** allows master's degree students to gain community leadership and advocacy skills.

Learn more at <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/african-american-church-studies/> or <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/>

Through the Wesley Innovation Hub, a research project funded by the Lilly Endowment, we are working with **20 local congregations** to design innovative ministries as models for ministry by and for young adults. **Follow the work and connect with resources at www.wesleyseminary.edu/wesley-innovation-hub/.**

Stay connected

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

Ready to join in our mission? Find out more about how you can be part of the future of Wesley at www.wesleyseminary.edu/support/. Join the Wesley Community online via Wesley's social media, www.facebook.com/wesleyseminary, on Instagram at [wesleyseminary](https://www.instagram.com/wesleyseminary), and on Twitter at [WesTheoSem](https://twitter.com/WesTheoSem) or sign up for our electronic newsletter, *eCalling*, at www.wesleyseminary.edu/ecalling.