

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

Archives

Rev. Jay Bunting, Chairperson

Becoming chair of the Archives and History Committee has been a challenge as I was not expecting to fill the large shoes of my predecessor, Mary Johnson, without whose help I would not have made it this far. Hopefully now that Covid is lifting, we can meet more. I am told I was selected for this position because of my passion for history and having served on the Archives and History Committee of the Peninsula Delaware Conference. I was not expecting to find so much history here for being a younger conference than where I was raised.

The Book of Discipline requires each church to have a historian that is to keep the history of the church. Sadly, some of our churches were born in times of pain and war. Does that make us any less viable today? No, it makes us stronger and it gives us the ability to reach out as wounded healers into a world that is looking for answers to the question, “Why am I hurting?” I want to challenge all of you to not be ashamed of your history if part of it is what we would consider bad by 21st century standards. Look at it as a springboard to reach out to a world that is hurting. Our churches are places of Living Water that need to be shared with a thirsty world. I remember when I was growing up, my grandmother and parents didn’t want to talk about parts of our family that intermarried with other races because it may cause hurt. We, in our churches because of our history, have a balm that can heal because we have been healed of scars of our past. Why do we hold it to ourselves? Do we celebrate our healing?

We have Old Rehoboth, the oldest Protestant Church building west of the Allegheny Mountains, as one of the gems of our historical churches. If you have never visited this structure or the museum, I would encourage you to do so. This church has a story to tell as does yours. Be proud of your heritage, West Virginia Annual Conference. We have a great deal to offer the present that is deeply rooted in a rich past.

Assistant to Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball

Rev. Dr. Ken Krimmel

It is a privilege for me to assist Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball in the following areas of ministry in the West Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

National Assistants to Bishops Association - This network of Assistants to Bishops has continued to meet on a bi-weekly basis on Zoom since the beginning of the pandemic. In December, the decision was made to move to a monthly meeting beginning in January of 2022. We share insights with one another regarding a variety of issues that the church faces in these changing times. Much of our sharing this past year has been around continued COVID-19 protocols being practiced in various Conferences, and how we are all doing ministry in new and different ways. I was able to participate in all our Zoom meeting discussions in 2021 and hope to continue to be faithful in the coming year. Other matters that have come before our group for discussion include: the BSA/UMC relationship; annual conference sessions; pastoral concerns for pastors who are serving in the midst of a pandemic; financial challenges facing the church today; churches that are closing or exiting the denomination; and other questions or concerns that come up in our contexts of ministry. The majority of our meetings are centered around questions of polity, Judicial Council Decisions, interpreting The Book of Discipline, Conference Rules, and Roberts Rules of Order (which is why I find our meetings so enjoyable). Most importantly, though, we each hold our Bishops in prayer during the changes that many of them are facing as they provide episcopal leadership in The United Methodist Church.

West Virginia Council of Churches - While not holding membership on the Board of Directors of the WVCC, I attend the Zoom meetings whenever possible. I was also able to attend the 140th Annual Assembly held on Zoom this year. On October 11, 2021, I attended the Opening Worship Service. On October 12, 2021, I participated in the Public Policy Forum, hearing requests from a variety of groups around the positions to be reflected in the Public Policy Booklet, which I also review for Bishop Steiner Ball. On October 14, 2021, I participated in a webinar on Digital Worship, which was led by our own Director of Communications, Deborah Coble; and on November 4, 2021, I participated in the WVCC Bible Study, which was led by The Reverend Thad Allen on Matthew 22:37-40.

LARCUM (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic, United Methodist) - Due to the pandemic, LARCUM has not held its Annual Conference for the past two years. Bishop Matthew Riegel and I continue to stay in touch by telephone and continue to discuss our next Conference. Currently, it is our plan to hold the next LARCUM Annual Conference at Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston, WV on May 8-10, 2023. Our theme will be "The Why of Evangelism." We plan to have presenters from each of our respective judicatories who will discuss the "why" for evangelism from each of our traditions.

CONAM (Committee on Native American Ministries) - It is a joy to work with our Conference Committee on Native American Ministries. The pandemic has forced us to continue meeting by Zoom, and we have not held any in-person Conference-wide events for the past two years. We have, however, encouraged churches within the Conference to observe Native American Awareness Sunday, which this year is May 1, 2022. A special

Day of Remembrance was held on October 6, 2021. We encouraged people to wear orange to stand in solidarity with Native Americans whose children were never returned to them from boarding schools. We also celebrated Native American Awareness month in November by asking United Methodists to learn more about our Thanksgiving traditions, providing resources on our Conference website. We also monitored legislation that effected Native Land rights and encouraged concerned individuals to write to their governmental representatives. We also opened our Annual Conference Session at West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon, WV, by having our Chairperson, Elle High, bring a welcome and blessing, recognizing that the land we occupy was once sacred tribal lands. I also attended the Northeastern Jurisdictional Native American Ministries Meeting by Zoom on October 15, 2021, and I serve on the NEJNAM Call to Action Committee.

ELCCC (Ethnic Local Church Concerns Committee) - This ministry of our Conference provides grants to aid ethnic minority local churches. Under the leadership of Angela Jones, ELCCC Coordinator, we have conducted our review of applications through email and awarded grants to deserving churches for needed improvements.

Scouting - Each year our Bishop selects a deserving Scout Troop for special recognition and to become recipients of The Bishop's Award for Scouting. We have received applications for this reward this year, but as of this writing, we have not held an award ceremony for a Troop selected to receive the award.

Annual Conference Session - Along with others, I served as a Facilitator during our hybrid Annual Conference Session, monitoring the requests for members wanting to obtain the floor or raising questions during our session. I also attended my second training session for Parliamentarians, by Zoom on May 19, 2021, along with Judith Kenaston and Bishop Steiner Ball. This training was led by Dr. Leonard M. Young, Professional Registered Parliamentarian. The first training that I attended was held in Philadelphia prior to the pandemic. I attended that training along with Robert File, our Conference Chancellor.

Research – Occasionally, I receive requests to provide an interpretation of the Book of Discipline, Conference Rules, Roberts Rules of Order, or Judicial Council Decisions, and I am always happy to assist anyone with questions related to church polity. This Spring I will again teach a Lay Servant Ministry Advanced Course on Polity by Zoom through the Southern District Lay Academy.

It is an honor for me to assist our Bishop, Sandra Steiner Ball, in any way that I can. I would like to express my appreciation to our Bishop for allowing me to continue to serve her and our Annual Conference in this ministry. May God bless our Bishop and may God bless our United Methodist Church.

Cabinet Report

Rev. Amy Shanholtzer
Dean of the Cabinet

*Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait
all day long.* Psalm 25:5 (NRSV)

Every day is a new opportunity to learn. Since becoming the Dean of the Cabinet, I've learned much since last June about the things I took for granted, while Joe Kenaston ably steered as the previous dean. He made keeping everything organized and in sync look easy.

I've been grateful for the learning community of Cabinet colleagues, inspired by our Bishop who encourages curiosity and innovation. As we've shifted into several new realities, the opportunities to expand our knowledge grows.

We continue to be inspired by the creativity and resilience of our pastors and laity in local churches as we move through this COVID pandemic. Relaunch teams have been thoughtful and aware of the situation in their area as they have made decisions to love the folks in their churches and community. So many adjustments have been made for safety that will remain as practices that help us further ministry within and outside the church. These have been difficult days at times. We grieve what we have lost while celebrating that we continue to lift Christ through it all.

Our Bishop has embarked on a new adventure as she was assigned with Bishop Moore-Koikoi to lead the Susquehanna Conference this year following Bishop Park's retirement. The Cabinets of the three conferences they lead have also had two opportunities to gather for learning and dreaming together. These have been fruitful times, comparing notes with one another and trading best practices. We've been able to partner up at times with other Cabinet members who have similar responsibilities and those who work near our borders to see how we might resource one another.

The Cabinet spent time in prayer and learning as well, experiencing centering prayer and times of silent prayer as ways to feed our souls and tune in more deeply to the Spirit's leading for our work. Prayer is a constant guide as we care for and support one another and learn new ways using new tools.

The Appointive Cabinet emerged from a summer retreat with an emphasis on leadership development as our focus for the year. Effective clergy and lay leadership will be the rudder that keeps our conference on course in the near and short-term. At most of our Cabinet meetings, we take time to share the glory sightings of the leaders emerging in our midst. At times these are laity who have powerful and effective ministries in the church and community. At other times, these are engaging testimonies of those who have recognized or embraced a call that puts their feet on a path toward ordained ministry. It is beautiful and humbling to see how God is working in the lives of people to accomplish God's work. This regular practice is a reminder to consider the handful of leaders that God has given for each

of us to mentor and encourage, while keeping our eyes open for newly emerging leaders.

We began this year with eight conference superintendents covering nine geographic districts. We've found our way around in new places, guided by gracious clergy and laity. As we work to be good stewards of the conference resources, we also are seeking to communicate clearly about this shift so that we can all move forward in our task of making disciples together. As many well know, this is a work in progress.

We will begin the new conference year with seven superintendents. Melissa Shortridge has faithfully served the Greenbrier District and the conference as an exceptional leader on the Cabinet for 8 years. Her strategic mind and sense of humor are treasured gifts that we have shared and will miss. For the first time in many years, there is no new superintendent to orient to the Cabinet.

We are grateful for the faith and trust that you place in us as we seek to follow God's call for ministry in the West Virginia Conference. We pray for your patience and ask for you to pray for God's strength for us, and most especially for Bishop Steiner Ball, as she continues to lead and guide us in this season. May we continue to build bridges so that the world may know the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Conference Connectional Ministries Team

In 1 Corinthians, chapter twelve, the Apostle Paul says, "¹²*Christ is just like the human body—a body is a unit and has many parts; and all the parts of the body are one body, even though they are many.*" (CEB) While Paul was writing to a local church in this letter, there is much in this chapter which speaks to the Connectional Ministry areas of our Conference.

As your Connectional Ministries staff, we are blessed to be able to interact with every Conference ministry area in one way or another over the course of each year. Just as the ongoing pandemic has given each local church the opportunity to do ministry in new ways this past year, each Conference ministry has also learned to shift out of the old and into new methods and possibilities for ministry. You will be able to read about the many ways in which Conference ministries have been creative and fruitful in the reports on the following pages. Listen for the ways that Conference ministries have quickly adapted to new realities. Two great examples: the ongoing efforts to train and equip leaders using new technology for online engagement, worship, and disciple-making; and DaySpring, our mobile camping ministry that involved 720 children & adults across the Conference in discipleship through camping. "¹⁴*Certainly the body isn't one part but many.*"

There are two specific areas we would like to highlight as examples of new ways to do ministry which impact the whole West Virginia Conference. The first is the **Core Leadership Team**. This is a group of leaders from across the Conference, laity and clergy, who are engaging with ministry team leaders to equip them to lead their teams and explore opportunities for us to better support our Conference mission through new partnerships.

“There are different spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are different ministries and the same Lord; ⁶and there are different activities but the same God who produces all of them in everyone.”

The second area we would like to highlight is **Portico**. This is our Conference online learning platform which we launched in 2021. We are still in the early stages of discovering how this resource can be used to develop leaders (laity and clergy) and equip local congregations to discern God’s future for their ministry. As of this writing there are over 500 learners registered, over 60 courses available, and the feedback has been very positive from everyone. *“²⁶If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part gets the glory, all the parts celebrate with it.”* There is much for all of us to celebrate!

Serving in the Connectional Ministries of the West Virginia Conference is a calling for all of us. We are truly blessed to be able to steward each ministry area as we all focus on our Mission to discover, develop, and deploy passionate spiritual leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Notice how in the same chapter of 1 Corinthians Paul moves from speaking on the importance of all spiritual gifts to how each area of the body of Christ is important. There is a powerful message there for us today concerning how we really are better together in mission and ministry. We encourage you to read each of the following ministry reports in that light . . . and to CELEBRATE how God’s Spirit is at work all over our Conference!

The Connectional Ministries Staff Team

Abbi Blosser, Technology Specialist

Deborah Coble, Director of Communications

Shea James, Director of Young Disciples & Outdoor Ministries

Angela Jones, Ministry Support Administrative Assistant & Ethnic Local Church Coordinator

Judi Kenaston, Conference Secretary

Bonnie MacDonald, Director of Leadership Formation, Co-Director of Connectional Ministries

Amy Mullins, Spring Heights Camp & Retreat Center Director

Chris Ridgway, Connectional Ministries Assistant

Lisa Shafer, Administrative Secretary to the Bishop

Karen Thaxton, Central Services Coordinator

Ken Willard, Director of Congregational Vitality, Co-Director of Connectional Ministries

Congregational Vitality

Rev. Cindy Boggs, Chair of Congregational Vitality Team
Ken Willard, Director of Congregational Vitality

“This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I will take a branch from the top of a tall cedar, and I will plant it on the top of Israel’s highest mountain. It will become a majestic cedar, sending forth its branches and producing seed. Birds of every sort will nest in it, finding shelter in the shade of its branches.” Ezekiel 17:22-23

It has been a difficult two years of navigating through a pandemic and trying to provide rest for God’s “birds” in the shade of our churches. Producing fruit is what we as the church are to do and it has been difficult but as we wade our way out of the pandemic, we have the opportunity to take a view of our churches and Conference from the tall “cedar” that the Lord has provided and that is what the Congregational Vitality Team is here for: to help churches navigate through the vision for fruitfulness that God is calling us to. The Congregational Vitality Team formed during the beginning of the pandemic and has been meeting monthly to find ways we can support our congregations big, small, and in between in creating steps to move toward fruitfulness in the days, weeks, months, and years to come. We have moved from providing ministry technology grants only to providing the many grant opportunities in many different areas from ministry technology to safe sanctuaries assistance to generative ministry and many more. I invite you to visit the Conference website to see how Congregational Vitality can assist you in bearing much fruit in your communities.

Our team is also involved in many different areas of support and encouragement around the Conference. Ellis Conley, who is part of our team and the Conference Coaching Coordinator, gives the following report for 2021: *We are working to create a coaching culture for both lay and clergy in the West Virginia Annual Conference. This past year, 18 pastors were invited to participate in one of three transitional cohorts, led by either Bob Kirby or Ellis Conley, that met via Zoom for the majority of their first year in their new appointment. Several pastors and congregations received “on boarding” experiences soon after arriving at their new appointment to increase the learning curve that takes place for a pastor in a new setting. Over 15 pastors are currently working with coaches who serve as “thinking partners” on a regular basis. A group coaching experience has also been established. Recommended coaches from within and outside the Conference are listed on the Conference website under the Church Vitality tab. Introductory coaching courses are offered on the Portico website. Several churches are working through long-range vision and ministry planning facilitated by a coach. Ellis and Julie Conley hosted a Zoom workshop for retiring clergy this February entitled, “Retirement: Your Next Great Adventure.”*

Another area of focus for our team is new ministries and Joe Webb is the New Ministries Coordinator for our Conference. He gives the following report for 2021: *New ministries and new faith communities continue to spring forth in the West Virginia Conference! Through our new Congregational Vitality Grant Program, seven WVUMC congregations have launched or are in the process of launching new ministries. These include innovative outreach, such as a mobile Children’s Ministry unit, partnerships with community agencies,*

dedicated worship services for people in recovery, and fresh expressions types of community engagement. At least three others are in the planning phases and should launch during 2022. We held our first very successful Generative Ministries Academy webinar in October 2021 with nationally-acclaimed church planters Rachel Gilmore and Matt Temple. Our first live follow-up event with them is scheduled for late June 2022.

The rest of our team has set some goals for 2022 that are exciting and will help congregations bear much fruit in the days to come. Our goals in 2022 are in the areas of: Evangelism/Discipleship with a Prayer Initiative, Leadership Development, Coaching, Portico, and Generative Ministry. We are also looking at our other focus areas to provide support and encouragement in the areas of Workshops/Webinars, Consultations, Clergy Transition, Simplified Accountable Structure, and many more areas. We look forward to being in prayer with you as we transition into a brand new normal in a post-pandemic world and begin to bear fruit in our communities.

Episcopacy

Judi Kenaston, Chairperson

There have been some major changes in the episcopal leadership for the West Virginia Conference. The delay of General Conference 2020 (now postponed until 2024) due to COVID-19 has required changes to be implemented to provide coverage for all the episcopal areas in the Northeastern Jurisdiction. We currently have ten conferences and nine episcopal areas in the Northeastern Jurisdiction. Two of our bishops have retired: Bishop Jeremiah Park and Bishop Peggy Johnson. Bishop Park had been serving the Susquehanna Conference and Bishop Johnson had been serving both the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and the Peninsula-Delaware Conference. In addition, Bishop Devadhar, who had planned to retire has remained in the New England Conference. In order to provide coverage without electing new bishops, changes were made in assignments. Peninsula-Delaware Conference is now being served by Bishop Easterling, along with the Baltimore-Washington Conference. Eastern Pennsylvania is being covered by Bishop Schol, who is also bishop of the Greater New Jersey Conference. Our own bishop, Bishop Steiner Ball, has assumed coverage for the Susquehanna Conference, along with Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, who is the bishop of Western Pennsylvania. These two bishops are sharing the coverage for Susquehanna but also providing additional support for each other in the Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia Conferences. They have developed a plan of coverage. In March and April, they held several gatherings in each of the three conferences to explain their shared leadership more fully. We welcome the gifts of Bishop Moore-Koikoi to the work of ministry in the West Virginia Conference. In addition, the conferences are finding various ways to share staffing responsibilities.

Bishop Steiner Ball will continue to update the committee with her additional responsibilities in the Susquehanna Conference. The new responsibilities have meant she

has to travel more extensively. The Conference Center is in Mechanicsburg, PA, which is about a 6-hour drive from Charleston, although the conference boundaries extend up to the Scranton, PA, region.

There have been many discussions about how our bishops can best provide leadership for the entire denomination. There have been conversations occurring in The Council of Bishops (comprised of all United Methodist bishops from around the globe), and the various Colleges of Bishops. (There is a college of bishops in each of the five jurisdictions in the U.S., as well as each of the Central Conferences). There was legislation prepared for the 2020 General Conference, but obviously that is currently on hold. The work that Bishop Steiner Ball and Bishop Moore-Koikoi are doing may provide a template of one way of leading in our current times. The Conference Episcopacy Committee will continue to provide support and assessment of our Episcopal leaders and we welcome any thoughts that you may have.

Bishops are elected and assigned by and within the Northeastern Jurisdiction and they serve the entire church through the Council of Bishops. Assignments are recommended 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. The recommended assignments are then approved by the entire Jurisdictional Conference. Assignments are made based on the needs of the entire jurisdiction. Bishops are assigned for four-year terms and can stay for up to a total of 12 years. Amy Shanholtzer and I represent the West Virginia Conference on the NEJ Episcopacy Committee.

As of March, we are currently waiting to see if there will be a Jurisdictional Conference held this year to possibly elect new bishops. This decision is currently before the Judicial Council. If Jurisdictional Conference is held in 2022, there could also be a shift in assignments for bishops. There are still a lot of unanswered questions!

One of the effects of the pandemic has been limited financial resources for the Episcopal Fund of the General Church. Because of limited funding, the West Virginia Episcopal Area no longer has an Assistant to the Bishop to help with answering email, addressing some legal issues, and assisting with personnel matters. Some Episcopal Areas provide funding for this position. West Virginia has relied on the funds from the General Church. With the additional responsibilities of the resident bishop, it may be necessary for the Annual Conference to provide funding for this type of assistance in the future.

We are grateful for the steadfast leadership of Bishop Steiner Ball during this time of ambiguity. She has communicated with the Annual Conference during the pandemic and the situation in the General Church which has been exacerbated by the delays in General Conference. She continues her focus on making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Equitable Compensation

Rev. Michael Q. Atkinson, Chairperson

Members of the West Virginia Annual Conference: I bring you greetings on behalf of the Equitable Compensation Team. We thank God for your faithfulness and determination in paying your fair share 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, members of the team meet 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 as it relates to the definition of a full-time appointed clergyperson. We monitor and distribute information, as needed, to the Bishop and Cabinet for help in the appointment process and the long-term strategic development of the WV Annual Conference.

As part of this report to the Annual Conference, it is important for you to know the extent to which Equitable Compensation funds are being used to supplement base compensation for full-time clergy and provide support to charges whose clergyperson is on leave. The following table reflects the income and expenses for the previous six years and a detailed breakdown of claims and expenses. As you review these tables, it is helpful to remember that income is contingent upon fair-share payout and expenses are distributed on a claim basis; control of income and expenses is not an exact science and will differ from year to year.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Budget	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$142,500	\$142,500	\$121,500
Income	\$129,359	\$128,827	\$127,857	\$119,840	\$113,476	\$95,161
Expenses	\$107,514	\$77,635	\$77,906	\$47,587	\$31,188	\$26,730
Year-End Balance	\$333,296	\$384,489	\$434,440	\$506,693	\$588,981	\$657,412
Claims	34	22	16	15	11	8

2021 Claim Breakdown

	Claims	Expenses
Medical	2	\$3,000
Renewal	0	\$0
Salary Supplement	6	\$23,730

As indicated by the charts above, we want to celebrate a few things with you. First, we celebrate your faithful stewardship as a local church in providing for an equitable compensation package for your clergy person all the while providing for ministry needs. In addition, we want to celebrate the Bishop and Cabinet’s work in eliminating the need to rely on Equitable Compensation as a subsidy. Finally, we celebrate that our Fair Share income has exceeded our claim expenses.

Additionally, we want to share two other significant occurrences. First, through the Bishop and Cabinet’s work in the appointive process, we have processed zero salary supplement claims since June 2021. Secondly, the continued increase in reserve funds, in combination with the Bishop and Cabinet’s work to eradicate the need to rely on Equitable Compensation funds as a subsidy, allows the Equitable Compensation Team to provide additional support to clergy and assist the Bishop and Cabinet’s work in providing supplemental base compensation beyond the minimum base compensation for strategic appointment assistance (2016 BOD, Paragraph 625.6). The combination of these two occurrences provides us the opportunity to create a new program line in our budget that can be used for strategic appointment assistance.

Current Definition of a Full-Time Appointment:

To fulfill our responsibility to the 2016 Book of Discipline and the WV Annual Conference, the Equitable Compensation Team is required to recommend for approval a definition of a full-time appointment for a charge within the boundaries of the Annual Conference. The current (2021-2022) definition of a full-time appointment (adopted previously by the WV Annual Conference) is as follows:

1. Base Compensation according to the following schedule:
 - a. Category I (Full / Provisional Members) \$37,800.00
 - b. Category II (Associate members) \$35,800.00
 - c. Category III ((Full-Time Local Pastors) \$34,800.00
2. CRSP Defined Benefit
3. CRSP Defined Contribution
4. Comprehensive Protection Plan
5. Accountable Reimbursement Plan (Not less than \$2,000)
6. The Charge’s responsibility to participate in the conference medical insurance plan.
7. Parsonage as recommended by the Conference Parsonage Standards.

- 8. Parsonage Utilities as defined by Conference Fiscal Policy #6
 - a. Gas
 - b. Electric
 - c. Water / Sewer
 - d. Fuel Oil
 - e. Coal / Wood
 - f. Basic Telephone and Internet Service

2023 Base Compensation Recommendation, Rationale, and Resource:

During the February meeting of the Equitable Compensation Team, it was decided to recommend the following change to the definition of a full-time appointment to the WV Annual Conference. The team recommends to the body an increase in each Category by \$1,200.00. The rationale for this increase was predicated on several specific factors: Cost of living, inflation, and salary comparisons with surrounding Conferences. In addition, the team discussed the need to offer competitive salaries for recruitment of seminary students, costs associated with a seminary education, the total cost of the charge as a result of an increase in salary (pension and apportionments), and impact of COVID on financial giving at the local church level. Although we are certain that some will find this recommendation too much for the local church to absorb, others will find this recommendation not enough. Our recommendation is offered as a starting point for discussion as we attempt to discern the definition of a full-time clergy person in the WV Annual Conference.

As always, this recommendation does not set the salary of any clergy. Only the Charge Conference has the authority to determine the salary of a clergy person. In other words, the Charge Conference can increase the salary of a full-time clergy person, even if the definition of a full-time appointment remains the same. In fact, we encourage all churches at or near this definition to consider such an increase if the charge has the financial means available to them.

As a helpful resource for our conversation regarding the definition of a full-time appointment, I have provided a salary comparison chart for you to explore.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE	Full Connection	Provisional	Associate	Full-Time LP	Full-Time LP COS Completed
West Virginia	37,800.00	37,800.00	35,800.00	34,800.00	
Western PA	42,593.00	38,827.00	41,287.00	38,252.00	
Kentucky	37,596.00	35,784.00	35,784.00	33,609.00	
East Ohio	40,431.00	40,431.00	40,431.00	34,289.00	36,335.00
Susquehanna	46,394 to 51,080	44,337 to 48,810	44,337 to 48,810	42,284 to 46,505	
West Ohio	43,400.00	39,350.00	39,350.00	35,960.00	37,950.00
Balt/Wash	46,592.00				
South Georgia	47,077.00	42,271.00	42,271.00	39,625.00	
Holston	45,000.00	42,500.00	40,500.00	36,000.00	38,500.00
Indiana	45,342.00	43,831.00	43,831.00	41,564.00	

You will note that the Susquehanna Conference offers a range of salary. Their base compensation standards are determined in part by the number of years served. The breakdown is as follows:

Years of Service	Full Members & In-service Provisionals	Associate Members	FT Local Pastors
< 3	46,394	44,337	42,284
After 3	47,335	45,232	43,130
After 6	48,275	46,067	43,975
After 9	49,225	47,020	44,822
After 12	50,161	47,919	45,675
After 15	51,080	48,810	46,505

Recommendation to Increase Base Compensation for Clergy:

In summary, it is the recommendation of the Equitable Compensation Team to increase the Base Compensation for Category I, II, and III by \$1,200.00. The recommended minimum standard (beginning in January 2023) would be as follows:

1. Base Compensation according to the following schedule:
 - a. Category I (Full / Provisional Members) \$39,000.00
 - b. Category II (Associate members) \$37,000.00
 - c. Category III ((Full-Time Local Pastors) \$36,000.00
2. CRSP Defined Benefit
3. CRSP Defined Contribution
4. Comprehensive Protection Plan
5. Accountable Reimbursement Plan (Not less than \$2,000)
6. The Charge’s responsibility to participate in the conference medical insurance plan.
7. Parsonage as recommended by the Conference Parsonage Standards.
8. Parsonage Utilities as defined by Conference Fiscal Policy #6
 - a. Gas
 - b. Electric
 - c. Water / Sewer
 - d. Fuel Oil
 - e. Coal / Wood
 - f. Basic Telephone and Internet Service

Budget Recommendation:

In addition, it is the recommendation of the Equitable Compensation Team that the 2023 budget include an additional category entitled, “Strategic Appointment Assistance.” This new category would enable the Bishop and Cabinet to make strategic appointments by utilizing Equitable Compensation Funds to provide for supplementing base compensation

beyond the minimum base compensation schedule (2016 BOD, Paragraph 625.6). Funds from this program item would be distributed as needed in consultation with the Bishop, Cabinet, and the Chairperson of the Equitable Compensation Team. The recommended budget would look as follows:

Equitable Compensation	
Administration	
Telephone, Supplies, Postage	\$1,000.00
Program Items	
Equitable Claims (Salary Supplement)	\$45,000.00
Leave	\$20,000.00
Strategic Appointment Assistance	\$30,000.00
Total	\$96,000.00

ELIGIBILITY/APPLICATION FOR EQUITABLE COMPENSATION:

(Guidelines are established by the Annual Conference)

Eligibility for Equitable Compensation Funds:

1. Charges must have a minimum of 125 members
2. Charges must pay at least 70% of the total compensation of the pastor
3. Charges are expected to pay their Fair Share giving or be moving in that direction.

Application for Equitable Compensation Funds:

1. The charge must contact their District Superintendent for advisement and counsel
2. The charge must submit an Equitable Compensation request form through the District Superintendent.
3. The charge must submit the current budget for the charge, including an ARP for pastor expenditures
4. The charge must submit a plan that outlines the intention of the charge to underwrite the budget.

Limitations of Financial Support:

1. The maximum amount paid to the charge from Equitable Compensation Funds will not exceed 30% of the total compensation (base compensation, medical insurance over 70%, personal pension contribution).
2. No Charge receiving funds from the General Board of Global Ministries, the Conference Board of Global Ministries, Ethnic Ministries, or other funds from conference agencies for compensation support are eligible.
3. Exceptions include receiving non-recurring grants from the General Board of Global Ministries for church extension ministries.
4. No charge shall receive Equitable Compensation Funds for more than four years per continuous appointment of the same clergy.

Goals:

Charges receiving Equitable Compensation Funds shall assume an increasing share of the total compensation in each of the four years as follows: 70% year one, 80% year two, 85% year three, and 90% year four. To meet these expectations, 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 charge upon request.

GUIDELINES FOR PROCESSING FORMS:

Every charge requesting compensation support for a pastor shall submit all forms listed in the Eligibility/Application for Equitable Compensation section above to their District Superintendent. These forms are to be submitted six weeks prior to the beginning of the appointive year or when a new appointment is made and when 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 timetable 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 delay in payment of assistance to the charge.

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.

ETHNIC MINISTRIES

West Virginia Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM)

Elle High, Chairperson

The past year has been challenging because of the ongoing pandemic, yet those very difficulties have led us to explore new possibilities online. The health crisis forced us to continue meeting by Zoom, and we did not hold any in-person, conference-wide events for the past two years. We did, however, encourage churches within the Conference to observe Native American Awareness Sunday, which will be celebrated on May 1 in 2022.

A special Day of Remembrance was held nationwide on October 6. Through efforts led by Ken Krimmel, the CONAM encouraged people to wear orange to stand in solidarity with Native Americans whose children were never returned to them from boarding schools. In the past year, hundreds of unmarked graves of indigenous children were discovered at former school sites in Canada and the United States, bringing into sharp relief this terrible legacy. As more is learned and tribes attempt to repatriate the remains of their lost children, the WV CONAM believes it is important to continue educating our congregations about this part of our country's past and to assist tribes in any way we can as they bring their children home at last. In some churches in our conference, Sunday schools constructed orange felt birds, the children expressing their own way of "standing in solidarity" with their Native brothers and sisters, both in the present and in the past.

We also marked last November, National Native American Awareness Month, by asking United Methodists to learn more about our Thanksgiving traditions. Resources were provided on our conference website, which was an initiative led by Rich Shaffer. Other efforts included those by Elle High and Tim Edin at the Bruceton United Methodist Church, where every service during November included a children's "lesson" based on Native stories and values. On the Sunday closest to Thanksgiving, an exhibit of many contemporary foods that trace to indigenous roots (corn, potatoes, beans, squash, tomatoes, and chocolate, to name only a few) became part of the service to suggest some of the great gifts given to us by First Nations' peoples. The food then was donated to a local food pantry. These services were shared online on the church's website.

Another initiative led by Rich Shaffer was monitoring legislation that affected Native land rights, with some of the most important happening here in the eastern United States. The CONAM encouraged concerned individuals to write to their governmental representatives. We believe that it's important to continue stressing to United Methodists that American Indians are not vestiges of the past but are part of contemporary life and have important issues to consider that can affect us all.

The CONAM was honored once again to open our 2021 Annual Session at West Virginia Wesleyan College by having our chairperson, Elle High, bring a welcome and blessing, recognizing that the land we occupy was once sacred tribal lands and remains important to them today. On a regional level, Ken Krimmel and Tracey Brown-Dolinski represented the WV CONAM at the Northeastern Jurisdiction Native American Ministries Meeting by Zoom on October 15, 2021. In the fall the CONAM also helped to support two

pow wows in the state, the “Mountain Spirit” pow wow in Core, WV, and the “Thunder in the Mountains” pow wow in Parsons, WV.

As chairperson of the CONAM, Elle High continued to network with other programs around the state as part of different projects and events. As she has for many years, she led the annual Peace Tree ceremony held by the Native American Studies Program at West Virginia University. She participated in a project funded by a Higher Education Policy Commission’s Diversity for Equity Grant at Fairmont State University, and consulted with the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. as it plans for a National Mall program on West Virginia for summer of 2023.

The WV CONAM is looking forward to 2022 and the many possibilities it holds, especially as the pandemic recedes and allows us to gather together in person. However, we also better understand how technology can strengthen our efforts and reach more people in the place we now call West Virginia, and that is exciting, too!

Committee members: Ellesa High (chairperson), Tracey Brown-Dolinski (treasurer), Tim Edin, Ellen Krimmel, Ken Krimmel, JF Lacaria, Jay Parkins, Rich Shaffer, Karen Tate



An Ice Cream Social on Saturday night provided by CCYM, gave an opportunity for fellowship and fun while benefiting the Youth Service Fund

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Global Ministries

Judy Raines, Chair

Our mission is to equip and transform people and places for God's mission at home and around the world.

Global Ministries is in business to connect the church with the community. In the West Virginia Conference that is exactly what we have been doing. Through all the days of uncertainties in the last two years, the work of mission continues. I hope you take the time to read all the reports of how God is in mission in the conference:

- Through our Mission Project Directors and Church and Community worker who have found creative ways to help their hurting neighbors.
- Through the New Vision Depot that is supplying cleaning supplies and other help through the Disaster Relief team.
- Through our VIM coordinator, who travels across the conference to be in service to those in need as well as scheduling trips to travel other places to help.
- Through our Celebration of Mission team that provides help to the Mission Projects, the Church and Community Worker, VIM and New Vision Depot in amazing ways.
- Through the work of the Refugee and Immigration Ministries
- Through information on missionaries from the Conference Secretary of Global Ministries.
- Through work being done in Health and Disabilities.
- Through the wonderful work done at Burlington United Methodist Family Services.
- Through the hunger grants and other Mission grants.
- Through the Mission award given to someone who is outstanding in the mission work they do. This is a new award and is open to any person doing mission work to any project in the conference. Look for a nomination form in the pages to follow and on the mission web site.

All the ministries bring a sense of hope to the communities they serve. Thank you for your support of all the places where God is at work. I am happy to be a part of this ministry and invite you to come, see and serve!

GLOBAL MINISTRIESConference Secretary of Global Ministries

Jeff Matheny

As the world continues to adapt in so many different ways to the many changes we have witnessed recently, our missionaries are in the midst of so much opportunity to share God's love to all. I have continued to participate in the NEJ CSGM monthly video meetings to keep informed and connected with others in our region and find this time to be a true blessing. Our jurisdictional mission advocate, Becky Parsons, is doing a wonderful job at helping us stay informed. She has offered to come visit us here if you have a special missions event and want to hear about our missionaries and how to connect directly with them. Her email is RParsons@umcmmission.org.

I wanted to thank Elizabeth Memorial UMC for two new covenant relationships with Dr. Emmanuel and Florence Mefor. They are serving together in Mutambara, Zimbabwe, in a United Methodist Hospital. The Mefors visited West Virginia a few years ago and spoke with several congregations and have continued their communications through zoom. I was able to visit the Mefors in Zimbabwe a few years ago and was impressed with the care and programs they were providing to the people in the region, especially in the area of child and maternity care.

I would like to introduce a person who has been assigned to the West Virginia Annual Conference from GBGM for special consideration of support and connection. Elizabeth Yambasu is a Global Mission Fellow who is engaged in a two-year program and is serving at the Faith and Justice Network in Sierra Leone. She is available to communicate with your church or group and talk about the work that she is doing. If you would like to support her work there you can go to umcmmission.org and search for her name.

In light of the recent tragedy unfolding in Ukraine, I wanted to share information about how we can assist in a small yet important way through GBGM and the Advance. John Calhoun, who was our previous mission advocate, had served in Ukraine for ten years as a missionary and provided information for us to send financial support for those enduring great suffering; Advance # 14053A is Eurasia in Mission Together and serves Ukraine and Moldova and will be transferred to the bank account of the UMC of Ukraine. Also Advance #9824560 UMCOR International Disaster Response. Funds should be designated as "for Ukraine."

As always, if I can assist you or your church in any way to make connections with United Methodist missionaries around the world, please reach out to me at jeffratheny@gmail.com.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Disabilities Ministries

Rev. Michael D. Ludle, Coordinator

Disability (1) *A disabled condition.* (2) *That which disables, as an illness or physical limitation.*

Disabled - *having a physical or mental disability.*

(Both definitions from Webster's Dictionary)

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Again, we have had another year of ups and downs. We are still seeing high stress levels and anxiety within us all as we continue to keep everyone safe and convince many that they need to get vaccinated. Yet still we continue to share the Gospel in new ways and are looking to get more people involved as we look to share in ministry together. Yet still our children, especially those with special needs, continue to feel the brunt of all that is happening. Still, as the church, we need to be on the forefront in our communities as we adjust and learn to live with this "new normal," remembering that we may be the only place some feel "at home" during all this.

So, as we move forward and see where God is leading us, we need to continue to assess how we do things and how we need to move forward in including all people regardless of their abilities. The United Methodist Church Disabilities Ministries Committee has a way for churches to evaluate their buildings and grounds and can be certified as a Bronze, Silver or Gold status church for disability. The United Methodist Annual Accessibility Audit Form can be found on the conference website at www.wvumc.org/change-the-world/justice-and-advocacy/disabilities-ministries/. I encourage you to look at this form and the many other resources available to the church.

No matter the size of your church, there is someone that could be diagnosed with a disability, so we are called to do all we can for all of God's children. God has called us, and as a church we are called to Make Disciples for Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World. This includes all God's children no matter who they are, where they come from, disabled or not, they/we are all God's children.

Refugee Ministries

Cheryl Davis, Coordinator

The year 2021 was a challenging one for refugee and immigration ministry due to the lingering effect of the pandemic. In addition, the prior presidential administration largely dismantled the process by which refugees and asylum seekers enter the United States. I continue to work with the West Virginia Interfaith Refugee Ministry of which I am a board member and review immigration information provided by Church World Services, Episcopal Migration Ministry and similar groups. I am hopeful that 2022 will see an uptick in activity in this area.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Disaster Response Ministries

Rev. Dan and Rev. Sue Lowther

WV Conference Disaster Response Co-Coordinator

Like all other ministries around the West Virginia Annual Conference, conference year 2021-2022 has been a unique and complicated time for our Disaster Response Ministries. Fortunately, this year has not produced any natural disasters that have required a response from the conference level, though there were a couple of localized flooding events that had some effect on a couple of our United Methodist Churches in the MonValley District. These incidents were mitigated with funds from the conference disaster response funds.

Our Conference Disaster Response Ministry continued to help in assorted ways in the Covid-19 Pandemic. Working through New Vision Depot, the Disaster Response Ministries supplied cleaning and disinfecting supplies to many churches throughout the annual conference, as well as to fire departments, police departments, ambulance services, 911 centers and some personal homes. New Vision Depot was also able to supply n-95 masks and surgical masks to county health departments, hospitals, doctors' offices, and emergency agencies. The West Virginia Conference Disaster Response Ministries purchased six fogging/disinfecting machines with the help of WV United Methodist Foundation, and WV Volunteers in Missions. These foggers are being placed on loan to churches throughout the annual conference to help with disinfecting for special events. Many congregations made use of this resource that enabled them to be the church in a very troubled time.

The West Virginia Disaster Response Ministries has also provided cots, pillows and blankets, and hygiene kits from New Vision Depot for a warming shelter at Beckley Community United Methodist Church in the Southern District. This shelter was opened during extremely cold evenings for people without housing and those suffering through power outages. The Conference Disaster Response Coordinators also helped to organize UMCOR training for the Bishop and Cabinet this year to better prepare them for their role in responding to disasters throughout the Annual Conference.

2021-2022 has helped us to see that disasters come in many different forms and take on many different shapes. Through the generosity of many, in the form of monies, goods, and time, the West Virginia Conference Disaster Response Ministries has been able to respond and reach the hand of Christ to many. We cannot do what we do without you. Thank you.

Sue and I also want to thank all of you for these many years you have allowed us to be your voice and coordinators in Disaster Ministries throughout the West Virginia Conference. We were appointed to this position in 2008 and have experienced much love, care, and compassion in ministering to the most vulnerable during disaster. This will be our final year in this position but we will carry all of you in our hearts as we carry on in ministry, looking forward to where God opens the next door.

GLOBAL MINISTRIESWest Virginia Volunteers-in-Mission(VIM)

Rev. David Stilgenbauer, Coordinator



This has been another year that has been mostly focused in West Virginia. We continued to work with Central UMC, Fairmont, to rehab a house for a person in need. We roofed a house in the MonValley district. We worked with a group to refit a building to house teams in the future. Beyond our conference borders, we sent a team to Anchorage, Alaska and to Tennessee for tornado relief.

We had a total of 25 volunteers this year. We do have plans for this year to continue to work within the West Virginia Conference as well as expanding our mission journeys out of the state.

Parish Development Coordinator

Rev. Larry Buckland, Parish Development Coordinator

Parish Development has utilized two education events in 2021-2022 to bring churches and parishes together in one place to dream, vision, and change the ministry from a church-centric mindset to a Kingdom-centric way of life. Author and church consultant Reggie McNeal led conversations and exercises for churches to explore and seek ways to partner with God and the community to be the people of God called to serve and meet the needs of our communities.

The first event was August 18-19, 2021, at the Days Inn Conference Center in Flatwoods, West Virginia. Pastors and lay leaders from our churches and community were asked to read Reggie McNeal's book Kingdom Come. Our homework challenged us to start with the question "Why?" Why does our church exist? Why do we do what we are already doing? Does your church leadership know your "why"? Can your church leadership communicate your "why" to the congregation? Can your congregation communicate your "why" to the community?

The second event was February 16-17, 2022, at the Days Inn Conference Center in Flatwoods, West Virginia. Our teams were asked to return in six months with "Next Steps." Where in our community is there a need that God is calling us to make an impact? What are the key next steps? Who are the players responsible? What is our timeline? How will we measure the success of ministry?

In Reggie McNeal's book Kingdom Come, we as churches and parishes are challenged to change the scorecard. McNeal says, "If churches want to move toward a

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Kingdom-centered narrative, we must speak up about a broader range of issues. I'm not talking about more sermons on more topics, or more declarations and resolutions issued by church groups. I mean addressing big societal issues, working to move the needle on quality-of-life issues like health care, literacy, job creation, hunger, institutional and generational poverty, racism, and the environment. We can no longer pass by on the other side of the street like the two religious leaders in Jesus' story of the Good Samaritan. We have to get off our high horse (or donkey, in the case of the Samaritan) and help somebody" (pg. 81 Kingdom Come).

I believe that church leaders and parishes were deployed from our workshops with "a spiritual breath of fresh air that changes the world." It is the hope of the Board of Global Ministries that this fresh air and dreams can be shared in parish development throughout the West Virginia Annual Conference to enable partnerships with God and our communities.

If your church or parish would like to explore new ideas for ministry development in your community, we would love to share resources we gleaned from our workshops with you.

Church and Community Workers

Rev. James Martin, Chair

Church and Community Worker Advisory Committee

Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church describes Church and Community Workers as follows:

"Church and Community Workers (CCWs) are commissioned missionaries of Global Ministries, who, in response to God's call, are devoted to uplifting the poor and the disenfranchised in rural and urban areas throughout the United States. They work to change the social inequities of poverty, racial injustice and domestic violence. As the name implies, CCWs take the church into the community and bring the community into the church."

At this time, the West Virginia Conference is blessed to have one of only six CCWs who are currently commissioned throughout the United States. Our CCW, Anna Troy, came to Open Heart Ministries in 2019. Anna ably leads volunteers who assist those among us who are struggling. Open Heart Ministries (OHM) is a mission of the Clarksburg Cooperative Parish. Please see Anna's report for OHM's status and accomplishments for this past year.

Thanks to the Clarksburg Cooperative Parish pastors and congregations and other area congregations along with OHM volunteers for making a positive faith-filled difference in people's lives.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES
Church and Community Worker

Rev. Anna Troy

A Church and Community Worker is a missionary commissioned by the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church.

As the Director of Open Heart Ministries, I work with 10 volunteers to provide emergency financial assistance to residents of Harrison Co, WV. While most requests are for rent or utility assistance, we also work to provide other needs such as medicine, glasses, tires, water tanks, and more. Working with local organizations and churches makes this possible. We continue to strive to provide the best information and resources available to our neighbors. This past year of 2021, OHM provided over \$56,000 in assistance, serving almost 400 individuals. While this is down from the previous year, we recognize that many of our neighbors were able to receive much-needed assistance through the federal COVID relief aid that was made available. West Virginia Mountaineer Rental Assistance has been integral in keeping our families in their homes. However, as the federal aid slows and stops, we are seeing an increase in requests as expected. With inflation and the effects of the war in Ukraine, all of our families are hurting from the rapid increase in much-needed items and utilities.

Though the current situation may be difficult for our neighbors, I remain grateful for the work of OHM as we provide more than financial assistance. Our neighbors will continue to receive hope and guidance as we navigate this new journey together. I am continually amazed at the willingness of the volunteers to use their experience and expertise to soothe and guide others in their time of need.

In connecting to the community, I have also been able to meet with local agencies as we continue to share information and resources with one another and how to apply them in our context. I have participated in Deacon gatherings both in West Virginia and my home conference of Rio Texas. I participated in the UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat in April 2021, in a 4-week Bible study with Mission U, and the UMW Annual Meeting in October. I have also had the opportunity to participate in two sessions of the GBGM Readiness Program in 2021.

It is a joy to serve as a Church and Community Worker in the West Virginia Conference.

Mission Coordinator

Gayle Lesure, Deaconess

"..in your goodness God, you provide for the poor." Ps. 68:10

"Hear me, Lord and answer me, for I am poor and needy." Ps. 86:1

For the second year in a row, 2021 found our state, country, and most of the world still in the grips of the COVID-19 epidemic, with resilient strains of the virus continuing to disrupt and change the lives of the people that our conference mission projects serve.

Thanks be to God for our seven (7) Conference Mission Projects and Church and Community Worker. Even in the midst of all the challenges that our mission projects have faced in these difficult times, they continue to be a beacon of hope, help and healing in their

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perspective communities, ministering to the emotional, physical, mental and spiritual needs of our neighbors who find themselves in crisis. Their annual reports can be found within the section on Global Ministries. I encourage you to take time and read them and then rejoice in the ways they continue to be the hands and feet of Christ on a day-to-day basis. There are also videos that have been created for each mission project which can be found on the West Virginia Annual Conference web site. (www.wvumc.org)

Over the past year, the Global Ministry Board has conducted two (2) Reviews and Evaluations. In the month of April, a team traveled to The Upshur Parish House in Buckhannon. They met with Kristi Wilkerson, Director, and her staff and volunteers, as well as the Upshur Parish House Council governing board. Then in October another team conducted the Review and Evaluation of Hand and Heart House in South Charleston with Vickie Ballengee and her staff and Board of Directors. The teams that conducted the reviews were made up of members of the Global Ministries Board, one pastoral leader, the Mission Coordinator, Chair of Global Ministries and one of the other project directors. On the docket this year (2022) are two more evaluations and reviews: Scotts Run Settlement House in May; and House of the Carpenter in October.

During the last year, one of the ways the project directors supported each other was through regular meetings held every other Friday on ZOOM. These gatherings were a way to keep in touch, to share resources and give encouragement as we continue to move forward through this pandemic.

The Celebration of Mission Event had another successful year of fund raising across our Annual Conference, in spite of all the challenges of the ongoing pandemic. Rev. Cliff Schell, conference coordinator, reported that \$99,796.50 has been raised! The conference will celebrate the 25th anniversary of The Celebration of Ministry Event this year. Praise be to God from whom all blessings flow!

The last item I will mention is the policies and procedures for the **Grant/Revolving Loan Funds** available to the local churches/charges of the West Virginia Annual Conference.

The West Virginia Annual Conference Board of Global Ministries also oversees two financial Loan/Grant programs. These loans/grants function on a first-come-first-served basis. The guidelines and procedures of these programs are available on the conference website (www.wvumc.org)

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me using the contact information on the application form.

****Capital Improvement Revolving Loans** --- are available to local churches, WV Conference mission projects, cooperative parishes, district camps and the WV Conference Camp at Spring Heights. Maximum amount of loan is \$50,000

****Capital Improvement Grants** --- are available to local churches, WV Conference Mission Projects, cooperative parishes, district camps, and the West Virginia Conference Camp and Education Center, when all other avenues have been exhausted, and an emergency or extreme need is shown to exist. Maximum amount of grant is \$12,500.00

GLOBAL MINISTRIESCELEBRATION OF MISSION EVENT***2022 IS THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY FOR C.O.M.E.***

Rev. Cliff Schell, Coordinator

The Celebration of Mission Event is an outreach ministry of the Conference Board of Global Ministries that supports ten mission ministries within the WV Annual Conference. 2022 marks the **25th year** for the Events to be held. Since the Events normally take place in late spring, it is not possible to provide 2022 financial reports for the Conference Workbook. However, in spite of continuing COVID restrictions during 2021, the churches found ways to provide support for our Conference Mission Ministries, primarily motivated by district leadership and the determination of churches to find ways to fund our mission ministries. **\$101,721.50** was raised in 2021 by local churches, groups and individuals and given through COME. The Conference Cabinet gave a great boost to the fund-raising efforts by planning and implementing a competitive “Hot Wheels” Race. In addition, churches and districts found ways to provide large amounts of tangible goods through “drop-off” stations.

The cash gifts provided \$9,775.00 for each of our seven Conference Mission Projects, Volunteers in Mission, the New Vision Depot and \$4,888.00 for our one Church and Community Ministry. 100% of all cash gifts were distributed to our Mission Ministries. Over the past 13 years the Celebration of Mission Event has raised a total of **\$1,342,539.13** in cash and, in addition, an estimated 40-50% of that amount in food and other tangible goods. **It is important to note** that undesignated cash gifts are used to provide an equal amount of support for each mission ministry, while all of the tangible goods are given to the ministries assigned to a particular district.

Ten percent of undesignated funds received are deposited in the UM Foundation Trust Fund for Mission Projects (\$8,330.95 in 2021). Each year a distribution is made from the Trust Fund to our Conference Mission Projects, VIM and Church and Community Ministries (\$1,280.00 for each project for 2022). At the close of 2021 the market value of the Trust Fund was **\$432,372.00**. Individuals, churches and groups are encouraged to contribute to this fund to grow it for the long-term support of our Mission Ministries.

All Celebration of Mission Event cash gifts are remitted to the Conference Treasurer. Local churches and/or individuals may send cash gifts for the support of COME projects by using the remittance numbers below. Undesignated gifts (**#875**) are encouraged to provide equal shares for all projects.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

**WEST VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
CELEBRATION OF MISSION EVENT**

**DISTRIBUTION OF 2021 CELEBRATION OF MISSION EVENT FUNDS
RECEIVED THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021**

MISSION PROJECT	DESIGNATED FUNDS	UNDESIGNATED FUNDS	TOTAL DISTRIBUTION
UM Foundation Trust for Mission Projects (Formerly CDOM)	\$ 0.00	\$8,330.95	\$ 8,330.95
<u>Heart+Hand Outreach Ministries</u> (S. Charleston)	\$ 2,028.00	\$7,747.00	\$ 9,775.00
Ebenezer	\$ 1,888.90	\$7,979.10	\$ 9,868.00
<u>Heart & Hand (Philippi)</u>	\$ 3,717.39	\$6,492.16	\$10,209.55
House of Carpenter	\$ 2,730.84*	\$7,044.16	\$ 9,775.00
Scott's Run	\$ 703.32	\$9,071.68	\$ 9,775.00
Tyrand Coop. Min.	\$ 1,150.00	\$8,625.00	\$ 9,775.00
Upshur Parish House	\$ 1,555.00	\$8,220.00	\$ 9,775.00
VIM	\$ 1,000.00	\$8,775.00	\$ 9,775.00
Clarksburg Parish	\$ 2,015.00➤	\$2,873.00	\$ 4,888.00
New Vision Depot	\$ 1,561.95	\$8,213.05	\$ 9,775.00
TOTALS	\$18,350.40	\$83,371.10	\$ 101,721.50

*Includes \$125.00 Direct Gift to the House of the Carpenter.

➤Includes \$40.00 Direct Gift to Clarksburg Parish.

◀Designated funds provided the extra amount.

Submitted by Cliff Schell
WV Conference Celebration of Mission Event Coordinator
December 31, 2021

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

**2022 CELEBRATION OF MISSION EVENT
DISTRICT ROTATIONS**

DISTRICT	EMPHASIZED MISSIONS
Greenbrier	Upshur Parish House Heart and Hand House – Philippi Volunteers in Mission
Little Kanawha	The House of the Carpenter Heart and Hand House - Philippi
Midland South	Heart + Hand Outreach Ministries-S. Charleston Tyrand Cooperative Ministries
Mon Valley	Heart + Hand Outreach Ministries-S. Charleston Greater Clarksburg Parish C & C Ministry
Northern	New Vision Depot Greater Clarksburg Parish C & C Ministry
Potomac Highlands	Tyrand Cooperative Ministries The House of the Carpenter
Southern	Ebenezer Community Outreach Center Upshur Parish House
Wesleyan	Scott's Run Settlement House Ebenezer Community Outreach Center
Western	New Vision Depot Scott's Run Settlement House Volunteers in Mission

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 Volunteers in Mission.
- A 1/2 share of cash gifts will be distributed to the Greater Clarksburg Parish Church & Community Ministry.
- A representative from the assigned ministries should be invited to the District COME or District Conference to speak and present their ministries.

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.

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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.

If you fail to submit the end-of-year evaluation summary, all monies awarded shall be returned by January 31 of the following year, and there will be no eligibility for any funding through Global Ministries for the next three (3) years.

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. Carol McKay
Health and Welfare Coordinator
260 Scenery Drive
Weirton, WV 26062

If you have any questions, you may contact Rev McKay at pastorcarolmckay@comcast.net or 304-914-3188

Revised January 2022

GLOBAL MINISTRIES



**West Virginia Annual Conference
Division of Health & Welfare
Funding Request**

Deadline: April 15 of the current year

1. Amount Requested _____

2. This Proposal Addresses the Following Health & Welfare Need(s):

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Handicapping Conditions | <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach Ministries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Violence | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Single Parent Families |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Homelessness | <input type="checkbox"/> Teen Pregnancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Ministries | <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adult Ministries | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth/Young Adult |
| Other (Specify) _____ | | |

3. Name of Sponsoring Organization/Church Submitting Proposal:

4. Full Address

5. Name and Title of Person(s) Submitting the Proposal:

Telephone (day) _____ (evening) _____

Email _____

6. What particular problem or need does the proposal address?

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10. Financial Plan:

a. Describe your plan to secure other income to implement this program.

b. Please attach a financial report from the previous year
Check mark one of the 4 choices (below) that best describes who is requesting funds and who should submit the financial report

- _____ **Church**--the church budget or end of year financial report (previous year)
- _____ **Annual conference institution, agency, or mission project** -- a copy of the budget or end of year financial report (previous year)
- _____ Funds are being requested to assist a current major project (after school program, health care program, child care program, etc.) **within** your UM church or UM agency--you may submit a financial report for just that project. The report must include all **income** for the previous year.
- _____ Funds are being requested by a **community center/organization/special project/program** that is **directly** related to a UM Church or UM agency/institution/mission project. The community center/program/project must have a governing group that consists of a majority of the members being United Methodist Church members. The financial report will show the **income** sources, for the previous year, of the center/organization/program/project.

c. On the attached detailed budget sheet, please list all anticipated income sources such as donations, contributions, fees, grants from other sources, etc. List both the source and the expected amount.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Detailed Budget

Project Title _____ Date _____

11. Describe how funds will be used for this program or project.

Column 1: The amount you request from the Virginia Higgins funds;

Column 2: Funds coming from all other sources (other grants, contributions, etc);

Column 3: The total cost for this item, regardless of source.

(Any amount over \$1000 needs to be explained in detail).

	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
	Virginia Higgins-- amount requested	All Other Sources and expected amount of funds	Total Costs
Administrative Costs (Postage, supplies, printing, etc.)			
Program Costs— supplies, training			
Travel			
Equipment Purchases			
Building and Repair Costs			
Other			
Totals			

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

12. Endorsements: The signatures below indicate that the program request has been endorsed.

_____ Project Director/ Fiscal Officer
(Signature & Date)

_____ Trustee of the church or
(Signature & Date) UM board member of the
 related agency/organization

_____ UM Pastor *
(Signature & Date)

_____ District Superintendent
(Signature & Date)

*Church request--the pastor of the church must sign
or

*Related agency/organization request--- the signature of the UM pastor that has the most knowledge about the group
and will endorse the request

13. Notification: Please indicate (with name, address, phone, and email) the person(s) that are to be notified of the outcome of your request.

Please note: If you fail to submit the end-of-year evaluation summary, all monies awarded shall be returned by January 31 of the following year, and there will be no eligibility for any funding through Global Ministries for the next three (3) years.

Return the completed application to: Rev. Carol McKay
 Health and Welfare Coordinator
 260 Scenery Drive
 Weirton, WV 26062
pastorcarolmckay@comcast.net
 304-914-3188

Application must be postmarked by April 15 of the current year.
Applications must contain all requested information and signatures in order to be considered
 A copy may be emailed to ensure delivery.

Revised January 2022

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

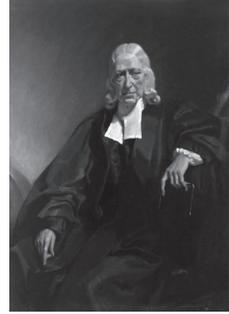
West Virginia Conference Board of Global Ministries Service Award



Do all the Good
 By all the Means
 In all the Ways
 In all the Places
 At all the Times

} You
 Can

Four months before his death, in December 1790 the Rev. Mr. Wesley was walking through the streets of London collecting alms. According to his journal, this effort was to provide coal for warmth, food for sustenance and to meet other needs of the region’s poor. He describes the day as bitterly cold with freezing rain as he walked through slush that was over the tops of his shoes. He was 87 at the time.



When the first Methodist preaching house was built, the New Room in Bristol, it served multiple purposes. First, it was a place of worship designed to accommodate a large crowd on the floor and in the balcony that rimmed the main floor. It was a place for the class meetings to be held to assist people in their spiritual journey. Yet, the room was built with small benches instead of pews. The purpose for this was so they could be rearranged to meet other needs. These needs included a Sunday School that taught reading particularly to help the children have a future beyond back breaking work in the mines of the region. It provided an apothecary to help provide basic medical care since many of the poor could not afford a physician. It provided a lending bank to assist people who completed their apprenticeship to open their own shops as well as to launch cottage business for sewing, etc. It housed not only John but traveling preachers who were educated and prepared for ministry in this place.

The West Virginia Conference Global Ministries Service Award is a way to recognize those who have extended themselves, like the Rev. Mr. Wesley, to engage a hurting community in meaningful and long- lasting relations that lead to transformed lives.

We have one award to offer to either: a lay person, a clergy person or a group of people serving beyond the local church.

Award consists of:

1. A plaque will be presented recognizing the Global Ministries Service Award winner.
2. A gift of \$500 will be made in honor of the Global Ministries Service Award winner from the West Virginia Conference Global Ministries team to assist with the mission project mentioned in the application.

Criteria:

1. Individual(s) must be involved with the greater community beyond the walls of the church.
2. The individual(s) engage the community in an ongoing effort to meet basic human needs and to assist people in improving their quality of life.
3. The mission itself is inclusive of all persons regardless of age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or identity, nation of origin or religious affiliation.

Thank you to the United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia for their generous assistance in establishing this award!

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

West Virginia Conference Board of Global Ministries Service Award



Do all the Good
 By all the Means
 In all the Ways
 In all the Places
 At all the Times

} **You
 Can**

Please check one: Clergy Laity Group

Information about Nominee:

Name: _____

Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone Number() _____ Email: _____

Church/Charge _____ District _____

Name of mission/service project that is supported: _____

Mailing Address of mission/service Project: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email of contact or website (if available) _____

This award is to honor the work of ministry with any individual or group involved in aiding any mission/service project by being the hands of Christ to a hurting community. It is a way to say thank you for all the individual or group does to represent Christ in the community.

Please provide the following information for your nominee:

1. Tell how the nominee(s) is involved in mission/service to the community. _____

2. How are people being transformed by this work? _____

3. How does this mission and the work of the nominee(s) provide hope to their community?

4. Please add any other comments you feel important: _____

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Global Ministries Service Award Nomination Form

page 2

Person making nomination: _____ **Position** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

Telephone:() _____ **Email** _____

Please submit this form by April 30, 2022 to:

Judy Raines, Chair of Global Ministries
1624 Ohio Street
Bluefield, WV 24701

If you have any questions please contact Judy Raines: denraines@frontier.com 304-327-6956

West Virginia Conference Global Ministries: Celebration of the One who calls us to mission

GLOBAL MINISTRIES**Burlington United Methodist Family Services, Inc.**

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

Chris Mullett, Executive Director

The vision of Burlington United Methodist Family Services is: to be a leader in providing superior and innovative services to every child (family and individual) in need regardless of who they are, what they have done, or where they live, by empowering them to discover and fulfill their spiritual, academic, personal, and professional dreams and passions.

2021 was another amazing year in the life of the staff, board, volunteers and clients at Burlington! While the world was wrestling with the pandemic, we continued to live out our vision in the lives of thousands of people in dozens of communities across West Virginia and western Maryland.

Some of the highlights of 2021:

- Because of the great work being done by our Right From the Start staff in Regions II and VII, we were awarded the grant to be the Regional Lead Agency for region VIII. Our staff is exceptional! This program connects expecting families with available services to help with a healthy pregnancy and birth.
- The group home in Daniels for children with multiple diagnoses added a beautiful outdoor shelter that they have been looking forward to for several years. The nine children and staff working with them will be able to get outside for many more activities with this addition.
- Keyser’s Foster Care offices have been moved to the new Hope Meadows campus in Mineral County, allowing for more office space for staff and visitation opportunities for families. A new therapist was added to this team as well.
- Stagers Recovery House, which provides long-term substance use recovery for 19 women, has received accreditation by the West Virginia Alliance of Recovery Residences (WVARR.) The reviewers said that this is one of the finest recovery residences available in West Virginia.
- The women of Stagers Recovery House made a grant presentation to a local United Methodist Church and were awarded \$100,000 to add office space for peer recovery coaches, therapist and house manager. They were so proud to feel like they were able to give something back by acquiring this grant.
- Using a generous bequest from the late Sara Jane Rawlings, our maintenance staff on Burlington’s campus created an amazing space for the girls of Kitzmiller Cottage. It includes a movie room, recording studio, stage, beauty salon, game room and snack area. We are truly grateful for “Sara’s Place.”
- The maintenance building that was lost to a fire on Burlington’s campus has been replaced with a wonderful new building that the auxiliary will be able to

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

- use for many years to produce its world-class apple butter and apple dumplings.
- Although we made significant progress in 2021, our new women’s recovery house at Hope Meadows is still a few months away from completion.
- We received an EAGLE Accreditation from the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries, the highest level of accreditation for a faith-based agency available.
- We renovated the Staggers Recovery House to add three bedrooms and two baths, increasing our capacity to 19.
- Five women graduated from Staggers Recovery House.
- Our Beckley campus chaplain, Ellen File, received the Harry Denman Award for evangelism.
- We were awarded Non-profit Organization of the Year by the Mineral County Chamber of Commerce.

Those are some of the highlights since our last report. However, as is the case every year, the real highlights have everything to do with how our 315 amazing team members work to house children safely and with love in our ten cottages, find homes for foster children, place children with adoptive families, help teens transition to independence, coach parents to enrich their children, come alongside new parents to help their babies have a great start to life, help teens stay in their communities through case management, help adults with disabilities to live independently, provide therapy to children and adults, care for children who have been horribly abused, aid in the recovery of women who are struggling with addiction, and finally, the incredible supporting teams working in accounting, PRDM, billing, HR, administration, IT, maintenance, management and board of trustees who keep everything together so that this ministry works!

As the CEO of Burlington, I am so grateful to be doing this work. Only with the help of God and each of you can we keep it going. Please remember us in prayers so that we can continue to live out this vision!

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Ebenezer Community Outreach Center, Inc.

Celes L. Sheffield, Executive Director

The primary task of the mission is to help children grow in self-esteem in their relationship with others; and in the understanding of their cultural heritage by providing quality programs and services to assist the children in reaching their fullest developmental potential.

2021 has been gracious to us. We have remained blessed to continue to be able to provide services and programs to our children and families. We remained Covid free!!

Our programs throughout the year include:

- 52 children ages 2-12 enrolled in the state licensed childcare and after-school program.
- 32 baby bassinets provided to new mothers.
- 74 children were sponsored through the Christmas Angel Program.
- 2 - 5-year-olds received a new state-of-the-art playground including a sandbox, with the help of various donors.
- Backpacks filled with school supplies were given out to 110 students.
- “Undies” were given out to over 65 families. “Undies” were also given to Branches Domestic Violence Shelter, Harmony House homeless organization, and the A.D. Lewis Community Center.
- Purchased property next to the center to begin our first phase of our expansion.
- Two 55 & over workers are completing their work hours at the center.
- A mural that captures some of Huntington’s Fairfield West African American History was placed on the front of the building by well-known muralist Ernel Martinez.
- 22 after-school students received their Junior Gardener awards and pins through the WV Extension Office.
- After-school students learned Arabic, Japanese, and Spanish during the summer.

A special thank you to ECOC’s Board of Directors, The Board of Global Ministries, West Virginia Annual Conference, Western District Office, local UM Churches and individuals for their continued support.

“What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.”

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Heart + Hand
OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Heart + Hand Outreach Ministries, South Charleston

Vicki Ballengee, Executive Director

Mission Statement:

The mission of Heart + Hand Outreach Ministries is to demonstrate the love of Christ and to minister to needs both physical and spiritual as we assist those who live among us.

The roots of Heart + Hand Outreach Ministries go back to 1965 when the Evangelical United Brethren Church started mission projects known as Heart and Hand House in both Philippi and South Charleston. Rev. John R. Campbell, pastor at St. Johns EUB Church was charged with establishing this ministry in South Charleston. Over the years, Heart + Hand has grown and adapted to changes in community needs. We proudly continue as a mission project of the WV Conference of The United Methodist Church and we are happy to report to you our successes during 2021.

- 4,394 shopping carts of free food were distributed by our South Charleston pantry.
- 143 Putnam County residents received emergency food as they waited for local pantry distributions.
- 1,400 weekend food bags were delivered to South Charleston Middle School students because there might not be enough food at their home over the weekend or on school holidays.
- 1,489 individuals benefited from thrift store vouchers for free clothing and household items.
- 475 children in Kanawha and Putnam Counties received free Christmas gifts.
- 253 families received Christmas food boxes.
- 150 children received new backpacks filled with school supplies.
- \$110,500 was paid toward rent and utilities to prevent homelessness.
- 181,275 pounds of clothing were provided for international aid in Central and South America.
- Blankets and coats were provided to the homeless at warming stations.
- Towels and blankets were provided to animal shelters.
- 28 little free libraries and 2 literacy programs were kept stocked with books.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

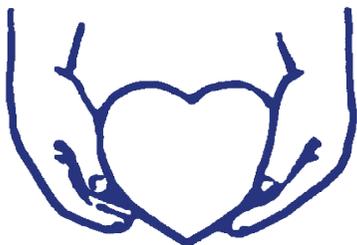
- Provided a job training venue for NUSkool Scholars, a community rehabilitation provider.
- Over 5,000 individuals benefited from Heart + Hand programs.

We thank you and all who followed their hearts and responded to the call to serve. We had record participation in our annual Kay Hall Hike for Hunger. Undies Sunday, food collections, and financial donations enabled us to provide for our brothers and sisters throughout the year. Donations to our thrift store continued to make so many things possible. In addition to free items provided, the store operating as a fundraiser, logged \$28,500 sales, and covered much of our operating expenses.

As I finish my final annual report to you and move on to the next chapter of my life, I am humbled and thankful for the opportunity I was given to serve and lead the work of Heart + Hand Outreach Ministries for nearly eight years. It has truly been a blessing and the most rewarding years of my life. I hope you will join me as a future volunteer at Heart + Hand Outreach Ministries.

Heart and Hand House, Inc. (Philippi)

Brenda W. Hunt, Executive Director



Amid a continuing season of challenges and the search for a “new normal,” we might ask, as Mordecai did in Esther 4:14, whether we have “come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” Surely, the answer would be, “Yes!” In 2021, some of the ways we lived out our mission of ministering to the physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional needs of in-crisis, low-income

people of Barbour County in these times included:

- Distributing more than 54,500 pounds of food through our various nutrition programs, with an additional 10,453 pounds of fresh produce provided through special programs by our Community Garden Market;
- Building one new home and completing home repairs for six families through our Home Repair and Construction program;
- Providing clothing, household items, and more at low-cost or no-cost to nearly 19,000 customers at our Belington and Philippi Thrift Stores;
- Providing an income opportunity for more than 150 local vendors through sales of fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, other foods, and crafts to over 11,000 customers at our Community Garden Market;
- Distributing food, hygiene items, cleaning products, underwear, hats, gloves, and coats to 200 families at Christmastime

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Heart and Hand House, Inc. (Continued)

- Assisting close to 600 families with other urgent needs, such as hygiene and cleaning products, baby-care items, emergency shelter, and utility payments; and
- Partnering with over 200 volunteers, who contributed more than 8,400 hours in service to families in our community.

It is important to remember that these numbers are more than just statistical data. They represent real impacts being made in the lives of people in our community – impacts that can be life-changing and kingdom-building as we reach out with compassion and mercy to those in need. Consider, too, that these impacts affect not only those being served, but also those who are serving. In these numbers we find:

- A FARMacy Program participant who not only lost weight, but reduced her blood glucose level, through healthier eating habits learned and practiced during the 12-week program.
- A teacher reporting that weeks after students participated in an in-school farmers' market, kindergarten students were eating so many apples that the cafeteria couldn't keep enough in supply.
- A developmentally challenged young woman living independently, with the support of family and community, in her own home built by Heart and Hand volunteers.
- A couple with foster children, able to keep their family together because the room addition built by Heart and Hand volunteers provided enough space to satisfy CPS requirements.
- An 80+ year-old volunteer finding joy and purpose in packing bags of food for children served by the Backpack Feeding Program.

We are grateful for the support and encouragement we receive from our Annual Conference leadership and individual members. The Board of Global Ministries and United Methodist Women have been especially great cheerleaders for us. A special word of thanks is also due the Southern District and Wesleyan District for their support through their 2021 Celebration of Mission Events, to the Potomac Highlands District for their ever-generous Undie Sunday donations, and to our local MonValley District family. We could not do what we do without your gifts and prayers. Thank you all for being partners in ministry with us!

GLOBAL MINISTRIESThe House of the Carpenter

Rev. Dr. Mike Linger, Executive Director



For all of us at the House of the Carpenter, our mission of “Meeting the Needs of Today; Building Hope for Tomorrow” is not just a statement, it is standard for ministry. Meeting the needs of today is found in our basic needs program. In 2021, the HOC:

- Distributed over 83,000 pounds of food in all our feeding programs
- Served over 15,000 customers through the Thrift Store
- Provided over 63,000 meals as part of the weekend backpack program

Our passion for building hope has never been higher. All of us understand the struggles that are part of living in poverty. We work to provide education and support to help improve the quality of life and to grow out of poverty. One of our great joys is sharing stories of hope springing forth in the lives of our neighbors.

- o A young girl in the art class whose words the first day are, “I can’t draw.” Her school selected one of her drawings to be entered in a Statewide Art Competition.
- o Five of our dance students who are now on scholarship at the Oglebay Fine Arts Academy
- o A Pathways to Success graduate who is in her junior year at college preparing to become a teacher
- o An elementary student who received the Cougar Cocoa, telling his teacher, “I went home, made a cup of hot chocolate and read all of my book.”
- o A student in the After School program who has improved from failing math to having a B average.
- o The Teen Cooking Boot Camp that has produced:
 - One student opening his own business growing pumpkins to make pumpkin pies and pumpkin rolls. You have to order early if you want them for Thanksgiving. He sells out.
 - Another student who is the only Sophomore in the State to be part of a Restaurant management program through the school system.
- o The guitar student who now plays in the High School Jazz Ensemble
- o Watching the Madison students laugh and play as kids on a Station Based, Trauma informed playground that the HOC helped develop. It has physical activity, group activities, social capital building, conflict resolution, communication and academics all in one play area. It is the first in the State.
- o Children exploring their faith through the Day Springs Day Camp

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

The HOC has also been faithful stewards of our finances. As this report is prepared in late January, the debt on the Toni and Nancy Bedway Center for youth has been reduced from \$2.7 million to \$184,000. We have \$90,000 in matching funds pledged. We only have to raise \$94,000 more to have the facility paid off in 5 years. God is truly good.

The prophet Jeremiah said: “Thus says the Lord, I know the plans I have for you; plans to prosper you and not to harm you; plans to give you a future of hope.” Thank you for all of your support that allows us to be engaged in this work. Together, all of us are blessed to be messengers of hope into a hurting world.

Scott’s Run Settlement House

Shay Petitto, Executive Director



Scott’s Run Settlement House serves individuals and families in Monongalia County by providing basic necessities with kindness, dignity, and respect.

We are continuing to serve those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic through curbside services. Below are some of the highlights of what you helped us accomplish in 2021.

- **9,593 individuals** received a week’s worth of groceries, hygiene items, and cleaning supplies through the Food Pantry.
- **Over 18,000 bags of food** were provided to **500 children** in nine schools through the Backpack Feeding Program.
- **3,542 seniors** received food through our Senior Food Box Program. These boxes include shelf stable goods in addition to cheese and produce.
- **2,629 dogs and cats** were fed through the Pet Pantry.
- **1,123 individuals** were served through our seasonal outreach programs for Easter, Back-to-School, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.
- **222 babies and toddlers** received diapers, wipes, hygiene items, formula, and blankets through our Baby Pantry.

Your continued generosity and unwavering support of our work is what makes all this possible. Thank you for illustrating God’s grace and abundance through your continued support of our programs.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES
Tyrand Cooperative Ministries, Inc.
Belinda Toms, Executive Director

PO Box 365, Mill Creek, WV 26280
tcm@frontiernet.net
304-335-2788

Who would have imagined that by the time of writing this report we are still in the midst of the COVID Pandemic, but by God's grace we can continue to serve the less fortunate in Randolph County. We celebrate that we were able to:

- 1) Provide food to 840 individuals through our Food Pantry. We also provided Thanksgiving food baskets to 243 individuals and Christmas Food Baskets to 478 individuals. Along with food items, we give cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, dishwashing liquid, deodorant, toothpaste and other items.
- 2) Due to Covid spikes, we had only five work teams and most of those teams only had about 10-12 individuals in the team instead of the usual 25-40 members. We were amazed that with the smaller teams we were still able to complete about 12 projects in our area for the less fortunate. Some of those projects included wheelchair ramps and painting.
- 3) The Crazy Ladies meet on Wednesdays making quilts and craft items to sell to help raise the funds needed to purchase toys for the Christmas Store Program. Christmas 2021 there were 171 children that received toys, underwear, socks, and other items for Christmas.
- 4) Our Thrift Store remains very busy. We are so humbled by the volunteers who donate their time to run the store. The year 2021 ended with them making over \$12,000 above their projected budget.
- 5) Donations of furniture and household items are always appreciated. We have given numerous items to individuals and families who have lost their homes and to some families who just don't have the finances to replace items as they wear out.
- 6) E-bay is still one of our sources of income that helps to fund our emergency programs. If you like to shop on e-bay our seller ID is tyrand2009. If you have an item to donate for e-bay we would greatly appreciate the donation.
- 7) Other ministries of Tyrand provide help for rent, utilities, prescriptions, school supplies, etc.
- 8) Our Bunkhouse is used all year round. Besides housing work teams, the West Virginia Choice meets here two days per month providing training for individuals to do in-home care. The Randolph County Board of Education provides Adult Education Classes every week for those people wanting to obtain their High School Equivalent Certificate.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

In May the Board of Directors, staff and volunteers held a celebration in my honor for starting my 35th year at Tyrand. I am humbled and blessed to work with an awesome group of people.

We are grateful to all those who have donated to help us serve the less fortunate. We appreciate the Highland Cooperative Parish, the Wesleyan District churches and all the congregations in the West Virginia United Methodist Conference and churches from other denominations that support our ministry. 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 who are hurting. I encourage each of you to come visit us and keep our staff and volunteers in your prayers as we continue to keep serving the less fortunate.

Upshur Cooperative Parish House and Crosslines

Kristi Wilkerson, Executive Director



2021 was full of not only challenges and celebrations, but also surprises, where we were called upon to serve in new ways as we continued our mission of assisting low-income Upshur County residents in meeting their basic needs in the name of Jesus Christ.

The surprises that surfaced were both good and bad:

- In an effort to share our faith and celebrate Holy Week and Easter with our neighbors-in-need, we sponsored **Easter food boxes** for the first time. Each box included plastic eggs filled with a piece of chocolate and a scripture verse, for example: *No “bunny” loves you like Jesus –1 John 4:8*. We distributed 438 boxes including a full, healthy and traditional holiday meal. We know holiday food boxes also offer some cushion, where families do not have to overly stretch their food budget that month.
- In May, we were shocked when a **low-income apartment building burned**. Thirteen families experienced incredible trauma that day. One person sat at the Parish House the next day sobbing when she realized they had lost their cat, a pet that had become a member of their family. Collaborating with other local agencies, we created a plan for the next disaster or emergency. Following the Red Cross, the Upshur Parish House is now second in response.
- Through Global Ministries’ review and evaluation process, we determined **strategic planning** is a priority. A retreat was held in August and three sub-groups are currently finalizing their goals as we work to tweak our vision,

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

the services and programs offered to neighbors-in-need, and our limited space and storage issues. We are not only growing, but also committed to remaining adaptive and flexible to the changing needs of our neighbors.

- In October, our community experienced **another fire** as a building on Main Street, including eight apartments, burned. We again assisted these residents and the community recognized that we are not only here for low-income families, but also for anyone in need of basic necessities such as shelter, food, and clothing during a crisis situation. The landlord of this apartment building worked tirelessly for days to secure new housing for their previous tenants. When asked how she was doing herself, she immediately had tears in her eyes and said, “all I could do was watch it burn for eight hours knowing our tenants would have no place to sleep that night.”
- Given our experiences with fires and other recent situations, we have been reminded of our unique ability to provide **pastoral care**, which is something other similar agencies are unable to do. We are now creating a more intentional approach to having pastoral care available when there is a crisis or urgent situation.
- In early January 2022, we learned that our September grant application to Lions Club International Foundation had been approved and awarded. Through LCIF, local Lions Clubs, and Buckhannon Upshur Rotary, we now have a brand-new **truck** for our food pantry. This was sorely needed and will allow us to transport more food more easily for our growing response in the fight against food insecurity.

In addition to our surprises, we continued offering our regular services of food, rent and utility assistance, clothing, holiday food boxes, backpacks filled with school supplies, layettes and diapers, and more. We have seen a dramatic increase in requests for personal hygiene items. Our Christmas food box program grew another 15% in December. We continue to welcome new neighbor families seeking assistance, which has grown 300% since the pandemic began. As we move through 2022, we are focused on holistic health and wellbeing of our neighbors. And, we celebrate our 30th year of mission and ministry in Upshur County, WV!

We invite you to follow us on Facebook, check out our website, and support us through AmazonSmile – a program that gives us a percentage of your purchases with no cost to you.

With support from you – our United Methodist Church partners, UM Women, UM Men, youth groups, Sunday School classes, clergy, and laity, we are able to continue serving our brothers and sisters by being the hands and feet of Christ. We are tremendously grateful for your prayers and contributions as we work to “love thy neighbor.” As Philippians 1:3 says, *we thank our God upon every remembrance of you*, as we couldn’t do all of this without your walking alongside us.

Higher Education and Campus Ministry

Mark Stotler, Chairperson

It has been a busy year for the Board of Higher Education. The Board continued to receive and review annual assessments of campus ministry being offered on the following campuses: Concord University, Fairmont State University, Marshall University, Potomac State College, West Liberty University, West Virginia University, and West Virginia Wesleyan College. Through Zoom, the Board was able to meet with each campus pastor individually to discuss their successes and challenges. The campus pastors have been creative in dealing with the challenges faced with offering activities during the pandemic. A highlight for the campus pastors was an opportunity to meet with the Conference Cabinet to have a conversation about the systems in place to discover, develop, and deploy passionate spiritual leaders. Ideas and opportunities were shared for raising up young leaders in our context.

Campus ministry is supported by local advisory committees. These committees have operated without much direction. A Board of Higher Education subcommittee has developed draft guidelines for the work of these committees. It is expected that the full Board will review and adopt these guidelines in the near future.

New campus pastors were installed at three campuses: Jonathan Acord at West Virginia Wesleyan College, Felica Wooten Williams at Concord University, and Diann Nickerson at West Liberty University. While accountability is an important responsibility, the Board is committed to providing the campus pastors with the resources and tools necessary for success. The Board is exploring training and professional development opportunities. The Board is blessed to have Shea James, Director of Young Disciples and Outdoor Ministries, as our Conference liaison. Shea meets with the campus pastors twice a month. This provides the campus pastors with an excellent opportunity to share ideas and to provide support for each other.

Justice and Advocacy

Martha Hill, Chairperson



The 2021-22 Conference year has been a time of visioning for the Justice and Advocacy Committee. Our members have attended more webinars and other online events than any of us can count! We were able to have a leadership gathering in-person last fall, a full in-person retreat this spring, and a luncheon during Conference. A Lead Team, guided by Rev. Brad Bennett, worked diligently meeting monthly since August 2021 developing a Ministry Action Plan which was enhanced at the spring retreat. The group received a grant from the General Board of Church and Society (GBCS) to promote voting rights.

Justice and Advocacy has developed a good rhythm of online and in-person gatherings that will probably be the model for the coming years. News, articles, ideas, and concerns are shared on our group Facebook page. Jeff Allen, Director of the WV Council

of Churches, has been a continuing partner regarding Legislative initiatives. Deborah Coble has ably assisted as the Conference staff person assigned to guide our work.

As the Peace with Justice Coordinator for the Conference, I have participated in General Board of Church and Society virtual gatherings, including prayer vigils. I have grown through contact with my counterparts throughout the denomination, as well as with the GBCS. I have appreciated the guidance of the Justice and Advocacy Committee regarding disbursement of Peace with Justice funds.

If anyone is interested in justice-oriented ministries, please feel free to contact me at mhill1975@hotmail.com.

Conference Lay Leader

Kristi Wilkerson

The last year provided several opportunities for discernment, and through that discernment, the need for more coordination and communication became a priority. This has been our focus for 2021-2022, as noted below.

The District Coordinators for Lay Servant Ministries welcomed collaboration, now meeting regularly with Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries, Kim Matthews.

The Lay Ministry Team continues to meet via Zoom and also held one in-person meeting. They also meet with laity leadership from Susquehanna and Western Pennsylvania Conferences periodically. Throughout these meetings, we have been reminded of the deep desire for fellowship and connection, as well as teaching and training time, for the laity of our Conference.

Advent and Lenten devotionals continue to be written by laity and what a gift those devotionals are! We are blessed to have laity who prepare meaningful devotionals that are shared beyond the borders of our Conference. We celebrate and appreciate the gifts and talents our laity bring to all aspects of the West Virginia Conference!

We are all cautiously optimistic that we can gather in-person for Annual Conference in June. We are currently preparing for a two-part laity session where the two sessions will be very different. The first part will occur virtually prior to Annual Conference. The second part will take place in-person during Annual Conference.

I am grateful for the opportunity to represent the laity of our Conference at meetings of the Northeastern Jurisdiction Conference Lay Leaders and the Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders. I extend sincere gratitude for the members of the Lay Ministry Team, District Lay Leaders, and District Coordinators of Lay Servant Ministries! We are surrounded by a tremendous group of dedicated and compassionate laity leaders.

I look forward to continuing to partner with the laity and clergy of the West Virginia Conference as we serve together to discover, develop, and deploy passionate spiritual leaders making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. I hope you will look for ways to invite, involve, and invest in others as they grow spiritually and become even more equipped for leadership. Thanks be to God for the many ways you share the grace and love of Christ with others!

You remain in my prayers, and I wish you abundant blessings always!

Lay Servant Ministries

Kimberly A. Matthews

Annual Conference Director of 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.

The challenges of 2020 and the inspirational way in which the District Lay Servant Ministry committees met those challenges were transformation for the work we do together. Classes were offered in every district, both in-person and via Zoom. We have expanded our offerings and our reach, creating new opportunities and easier accessibility that knows no geographic borders.

New challenges have arisen. Now that courses are accessible to everyone in the Annual Conference through Zoom technology, how do we keep everyone informed regarding what we are offering? Can we coordinate what we do as districts to serve everyone in the Annual Conference? These two questions have created our goals for 2022: increased coordination and increased communication.

To meet these goals, the District Directors of Lay Servant Ministries are now meeting as a group. In spring of 2022, we coordinated the classes we will offer so that all six Advanced courses necessary for Certified Lay Speakers are offered somewhere in the Annual Conference via Zoom. We hope to continue this, not to increase the speed at which a person can be certified, but to make the opportunity more accessible to everyone.

We are making better use of the Conference calendar. If you go to www.wvumc.com/calendar/, you can search for the course that will meet your needs. We are exploring other ways to communicate better, so that everyone knows how to find out what is happening in lay servant ministry.

2021 and 2022 saw the beginning of four Certified Lay Minister courses as online offerings. The MonValley District held one course in 2020-2021 and began a second one in 2021. In March 2021, a large group of students began a Conference CLM Course, completing their work in January 2022. A new Conference CLM course began in March 2022. These courses are utilizing Zoom and Portico (the Conference’s online Learning Management System).

How can you help?

- For those who are pastoring a church, whether clergy or laity, I encourage you to help laity hear their call and answer it, thereby leading people toward increased discipleship. Please 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 us 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 and to be an educated and joyful witness to the work of God in this program.
- I am so inspired by the creative ways the Lay Ministry Team is meeting the challenges of this year. 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). Find the new way and don’t stop!

Following this report is a table with a summary of the Lay Ministry positions. This is provided for your convenience, but The Discipline and Annual Conference Rules are the ultimate resource.



Bishop Steiner Ball offers prayer as new Certified Lay Ministers are recognized

Position	Think about this if you are interested in...	Requirements	Re-certification
Certified Lay Servant	Who should become a Certified Lay Servant? The best way I've heard it defined is that a Certified Lay Servant is a person who has a call to work in the local church or in the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be approved by your charge conference. • Complete the basic course. • Complete one advanced course – and you can choose the course that best matches your call, whether it is preaching, teaching, praying, care giving – or a multitude of other choices. 	To maintain your certification, you will need to be approved by your charge conference annually (there is a form to complete that can be found on the Annual Conference website) and take one advanced course at least every three years.
Certified Lay Speaker	Consider this option if you are interested in serving pulpit supply – filling in when necessary, but not serving a single church on a long-term basis. The Certified Lay Speaker preaches the word when requested by the pastor, DS, etc., and is also equipped to do the work of the Certified Lay Servant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a Certified Lay Servant • Complete the following six advanced courses – preaching, prayer, polity, United Methodist beliefs, spiritual gifts, and leading worship. • Be approved by your charge conference. • Be interviewed and approved by your District Committee on Lay Ministry and the Conference. 	To maintain your certification, you will need to be approved by your charge conference annually (there is a form to complete that can be found of the Annual Conference website), be reviewed by the district committee on Lay Ministry and the Conference, and take one advanced course at least once every three years.
Certified Lay Minister	Consider this if you are called to serve in a particular ministry long-term, such as assigned supply or other long-term ministry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must be a Certified Lay Servant • Complete specific CLM curriculum with an accountability group. • Be approved by your charge. • Be interested and approved by the District Committee on Ordained Ministry and the Conference. 	To maintain your certification, you will need to be approved by your charge conference annually (there is a form to complete that can be found on the Annual Conference website), be reviewed by the district committee on Ordained Ministry every other year (and obtain Conference approval) and participate in continuing education.

Nominations

Rev. Scott Mayberry, Chair

The following represents the work of the Conference Nominations Committee to the 2022 WV Annual Conference. I am fortunate and blessed to lead such a talented and committed team. Through videoconferences, prayers, and not a few “cold calls”, the Holy Spirit binds and leads us as we seek the willing for service. I am especially grateful to my friend and Conference Secretary, Judi Kenaston, whose tireless work and incredible attention to detail brings this report to print. To my Committee and Judi, I offer my sincerest “thanks.” The Nominations Committee is pleased to present those who have answered “Yes” before the Annual Conference. I ask that the Annual Conference affirm the report and welcome the incoming Nominations Chair, the Rev. Lauren Godwin.

Nominations Team Chair:

Rev. Lauren Godwin	Grace, Keyser	Potomac Highlands District
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Trustees Class of 2026

Holly Biondi	First, South Charleston	Midland South District
Rev. Annette Carper	Calvary and Simpson	Northern District
Rev. Dr. Ken Krimmel	Oak Hill	Southern District

Council of Finance and Administration (CFA)

Members to fill remainder of quadrennium

Jeremiah Johnson	Westover	MonValley District
Melissa Paugh	St. Paul’s Oakland and McHenry	Potomac Highlands District



The sun came out on Saturday in time for lunchtime lawn games sponsored by the West Virginia Conference Campus Ministries.

West Virginia Wesleyan College Board of Trustees

As requested by the Annual Conference, biographical information is included on the following pages for the WVWC trustees who are newly elected this year.

WVWC Board of Trustees	Year First Elected by the Annual Conf.	Term Ends
Elected Members Returning		
John Allevato	2017	2026
Rev. Ellis Conley	2016	2025
Christine Cox	2017	2026
Bill Fahrner	2021	2026
Tracy Dunn-Cunningham	2015	2023
Brian Maxwell	2017	2026
Caroline Rapking	2010	2023
Justin Raber	2018	2027
Rev. Vance Ross	2021	2026
Joanne Soliday	2016	2025
Kevin Spear	2016	2025
Craig Welsh	2017	2026
New Trustees		
Brian Brouillette,	2022	2027
Jason Fiegel	2022	2027
Alan Letton, Ph.D.	2022	2027
Rev. Amy Shanholtzer	2022	2027
Jamion Wolford	2022	2027

According to the Conference Rules (2021 Journal, IV. Misc. Standing Rules, 1, p. 401) the President of the College, Bishop of the WV Annual Conference, the President of the Faculty, President of the Staff Council, President of the Student Senate, and the President of the Alumni Council are ex-officio members of the Trustees with voice and vote.

Brian T. Brouillette



For more than four decades, Brouillette has worked with clients to manage, transform, and protect technical environments and optimize business outcomes. He joined HP in 1983 and held a variety of management positions in marketing, sales, support, and strategic alliances. Over his 27-year career he led five acquisitions. In 2001 he was promoted to the position of Vice President and General Manager.

Brouillette holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from West Virginia Wesleyan and has completed seven non-degree programs at Stanford and Harvard Universities. He has served on the board of Accesstel-Kentrox-Australia (AKA) and Power Analytics.

Brouillette serves as Vice President & General Manager of CrowdStrike's Customer Success team and is slated to retire in March. As an early member of the pre-IPO leadership team, he built a team of 300 from scratch that serves more than 15,000 companies and contributes more than \$100M in support revenue.

Prior to CrowdStrike, Brouillette served as Senior Vice President and Series 16 officer of Westel (WSTL), and as Vice President of professional services at Ixia/NetOptics. He also served as Vice President of professional services at Juniper Networks, and was managing director of TateLee consulting.

He lives in Saratoga, California, with his wife, and has two adult children. He enjoys snow skiing, distance swimming and mountain biking.

Jason Fiegel

Jason Fiegel is an entrepreneur, technologist, and business leader who founded his first company, and electronics repair service, while still in high school. At the invitation of a close friend, Jason visited and later enrolled in West Virginia Wesleyan College, where he studied Philosophy and Business Administration, graduating in 2000.

Jason's drive and zeal for learning has not slowed since, nor has his technical skills development. He went on to earn a Master of Business Administration in Executive Management at Loyola University Maryland and a law degree at Syracuse University, all while running a busy technology services company, raising four children with his wife, Monica, and serving as a volunteer for several organizations, including as a youth sports coach.



Jason is the founding partner of Buoyant Technologies, Inc. (BTI), a Technology Services firm based in Central Maryland. Over the past decade and a half, Jason has led Buoyant to become an industry leader in the design and deployment of enterprise communication systems, supporting Fortune 500 businesses, government and military customers across the United States and world.

Jason's passion for development and innovation is reflected in how he and his firm keep up with the rapid pace of change within the communications industry. Buoyant continues to foster a culture of shared learning and constant improvement – daily sharing, analyzing and documenting the challenges and triumphs of the team – with a philosophy of continuous innovation where everyone is both teacher and student.

Dr. Alan Letton



Dr. Alan Letton Consulting, has an experience base that spans the corporate, education and not-for-profit communities. While currently serving as a consultant in the areas of technology management, product development and corporate diversity strategy, he continues to work in academia while pursuing various entrepreneurial activities.

Currently, Dr. Letton teaches technology management and business innovation at Marshall's Brad Smith College of Business. He also teaches executive leadership and project management at North Carolina State University's Office of Professional Development. He is a managing partner in the Innovative Prototyping Fund which is an emerging fund for commercializing university intellectual property, and is a founding partner of Cultureium, a consulting group that helps organizations manage strategic changes in their culture. He has served as the CEO and member of the Board of Directors for MET, Inc the company that introduced recovery technology to TB12 and Under Armour. He served as the President and Chief Technical Officer and a member of the Board of Directors for Rubberlite Inc. Dr. Letton has served as the Interim Vice Chancellor for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies at North Carolina A&T and as the Chief Science Officer and Senior Vice President of Research and Engineering for Sealy, Inc. Prior to joining Sealy, Alan was Executive Vice President for Polymerix Corporation. Dr. Letton has held several positions in academic and industrial communities: Sandia National Laboratories, Dow Chemical (Research Leader), Texas A & M University (Professor of Mechanical Engineering & Chemistry), Tuskegee University (Dean for the College of Engineering & Architecture), Allied Signal (Director of the Polymer Skills Center) and Avon Products (Director of Physical Sciences). He has served on several boards, has founded several not-for-profit organizations serving as their executive officer, and has over 100 articles, patents and book contributions.

Rev. Amy Shanholtzer



Rev. Amy Shanholtzer is the Conference Superintendent assigned to the MonValley District of the WV Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

She served for a decade as the Director of Congregational Development, as well as the Director of Christian Education, pastor of several United Methodist congregations in WV. She loves working with people of all ages to develop strategic and creative opportunities to expand ministry and offer Christ in our communities.

Amy enjoys networking and finding connections between people. She’s a native of Morgantown, WV, and calls Spruce Street UMC home. She earned a BA in youth services and Christian Education at WVWC and served as the second female president of the Community Council.

She received an M.Div. from Emory University.

She is married to Craig Shanholtzer, also a WVWC alum, and together they have two daughters.

Jamion Wolford

Jamion Wolford is the Treasurer, Benefit Officer, and Director of Administrative Services for the WV Conference of The United Methodist Church. He is a CPA who was an auditor with Dixon Hughes Goodman PLLC, and then went to the WV Attorney General’s Office as the CFO prior to joining the Conference.

Jamion and his wife Taran (Class of ‘08) and their two daughters live in Kenna, WV where they are active in their church, Calvary United Methodist in Ripley.

Jamion is also on the Board of Trustees for WVU Medicine’s Jackson General Hospital. He earned a B.S. from WVWC in 2008, a Certificate of Forensic Accounting and Fraud Investigation from WVU in 2008, and an MBA from Marshall University in 2015.



Older Adult Ministry

Rev. Janet Flanagan, Chair

According to The Book of Discipline, in each annual conference there may be a Conference Council on Older Adult Ministries. Its purpose shall be to strengthen the Older Adult ministries in the local churches and districts of the annual conference.

The WV Conference Older Adult Ministry Team (OAM) has been inactive during the pandemic for a variety of reasons. Our team has dwindled due to retirements and other responsibilities. This will be a rebuilding year. I have asked our district superintendents to identify people who are enthusiastic about work with older adults and programs that are working well. If you are interested in older adult ministry, I invite you to contact me. If your church has a successful ministry, please contact me so that I can share it with others.

During the last two years, I have represented the conference on the ecumenical task force "Building Dementia Friendly Faith Communities." There are resources available to assist people and caregivers who are dealing with the issues of dementia. There are possibilities for churches who desire to include this as part of their ministry. The Older Adult Ministry Team hopes to provide this education as part of our work. Limited funding to assist with a new ministry could become available.

Rev. Janet Flanagan
 flanaganjanet8@gmail.com
 304-539-1415



Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball and Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi lead worship at Forrest Burdette Memorial UMC in Hurricane. They traveled to three locations in the West Virginia Conference this spring. They also traveled in the Western Pennsylvania and Susquehanna Conferences bringing a message of hope and taking questions from clergy and laity.

Board of Ordained Ministry

Rev. Dr. Jay D. Parkins, Chair

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 currently comprised of 27 members representing all nine districts, including both active and retired Elders, Deacons, Local Pastors, and Laity. The Cabinet representative to the Board, Rev. Chip Bennett, assists in assuring clear communication between the Board and the Cabinet.

The Executive Committee of the Board includes: Board Chair (Rev. Dr. Jay Parkins), Vice-Chair (Royce Lyden), Registrar (Rev. Jacob Steele), Secretary (Rev. Stephanie Bennett), Chair of the Order of Elders (Rev. Michael Estep), Chair of the Order of Deacons (Rev. Jeff Taylor), Chair of the Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors (Rev. Gwen Wolford), Cabinet Representative (Rev. Chip Bennett), Chair of Enlistment and Recruitment (to be filled), Registrar of Local Pastors (Rev. Scott Sears), Chair of Conference Relations Committee (Rev. Timothy Allen), Vocational Discernment Coordinator (Rev. Chris Duckworth), and Residency Director (Rev. Brian Seders). The Rev. Dr. Bonnie MacDonald, Annual Conference Director of Leadership Formation and Ministry Staff, is the conference staff liaison to the team and Angela Jones provides administrative support to the Board. I give thanks for all these leaders for sharing their time, talents, and gifts in leading these various work areas.

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.

The Board completed the interview process over the course of two interview sessions in February and March, adapting our process to the restrictions imposed by the Omicron variant of COVID and needs of our candidates. At the time of this report the Board was still in the process of interviewing candidates. The breakdown of candidates is listed below:

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

DISCOVERING

The Board of Ordained Ministry works jointly with the Cabinet and other areas of the Annual Conference in the recruitment of clergy. Like all aspects of ministry, clergy recruitment on seminary campuses has changed during the COVID era. For the past two years on-site visits have been limited. The Board is working cooperatively with the Cabinet

in revitalizing our Clergy Recruitment program as COVID restrictions are reduced.

The Board recognizes clergy recruitment is a “long game” involving laity, clergy, and conference staff as well as the Board and Cabinet members. We are all called to assist persons in discerning their call, especially youth leaders and pastors. Nurturing persons who feel called to ministry and guiding them in the process involves all members of the conference and all local churches throughout the Annual Conference. Let us all be in prayer for God to raise up new leaders among us and encourage those who have “shining eyes for Christ” or who are feeling a nudge of the Holy Spirit to enter the process for discerning their specific call to ministry.

The Board oversees the “Inquiring Candidacy Program,” which is led by Rev. Chris Duckworth. This program includes group mentoring sessions for persons who are sensing a call to licensed or ordained ministry. Mentors and peers assist inquiring candidates in discerning where God is calling them (licensing, ordination, or an area of lay ministry).

This year we are offering a spring session in addition to our fall groups. We had two groups of exploring candidates in the fall, for a total of 14 exploring candidates of whom 13 chose to continue on. For the spring session we have 11 possible candidates.

In addition, the Board is developing a unique Internship program with Duke Divinity School offering prospective students a taste of ministry in an Appalachian setting. We are thankful for the work of all who assist with these programs and the leadership they offer our inquiring candidates.

DEVELOPING

Pastoral Ministry Licensing School

This school is the next step into ministry for those moving through the candidacy process. This program provides training in United Methodist polity, doctrine, tradition, and theology. This year 12 individuals are completing the process through a hybrid training model in partnership with Candler School of Theology through Emory University. Participants take part in online course work and also join in-person retreats.

Course of Study

The Rev. Scott Sears assists participants in the Course of Study as they move 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 Study work. Twenty-seven individuals are currently enrolled in Course of Study classes. Individuals serving as Local Pastors and completing Course of Study make up the majority of pastors in the West Virginia Conference.

The Board of Ordained Ministry continues to provide financial assistance to those attending Advanced Course of Study after completion of each class with a passing grade. We also continue to support Local Pastors for costs of extension schools and regional schools.

Residency

The Residency program is a defined program of study and growth experiences for provisional candidates. Our residency program is now led by Rev. Brian Seders.

In the Fall of 2021, the group participated in the Generosity Conference hosted by the WV United Methodist Foundation at Canaan Valley. The residents were able to meet

in person for the first time in many months. Due to the Omicron spike, additional meetings have been conducted online.

The Residency team is looking forward to the coming year and hopefully returning to in-person gatherings to further train, equip, and support our residents and new provisional members.

DEPLOYING

The Board of Ordained Ministry plays a supportive role in the lives of ordained and licensed clergy throughout their career. The Board oversees continuing education funds enabling full-time 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.).

The Board leadership thanks all those who have served and continue to faithfully serve the conference in this important work and welcomes our new members joining the Board this year.

As Board 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.

Order of Elders

Rev. Michael Estep, Chair

The elder witnesses to and serves Christ through a fourfold ministry of Word, Sacrament, Order, and Service, derived from the authority given in ordination.

During the past months, the Order of Elders has met with author Bethany Dearborn Hiser to glean wisdom from her book, *“From Burned Out to Beloved: Soul Care for Wounded Healers,”* and followed that session up with an online, chapter by chapter discussion of the book.

In May, the Order of Elders will gather with colleagues from the Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors and the Order of Deacons for a day of retreat and resourcing with Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball.

May will also present the Order of Elders with an opportunity to gather online with Dr. Steven Harper, respected author and teacher in Wesleyan Studies and Christian Spirituality. The gathering with Dr. Harper will focus on rediscovering the place of wonder, where the elder first heard God’s call to ordained ministry. Rediscovering that place of wonder is a touchstone for ministry in these very challenging times.

The fourfold ministry, and life within the itineracy or extension ministry, demand soul care, retreat, and wonder.

Order of Deacons

Rev. Jeff Taylor, Chair

Deacons are ordained clergy leaders who are called to a lifetime ministry of word, service, compassion, and justice. Deacons exemplify Christian discipleship, nurture others in their relationship to God, and lead the church to respond to the needs of the poor, neglected, and marginalized of the world.

In the congregation, deacons teach, preach, officiate at funerals and weddings, offer pastoral care, and assist in administering Baptism and Holy Communion. Deacons lead discipleship development ministries and help laity identify and claim their own ministries. Deacons lead the congregation in its servant ministry and equip and support all baptized Christians in their ministry. Outside the walls of the church, deacons share the good news in word and in their advocacy for the poor, neglected, oppressed, and discouraged; provide ministries of mercy; and invite Christians into these ministries.

Through the Order of Deacons, The United Methodist Church affirms this historic, central, and distinct ministry. The purpose of the Order is set out in ¶306 of The Discipline. The pandemic created challenges toward fulfilling our purposes, but we have been able to meet safely. We plan to meet in a hybrid format in the spring.

In 2021, we celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the action of the General Conference that provided for the ordination of deacons as clergy members in full connection in The United Methodist Church. This year we celebrate that 25 years ago at the 1997 West Virginia Annual Conference, the following persons were ordained as the first full-member deacons in the West Virginia Conference: Dallas B. Bailey, Phyllis Kohl Coston, Daniel W. Farley, John Franklin Lacaria, Mary Virginia Lowther, and Dale L. Miller. We stand on the shoulders of these leaders and give thanks for their years of committed service.

It is a blessing for me to chair the Order of Deacons. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside all of the deacons of the West Virginia Annual Conference.

Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members

Rev. Gwen Wolford, Chairperson

The Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members is organized in each Annual Conference 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 *officially* in part-time status, though most would tell you there is no such thing as “part-time” ministry while being a pastor. In the WV Annual Conference, Local Pastors are examined each year by their District Committee on Ministry in order to affirm effectiveness in and fitness for

pastoral ministry. Those receiving approval of their DCOM are then eligible for appointment/re-appointment by the Bishop. Unlike Associate Members and Elders in The UMC, Local Pastors are not guaranteed an appointment and, in the WV Conference, are not required to itinerate, although they can and do.

As the Chair of the West Virginia Conference Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members, I want to commend each of our clergy serving as Part-Time or Full-Time Local Pastors and our Associate Members for “keeping on, keeping on,” in times that have challenged our ability to gather together in our local churches and collaboratively as clergy. I have attempted to be in contact with all of the LP and AM clergy through email and have been in discussion with others about ways to gather with and support licensed clergy. I continue to serve on the Board of Ordained Ministry at the Conference level and on the Potomac Highlands District Committee. The unique callings and circumstances of Local Pastors and Associate Members continue to be represented by myself and others, both laity and clergy, in these settings. Working with Bonnie MacDonald, Director of Leadership Formation, to plan and implement Pastoral Ministry Licensing School continues to be one of my joys in serving God and the Conference. Many of you have continued your Course of Study work during the pandemic through virtual learning, and I appreciate the challenge and the opportunity this affords.

Please know that I am open to hearing any concerns, suggestions, questions, etc. regarding Local Pastors and Associate Members and the Fellowship. I leave you with my go-to verse in this “season” of waiting, change, and challenge: *So, do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.* Isaiah 41:10 NIV



Newly licensed local pastors were recognized at the Sunday morning service



Board of Ordained Ministry
West Virginia Conference
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

GUIDELINES FOR CLERGY SUPPORT COUNSELING FUNDS

- 1) Who is eligible?
 - a. Clergy of the West Virginia Annual Conference
(For these guidelines clergy is defined as: 1) Elders, 2) Deacons, 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 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.(Exceptions to this rule, such as Spiritual Directors, must be pre-approved by the Clergy Support Coordinator.)

- 3) How much is available per family?

\$600 annually.

Persons reaching \$600 reimbursed within the calendar year will receive a Form 1099 from the Conference Treasurer’s Office to be reported as income when filing a personal tax return.

- 4) What is the procedure for obtaining the funds?
 - a. The provider bills the clergyperson’s insurance where applicable and the clergyperson is responsible for any residual fees due.
 - b. To receive Conference reimbursement for co-pays, send the [Counseling Reimbursement Form](#) and original receipt(s) to:

WVUMC Ministry Support
PO Box 2313
Charleston, WV 25328

(Note: Receipts must clearly show Provider Name, Patient Name, and Date of Service.)

- 5) For approvals or more information, contact:

Rev. James McCune, Clergy Support Coordinator, jmccune301@aol.com 304-813-1274.

For general questions or reimbursement details, contact:
Angela Jones, Ministry Support Assistant, ajones@wvumc.org 304-344-8331, ext. 39.

Rev. 7/2021



Outdoor Ministries

Spring Heights Camp and Retreat Center

Amy Mullins, Camp Director

Spring Heights Camp and Retreat Center celebrates our DaySpring Mobile Camp, which grew to 14 sites this summer! DaySpring is an extension of Spring Heights that partners with churches to bring the best of summer camp to their communities. DaySpring connects communities to churches, churches to camp, and campers to Christ!

Spring Heights provides everything needed for camp programming: GAGA pit, 9 square, Bible Study curriculum, t-shirts to tie-dye, and much more. DaySpring staff train local volunteers on how to build relationships with children and help them grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. In 2021, 14 sites hosted DaySpring, and the camp connected with 35 churches. We celebrate when churches partner together to bring DaySpring to their fairgrounds, parks, and local schools. These partnerships enabled 550 campers and 170 volunteers to experience camp.

DaySpring ran from June 7 through August 12. Thank you to Warwood UMC, Life UMC, Bridgeport UMC, Potomac Highlands District, Crossroads UMC, First (Williamstown) UMC, Wayne UMC, House of the Carpenter, St. Luke's (Craigsville) UMC, Bluewell UMC, Putnam County Parish, Barbour County Parish, Lewis County Parish, and Epworth UMC for hosting DaySpring this past summer. We are excited to continue to grow DaySpring throughout the West Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church.

In addition to DaySpring, Spring Heights Camp and Retreat Center continued to host pastor retreats courtesy of the Clergy Support Fund and the Board of Pensions. We also held retreats for staff and residents from the Beckley and Daniels campuses of Burlington Family Services.

Spring Heights Camp and Retreat Center continues to work on upgrades and improvements to the facility with help and support from the Conference Trustees. We replaced the roof on one of the bathhouses, preventively removed trees, and completed necessary road maintenance.

We welcome volunteer groups who can help us maintain the property so that Spring Heights can continue to be a place where people grow in their understanding of God for generations to come. If you would like to make a monetary donation, checks should be made out to "Conference Treasurer" with "Spring Heights Donation" in the memo line.

Please mail donations to:

Conference Treasurer
P.O. Box 2469
Charleston, WV 25329

This summer, we are excited to announce that Spring Heights Camp and Retreat Center will have on-site camp and expand DaySpring to even more locations! For more information about the on-site camp, DaySpring, retreats, or volunteering, please visit the website at www.springheights.org or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/springheightsfb or Instagram @springheights.

Pensions

APPROVED BY THE 2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

I. Pensions

- A. That the Past Service Rate (pension rate for service rendered prior to 1982) increase from \$625 to \$638, effective January 1, 2023.
- B. That the fair share figure for past service pensions be eliminated due to significant over funding of the Pre-82 plan and significant reserves held at the WV United Methodist Foundation which can be utilized if needed to meet current plan liabilities.
- 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.

I. Medical Insurance

- A. That the apportionment for the health insurance program be set at \$4,258,360.
- B. That \$0 be apportioned for the Medical Insurance Reserve account.
- C. The Board recommends the Conference continue the active participant health insurance coverage with Wespath’s HealthFlex program utilizing the Blue Cross Blue Shield network which began on January 1, 2022. This recommendation does not impact active or retired participants of the Medicare supplement program.
- D. That the 2023 rate billed to each charge per participant in the Plan be \$7,200 for the year. The 2023 participant Health Care Premiums be as exhibited in the table below.

2023 Participant Monthly Premium						
Monthly Cost by Tier	H1500 with HSA	H2000 with HSA	H3000 with HSA	C2000 with HRA	C3000 with HRA	B1000
Participant Only	\$331	\$168	\$(34)	\$378	\$148	\$452
Participant + 1	\$667	\$357	\$(24)	\$757	\$318	\$898
Participant + 2 or More (Family)	\$925	\$503	\$(20)	\$1,046	\$445	\$1,240

- E. That under the HealthFlex plan, Retirees not yet 65, will continue to be eligible for coverage through the Conference health insurance plan. Those retiring between January 1, 2004 and July 1, 2021 and not yet 65 will be billed the participant amount per their elections and 20% of the rate normally billed to a charge per participant (\$7,200 annually for 2023). Individuals retiring after July 1, 2021 and being younger than 65, will be billed the participant rate according to their plan elections and the full rate normally billed to a charge per participant (\$7,200 annually for 2023).
- F. 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.

II. Medicare Eligible Participants

- A. 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 or have Medicare as primary insurance through the Small Employer Exception at the time of retirement. 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.
- B. Effective January 1, 2021, Medicare eligible beneficiaries of the Plan may qualify for the small employer exception to the MSPA (the “Small Employer Exception” or “Exception”) such that Medicare would be the primary payer for benefits incurred by Plan Beneficiaries who are age 65 or older (“worked aged”). If any church participant of the Plan has fewer than twenty (20) employees, then working-aged Beneficiaries (and their spouses) of each such Church Participant may qualify for the Small Employer Exception upon application. Pursuant to this Exception, Medicare would become the primary payer for benefits incurred by these eligible working-aged individuals. The Conference Treasurer’s Office will be contacting and working directly with individuals as they become eligible for this program.
- C. 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 \$4,020 to \$6,350 up to a maximum reimbursement of \$1,165 per historically Calendar year.

III. Miscellaneous

- A. That the last Sunday in October 2023 be observed as the Day of Remembrance Sunday, and that offering be designated by the Board of Pensions each year.
- 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:

Dependent Adult Children:

- Esther Louella Feather
 - Wilma Wayne
 - Amy B. Conner
- E. Funding for the Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP) Defined Benefit (DB) and Defined Contribution (DC) portions and Clergy Protection Plan (CPP) will be billed directly to each church with a qualifying pastor based upon the pastor's total annual compensation according the CRSP and CPP plan language. The percentages utilized for calculating a church's contribution for CRSP-DB, CRSP-DC, and CPP will be 10%, 3%, and 3% respectively.
 - 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.
 - H. That the Housing Loan Fund program be discontinued due to no new loans being issued in many years and very little interest in the program from new retirees. The Board believes the funds associated with the current program can be repurposed to better meet the needs of retired clergy and surviving spouses. The Board is in the process of defining a new housing assistance program to accomplish this goal. All existing loans will continue for the life of the loan and be administered through the Administrative Services Office as they are currently.

WV Conference Board of Pensions/Pension Funds, Inc. Financial Report			
As of December, 2021			
	2021	2020	2019
WVUMC ACCOUNT			
Department Name: 186 CONFERENCE HEALTH INSURANCE RESERVE			
BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 2,639,386.82	\$ 1,905,491.06	\$ 185,459.05
INCOME			
400100 Fair Share Distribution	\$ 78,466.54	\$ 79,634.39	\$ 84,091.96
400101 Special CR Distrib	\$ 296.00	\$ 343.00	
400125 CRSP DB Reallocation		\$ -	\$ 1,965,661.39
400160 Transfer From 187 Claim Account		\$ 653,918.37	
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 78,762.54	\$ 733,895.76	\$ 2,049,753.35
EXPENSES			
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 605,979.41	\$ -	\$ 329,721.34
ENDING BALANCE	\$ 2,112,169.95	\$ 2,639,386.82	\$ 1,905,491.06
Department Name: 187 CONFERENCE HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN			
INCOME			
GENERAL INCOME			
400025 Fair Share Distribution - Category I	\$ 3,393,537.42	\$ 3,444,205.60	\$ 3,279,664.48
400026 Special CR Distrib	\$ 12,762.00	\$ 14,824.00	
400100 Other	\$ 612.03	\$ 332.88	\$ 31,237.67
400103 Optional Life Insurance Receipts	\$ 237.60	\$ 237.60	\$ 237.60
400105 UM Foundation Trusts	\$ 32,002.43	\$ 31,061.60	\$ -
TOTAL GENERAL INCOME	\$ 3,439,151.48	\$ 3,490,661.68	\$ 3,311,139.75
INCOMING TRANSFERS			
TOTAL INCOMING TRANSFERS	\$ 611,709.55	\$ -	\$ 329,721.34
INSURANCE PREMIUMS			
400225 Medical BAC	\$ 2,232,491.00	\$ 2,856,828.50	\$ 2,741,912.00
400250 Medicare BAC	\$ 797,247.00	\$ 658,233.00	\$ 811,584.00
400425 HealthFlex			
TOTAL INSURANCE PREMIUMS	\$ 3,029,738.00	\$ 3,515,061.50	\$ 3,553,496.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 7,080,599.03	\$ 7,005,723.18	\$ 7,194,357.09
EXPENSES			
ADMINISTRATION			
500120 Administrative Assistant	\$ 34,502.76	\$ 35,329.32	\$ 33,571.92
500130 Conf Pre-Retirement Sem			\$ 858.00
500135 GBOP Meeting Expense			\$ 821.06
500145 Insurance Plan Book		\$ 2,050.45	
500155 Legal / Professional Fees	\$ 11,600.00	\$ 17,000.00	\$ -
500160 Property Tax (Antero)	\$ 5,306.90	\$ 7,945.04	\$ 8,501.06
500165 Miscellaneous	\$ 3,707.20	\$ 5,048.00	\$ 8,039.78
500166 AUMCPBO			\$ 125.00
500167 Transfer to Insurance Reserve		\$ 653,918.37	
500175 Wellness/Pulse Program	\$ 12,786.18	\$ 7,117.98	\$ 7,462.93
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	\$ 67,903.04	\$ 728,409.16	\$ 59,379.75
BENEFIT ASSISTANCE			
500225 Administration Fees	\$ 161,016.90	\$ 162,866.50	\$ 164,716.50
500235 Consulting Fees	\$ 6,153.00	\$ 6,519.45	\$ 6,790.35
500240 4Most Integrated Health Network	\$ 49,824.00	\$ 37,103.75	\$ 20,345.00
500245 Pre-Certification Fees	\$ 5,674.40	\$ 6,156.15	\$ 6,416.50
500255 Specific Premiums	\$ 636,260.61	\$ 666,345.60	\$ 688,370.88
500256 4-Most Integrated Health Dental	\$ 4,395.00	\$ 4,276.50	\$ 4,850.25
TOTAL BENEFIT ASSISTANCE	\$ 863,323.91	\$ 883,267.95	\$ 891,489.48
CLAIMS PAID Medicare			
500325 Dental Claims	\$ 224,305.64	\$ 201,586.69	\$ 259,763.26
500330 Hospital	\$ 3,762,103.37	\$ 2,969,242.94	\$ 3,625,270.78
500335 Medical	\$ 930,799.93	\$ 1,068,179.16	\$ 1,289,762.95
500340 Prescriptions	\$ 1,004,646.01	\$ 1,041,549.69	\$ 1,048,258.24
500342 Split Fund Deduct Claims	\$ 209,495.15	\$ 89,441.35	\$ -
500345 Vendor Fees	\$ 78.47	\$ 7,277.14	\$ 3,335.99
TOTAL CLAIMS PAID	\$ 6,131,428.57	\$ 5,377,276.97	\$ 6,226,391.22

	2021	2020	2019
ACTIVE TERMINAL LIAB CLAIMS 2021			
500355 Dental			
500360 Hospital			
500365 Medical			
500370 Prescriptions			
TOTAL TERMINAL LIAB CLAIMS PAID	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
WESPATH MONTHLY PAYMENTS			
LIFE INSURANCE			
500525 Conference Paid Insurance	\$ 17,705.91	\$ 16,531.50	\$ 16,859.04
500535 Optional Life Insurance	\$ 237.60	\$ 237.60	\$ 237.60
TOTAL LIFE INSURANCE	\$ 17,943.51	\$ 16,769.10	\$ 17,096.64
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 7,080,599.03	\$ 7,005,723.18	\$ 7,194,357.09
ENDING BALANCE	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Department Name: 460 MINISTERS EMERGENCY FUNDS			
BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 746,859.62	\$ 672,692.53	\$ 662,537.99
INCOME			
400075 Dividends	\$ 3,469.41	\$ 5,231.93	\$ 4,824.60
400100 Estates / Trusts	\$ 12,744.69	\$ 64,307.09	\$ 57,778.68
400125 BV - Gifts For Minister Emerg Funds	\$ 500.00		
400130 ROY - Lease Amendment FK053161-1	\$ 400.00		
400170 UM Foundation Receipts Trusts	\$ 46,874.06	\$ 35,958.03	\$ 5.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 63,988.16	\$ 105,497.05	\$ 62,608.28
EXPENSES			
500050 Emergency Distribution	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 19,455.74	\$ 20,023.34
500075 Moving Expense Reimbursement - Retired Ministers	\$ 11,608.86	\$ 11,021.00	\$ 31,197.96
500100 Property Tax Payments	\$ 789.95	\$ 853.22	\$ 895.54
500125 Transfer to Dept 480 (Correction)	\$ 40,500.00		\$ 336.90
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 69,398.81	\$ 31,329.96	\$ 52,453.74
ENDING BALANCE	\$ 741,448.97	\$ 746,859.62	\$ 672,692.53
Department Name: 410 CPP HOLIDAY MINISTRY GRANT FUND			
BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 952,696.95	\$ 851,141.09	\$ 434,636.91
INCOME			
400100 CPP Monthly 2018 and 2019			\$ 416,504.18
400110 CPP Monthly May & June 2020		\$ 101,555.86	\$ -
TOTAL INCOME	\$ -	\$ 101,555.86	\$ 416,504.18
EXPENSES			
500125 Camp Purchases for Pastor Retreats	\$ 4,619.57		
500150 Transf to Spring Heights Pastor Retreats	\$ 1,160.00		
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 5,779.57	\$ -	\$ -
ENDING BALANCE	\$ 946,917.38	\$ 952,696.95	\$ 851,141.09
Department Name: 465 RETIRED MINISTERS HOUSING LOAN FUND			
BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 1,940,440.75	\$ 1,927,307.58	\$ 1,912,859.53
INCOME			
INTEREST INCOME LOANS	\$ 11,690.91	\$ 13,133.17	\$ 14,448.05
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 11,690.91	\$ 13,133.17	\$ 14,448.05
EXPENSES			
500025 Administration			
500050 Grants			
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
ENDING BALANCE	\$ 1,952,131.66	\$ 1,940,440.75	\$ 1,927,307.58

	2021	2020	2019
FUNDS HELD AT WV UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION AS OF 2/28/22			
MMP Annuity Reserve Fund (33595): Established to absorb any market downturns in funding MPP account balances to retirees			
Beginning Balance	\$2,658,496.33	\$2,276,685.98	\$1,927,493.78
Investment Performance	\$197,983.14	\$381,810.35	\$349,192.20
Ending Balance	\$2,856,479.47	\$2,658,496.33	\$2,276,685.98
Pre-1982 Reserve Fund (33648): Established to invest balances for earnings and liquidity purposes			
Beginning Balance	\$3,366,524.13	\$2,821,074.33	\$2,309,379.19
Contributions/Deposits	\$60,716.70	\$64,647.55	\$86,086.70
Investment Performance	\$252,465.63	\$480,802.25	\$425,608.44
Ending Balance	\$3,679,706.46	\$3,366,524.13	\$2,821,074.33
Pension Funds, Inc. Undesignated Reserve Acct (33754): Established to allow flexibility between Pension requirements and Health Care issues as the Board of Pensions sees necessary			
Beginning Balance	\$838,763.31	\$328,759.22	\$525,850.45
Contributions/Deposits	\$460,501.46	\$395,209.83	(\$237,039.51)
Investment Performance	\$73,752.32	\$114,794.26	\$39,948.28
Ending Balance	\$1,373,017.09	\$838,763.31	\$328,759.22
Unfunded Pension Liabilities Acct (54061): A fund established to hold and invest the funds collected per the Book of Discipline and the 2019 WV Annual Conference the sale of closed church properties or payments from congregations leaving the Denomination after June			
Beginning Balance	\$ 166,112.57	\$ -	
Contributions/Deposits	\$207,509.68	\$ 143,456.00	
Investment Performance	\$22,337.05	\$ 22,656.57	
Ending Balance	\$ 395,959.30	\$ 166,112.57	
FUNDS HELD AT WESPATH AS OF 2/28/22			
Deposit Account: The "Checking Account" through which the WV Annual Conference Pension Plan makes deposits and payments			
Current Balance	\$7,515.78	\$1,896.37	\$443.77
CRSP-DC and CPP: An account established at Wespath to clear CRSP Defined Contribution and CPP payments in accordance with the Modified Direct Bill Program used to receive and credit participants' retirement contributions.			
Current Balance	\$360,198.96	\$339,748.07	\$318,640.87
CRSP-DP: An account established at Wespath to clear CRSP Defined Benefit payments in accordance with the Modified Direct Bill Program used to receive and credit participants' retirement contributions.			
Current Balance	\$4,852,962.83	\$3,072,683.71	\$1,162,275.69
SUPERANNUATE ENDOWMENT FUND: An account not belonging to the WV 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 WV Annual Conference receives interest earnings which are credited to the Deposit Account to reduce the Conference's annual payments in its Pension Plans.			
Current Balance	\$831,902.24	\$ 764,935.04	\$647,105.90
PAST SERVICE 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 as of January 1, respectively	\$40,409,329.00	\$ 42,222,675.50	
Overfunding Amount	\$ 9,346,982.00	\$ 12,174,675.00	
Overfunding %	130%	140%	

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

Rev. Jarrod Caltrider, Chairperson

The WVAC Rules Committee met virtually via Zoom on September 23, 2021, and March 7, 2022. During our March meeting, the committee reviewed and considered submissions for rule changes to our Conference Rules. There were seven committee members present at both meetings, including the Secretary of the Annual Conference as an ex-officio member.

Following discussion and affirmative vote, the Rules Committee makes the following motions to the WV Annual Conference Rules. Please note that deletions are marked with words that have been stricken and additions are marked with double underlines. Numbers used in the Motions from the Committee (which are in bold) should correspond with the Conference Workbook.

To Amend Rule B.IV.6.j

Found on page 402 of the 2021 Conference Journal

6. j. All lay persons serving on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, Conference Council on

~~Finance and Administration and Conference Covenant Council~~ Conference Core Leadership Team.

Rationale:

The request to amend Rule B.IV.6.j is being proposed to update the language of our lay equalization membership for Annual Conference according to the conference structure approved at the 2021 Annual Conference Session.

To Amend Rule B.IV.12

Found on page 405 of the 2021 Conference Journal

12. Annual Conference Budget Process. The Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A) sets the overall budget parameters for the calendar year budget and will inform the agencies, boards, and teams of the Annual Conference. The Treasurer's Office will provide historical year financial information as a reference for teams and boards. The Director of Administrative Services sends all information and budget materials to agencies in Category I & III. The Director of Connectional Ministries sends all information and budget materials to Category II boards and teams. ~~Category II budget is proposed by the Covenant Council to CF&A after a budget review is done and the proposed budget is adopted by the Covenant Council in its Spring meeting.~~ The Core Leadership Team reviews Category II budget requests and presents recommended requests to the CF&A. All proposed budgets budget requests for the new calendar year are due to the Treasurer's office by March 1. The CF&A adopts the proposed budget for recommendation to the Annual Conference and includes the proposed budget in the Conference Workbook published for Annual Conference. The CF&A reviews budget requests and approves the budget for recommendation to the Annual Conference and it is published in the Annual Conference Workbook.

Rationale:

The request to amend Miscellaneous Rule #12 is being proposed to move the rule in alignment with the rule changes approved during the 2021 Annual Conference Session and current budget practices. Specifically, the amendment clarifies that the Core Leadership Team has replaced Covenant Council in the budget preparation process and clarifies the current flow of budget requests from the ministry teams to the Core Leadership Team and then to CF&A for recommendation to the Annual Conference.

Trustees

Rev. Dr. Randall F. Flanagan

Vice President, Conference Board of Trustees

“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)

It is my privilege and my responsibility to submit this report and the accompanying resolutions on behalf of the Trustees of the West Virginia Annual Conference. I offer this on behalf of our president Betsy Edwards-Martin and offer our continuing hopes and prayers for her recovery from illness and restoration to health and wellness.

It has been a blessing to work with the trustees of the Annual Conference and seek to be responsible stewards of our resources for ministry. Jamion Wolford, Conference Treasurer, serves as our Trustee Treasurer, and has provided important guidance to the trustees during the past year. Our financial report for the past year follows this report.

The Trustees meet three times a year (February, March and October). We have continued to meet via zoom and have been faithful to our responsibilities as given to us by the Book of Discipline and the actions of the Annual Conference.

In this document, the following areas are reported to the conference: 1) The Episcopal Residence; 2) Spring Heights; 3) Property Insurance; 4) Closed Churches Property; 5) GlenWood Park; and 6) Resolutions – which are at the end of this report.

Episcopal Residence:

Rev. Frank Shomo, has continued to work in consultation with Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball and her husband, Rev. Barry Ball, to maintain the residence in Putnam County. We give thanks for the work that has been done, and for Frank's persistence in scheduling and overseeing that work. We are especially grateful for Frank's willingness to continue overseeing the care of our Episcopal Residence.

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 are pleased to offer our support by managing the Spring Heights Maintenance Funds as listed in Category III of the Conference Budget and by assisting in the development of a property maintenance plan. Spring Heights' amazing maintenance man, Paul, has worked hard to ensure the service road is in good shape by hauling and spreading gravel. We've replaced the roof on a bathhouse that experienced damage during a storm. Tree trimming has been done throughout the property to protect buildings and hiking trails. The Trustees hope to assist with financial support as we partner with Shea James, Amy Mullins, and volunteers to arrange work teams to help with minor maintenance projects. Conference trustee Betsy Martin and Conference Agent Charles Hicks sit on the Camp Commission.

Property Insurance:

The Trustees appreciate the tremendous work our Conference Risk Manager, John Thompson, and our Treasurer, Jamion Wolford, have accomplished this year. Conference properties, vehicles, mission projects, and campus ministries (through our Affiliation Agreements) are covered by Annual Conference provided insurance. We have obtained new coverage with Church Mutual. They were the lowest bid, covered more, and had better customer service. We will see close to \$10,000 in savings per year.

Closed Churches Property:

We thank our Trustee Agent, Rev. Charles Hicks, and the Conference Chancellor, Robert File, for their work on sales and conveyance of closed church properties. See the following report, "Closed Church Properties Conveyed," submitted from the agent regarding the work in the past year.

GlenWood Park:

Funds from the sale of GlenWood Park Retirement Village have not yet been released. Our conference chancellor checks with the State of West Virginia on a regular basis to try to expedite the matter.

Trustee Resolutions:

We recommend adoption of three resolutions presented by the trustees: (See Resolutions in Resolution Section of the Conference Workbook).

CLOSED CHURCH PROPERTIES CONVEYED
MARCH 1, 2021-February 28, 2022

PROPERTY/COUNTY	YEAR CLOSED	DATE CONVEYED	CONSIDERATION
Mt Zion	2020	3-7-21	\$69,284.22
Gandeeville	2018	4-12-21	\$1,500.00
Parchment Chapel	2021	4-12-21	\$3,000.00
Hartmansville	2018	5-6-21	\$15,000.00
Fairview	2021	6-11-21	\$2,000.00
Pleasant Creek	2021	9-20-21	\$11,100.00
Bethel Chapel	2021	6-28-21	\$1,500.00
Walnut Grove Cemetery	1976	7-7-21	\$100.00
Sinaville	2020	8-23-21	\$7,000.00
Sinaville Cemetery	2020	8-23-21	\$0
Mt Olivet	2021	10-12-21	\$2,800.00
Bealls Mil	2021	11-5-21	\$3,500.00
Sites Chapel	2021	10-25-21	\$20,000.00
Cass	2021	12-31-21	\$0
Pleasant Valley	2021	12-31-21	\$2,000.00
Liberty	2021	2-12-22	\$2,000.00
Newberne	2021	2-12-22	\$4,000.00
Fairview	2021	2-14-22	\$7,000.00
Richmond Chapel	2021	2-12-22	\$3,000.00
Buckeye	2021	2-14-22	\$2,000.00
Sam Black	2021	2-18-22	\$5,000.00

Property Proceeds Account

As Of December 31, 2021

	2021	2020	2019
Beginning Balance	\$480,627.42	\$735,010.09	\$651,870.87
Income:			
Property/Furniture Sales	\$144,052.22	\$588,032.00	\$204,689.00
Bank Account Closures and Refunds	\$4,840.59	\$6,994.80	\$15,293.37
Interest Income - Foundation		\$0.00	\$78,052.73
Rents, Leases and Royalties	\$817.79	\$599.95	\$901.89
Other Income		\$2,943.26	\$454.07
Total Income	\$149,710.60	\$598,570.01	\$299,391.06
Expenses:			
Salary - Trustee Agent	\$17,355.00	\$16,980.87	\$16,577.09
Legal Fees	\$4,374.28	\$316.58	\$9,487.85
Administration	\$1,497.70	\$2,571.58	\$4,132.91
District Parsonage Expenses			\$0.00
Appraisals			\$0.00
Transfer to New Church Development	\$223,853.62	\$68,178.44	\$122,300.82
Transfer to UM Foundation for Ethnic Churches	\$55,963.40	\$17,044.61	\$30,575.21
Agents Expense	\$3,306.95	\$4,704.66	\$6,427.26
Transfer to Reserve	\$200,810.40	\$735,010.09	\$0.00
Taxes	\$46.14		\$185.15
Other (Grants)		\$1,750.00	\$25,000.00
Utilities Closed Properties	\$2,509.06	\$6,395.85	\$1,565.55
Workers compensation	\$111.13		\$0.00
Spring Heights Capital Maintenance			\$0.00
Establish Separate Investment Account			
Total Expenses	\$509,827.68	\$852,952.68	\$216,251.84
Net Year to Date Activity	(\$360,117.08)	(\$254,382.67)	\$83,139.22
Ending Balance	\$120,510.34	\$480,627.42	\$735,010.09

	12/31/21	12/31/20	12/31/19
Investments Held at WV UMF	Balance	Balance	Balance
WV Annual Conference Trustees Fund	\$ 1,175,584.31	\$ 898,236.02	\$ 764,188.41

Following entries will be made in 2022	
2021 Property Sales Net of Expenses	\$114,851.96
Transfer to UMF for New Church Development (40%)	\$45,940.78
Transfer to UM Foundation for Ethnic Churches (10%)	\$11,485.20

Property Insurance Account

As Of December 31, 2021

	Budget	2021	2020	2019
Beginning Balance		\$86,058.26		
Income				
Apportioned Receipts	\$290,000.00	\$224,274.82	\$224,212.29	\$223,666.44
UMI Surplus		\$2,815.33		\$2,809.22
Other Income (Insur. Refund)			\$3,236.41	\$0.00
Transfer from Conference Operating Fund		\$17,463.34		\$62,166.28
Total Income	\$290,000.00	\$244,553.49	\$227,448.70	\$288,641.94
Expenses				
Commercial Package	\$290,000.00	\$99,350.51	\$26,860.49	\$100,856.22
Conference Auto		\$14,563.41	\$18,690.99	\$22,195.84
Camp Package		\$74,445.58	\$30,848.19	\$52,041.00
Mission Projects		\$127,309.05	\$61,216.49	\$109,638.88
Campus Ministries		\$14,943.20	\$3,774.28	\$3,866.00
Transfer To Conference Operating Fund				\$44.00
Total Expenses	\$290,000.00	\$330,611.75	\$141,390.44	\$288,641.94
Net Gain/(Loss)		(\$86,058.26)	\$86,058.26	\$0.00
Ending Balance		\$0.00	\$86,058.26	
Transfer From Insurance Reserve		\$17,463.34	\$0.00	\$62,166.28

Due to delays in UMI billing and trustees moving to quarterly payments while insurance carrier options are being reviewed, the net balance from 2020 was rolled forward to 2021. Final approval of this change was approved at CFA's March 2021 meeting. As of Oct. 2021 insurance coverage was materially moved to Church Mutual and premiums paid in full for the period of 10/1/21 - 9/30/22.

Trustee - Episcopal Residence Accounts
As Of December 31, 2021

Dept: 180 Episcopal Residence	Budget	2021	2020	2019
Beginning Balance:		\$ 156,474.63	\$ 132,931.54	\$ 105,494.01
Income				
Apportionment Receipts	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 15,582.00	\$ 15,926.86	\$ 16,817.21
GCFA Receipts	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Transfer from Reserves			\$ 5,546.82	
	<u>\$ 30,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 25,582.00</u>	<u>\$ 31,473.68</u>	<u>\$ 36,817.21</u>
Expense				
Insurance	\$ 1,000.00			\$ -
Lawn / Landscaping	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,436.38	\$ 1,853.00	\$ 3,441.00
Major Appliance Purchases	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 1,250.00		\$ -
Pest Control	\$ 500.00	\$ 290.70	\$ 475.00	\$ 380.00
Repair / Maintenance	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 22,880.42	\$ 746.25	\$ 900.00
Reserve for Maintenance	\$ 8,000.00			\$ -
Utilities for Bishops Residence	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 4,927.21	\$ 4,556.34	\$ 4,358.68
Other	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
	<u>\$ 30,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 31,084.71</u>	<u>\$ 7,930.59</u>	<u>\$ 9,379.68</u>
Net Activity for the Year:		<u>\$ (5,502.71)</u>	<u>\$ 23,543.09</u>	<u>\$ 27,437.53</u>
Ending Balance:		<u>\$ 150,971.92</u>	<u>\$ 156,474.63</u>	<u>\$ 132,931.54</u>

Trustee - Spring Heights Accounts

As Of December 31, 2021

Dept: 370 Spring Heights Conference Trustees	Budget	2021	2020	2019
Beginning Balance		\$11,365.26	\$11,365.26	\$11,365.26
Income	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
Insurance Claim		\$12,047.44		
Expense	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
Bath House Repairs		\$22,596.63		
Camp Maintenance		\$816.07		
Ending Balance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,365.26	\$11,365.26

Dept: 386 Spring Heights Maintenance Fund

Beginning Balance		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Income				
Apportioned Receipts	\$30,000.00	\$23,256.95	\$23,193.81	\$25,807.92
Other (UMF Distr. & Insur. Claims)		\$3,681.61	\$13,076.97	\$194.39
	\$30,000.00	\$26,938.56	\$36,270.78	\$26,002.31
Expense				
Maintenance	\$30,000.00	\$4,703.37	\$17,215.18	\$21,435.34
Tree Removal		\$12,000.00		
Equipment		\$10,019.00		\$796.96
Transfer to Conf. Operating			\$19,055.60	\$3,770.01
	\$30,000.00	\$26,722.37	\$36,270.78	\$26,002.31
Ending Balance	\$0.00	\$216.19	\$0.00	\$0.00

West Virginia Conference United Methodist Men

George Hohmann, President

Greetings on behalf of the West Virginia Conference's United Methodist Men. Our mission is to help men grow in Christ, so others may know Christ. We do this through our local church fellowships, our work with Scouting, and our community service.

We are excited about our 2022 ministries and activities. Examples:

- In conjunction with the West Virginia University Extension Service Development Office, we launched a campaign in February to help maintain the All Faith Chapel at WVU Jackson's Mill, near Weston. Our goal is to raise \$16,000 for immediate repairs, and to raise \$50,000 to establish an endowment for the upkeep of the chapel for decades to come. Tax-deductible gifts may be sent to: United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia, Inc., P.O. Box 3811, Charleston, WV 25338. E-mail the Foundation at info@umfwv.org or call (304) 342-2113.
- With the pandemic waning, we are looking forward to holding our West Virginia United Methodist Men's Annual Gathering both online and in person at WVU Jackson's Mill Sept. 9-11. The gathering was online only in 2020 and 2021.
- Working with Scout leaders from across the region, we are looking forward to hosting Circuit Rider 32 at Jackson's Mill, also on Sept. 9-11. This day of fun, educational and wholesome activities for youth was not held in 2020 or 2021 because of the pandemic.
- Our Annual Golf Outing, which raises funds for the Circuit Rider, will be on Sept. 9 at the Tygart Lake Public Golf Course near Grafton. The event was not held in 2020. The outing raised more than \$7,000 in 2021. We are grateful to all of the sponsors and golfers who support this fundraiser.

At the beginning of 2021, 59 local church men's fellowships were chartered. We began 2022 with 43. We pray this number increases so more local fellowships connect with their state and national organization.

Twenty-seven people took part in our Annual Gathering, held online in 2021. Jim Minutelli and Rev. Kerry Bart of the Conference Communications Team graciously produced and recorded the event, which subsequently has been viewed online by more than 60 additional people.

Bishop James E. Swanson Sr. of the Mississippi Conference, who also is president of the Board of Directors of the General Commission on United Methodist Men, was the featured speaker at our Annual Gathering. Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball also addressed the gathering, noting that the event was being held on the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attack. That day people wondered: "Where is our God?" People have continued to ask that question during the past 20 years. The answer to the question, Bishop Ball said, is, "God is in our midst 24/7." She reminded the men that Jesus is the Great Physician and that his message is one of hope and life.

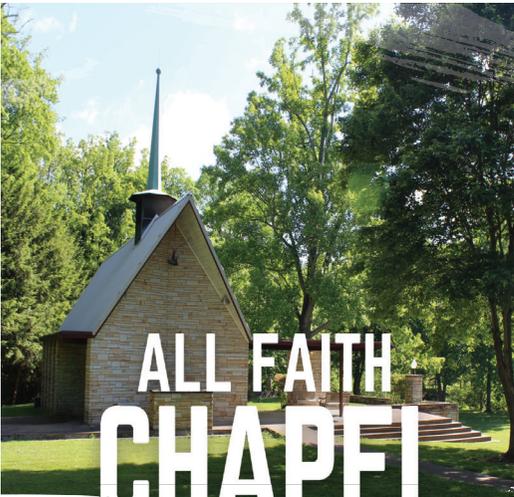
Also making presentations during the Annual Gathering were Ralph Herron, the Conference Scouting Coordinator; Rev. Dr. Barry Ball; and Jeffrey Taylor, president of the United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia, Inc.

Re-elected to one-year terms during the gathering were: George Hohmann of Charleston, president; Ed Altizer of South Charleston, secretary; and Don Davis of Madsville, treasurer. Jerry Meadows of Cross Lanes was elected prayer advocate. During a Jan. 15, 2022, meeting of the Executive Committee, Meadows was elected vice president.

We primarily use three tools to stay in touch with Methodist Men across the connection:

- Our website, wvcummen.org
- A bi-weekly newsletter, the *Journal*. To receive the newsletter, e-mail Jerry Meadows at jwmead@frontier.com
- The U.S. Postal Service

We mourn the 2021 and early 2022 loss of some long-standing members, including Harold Gene Jones of Parkersburg, Larry Joe LaCorte Sr. of Ravenswood, Jerry E. Gieseke of South Charleston and Lesley Lee Shockey of Sandyville.



Building the Future

Send your gift to:

Built with the support of the United Methodist Men of West Virginia, and dedicated in 1959, the All Faith Chapel at West Virginia University Jackson's Mill stands as a "silent pastor" for the campus. A dream of many years, the Chapel incorporates the traditional forms common to all faiths. It provides a haven for those who would come quietly to worship God, surrounded by the beauty God has created.

The United Methodist Men ask for your financial support to maintain the All Faith Chapel for future generations. Your tax deductible gift may be sent to the United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia, Inc.

The Foundation staff is also available to help those who would like to consider a legacy gift for the All Faith Chapel.

UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION OF WEST VIRGINIA, INC.

P.O. BOX 3811 CHARLESTON, WV 25338

MAKE AN ONLINE GIFT: WWW.UMFWV.ORG/GIFT

West Virginia Conference United Women in Faith

Sue Dostal, President

United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women) in every district are working very hard for the marginalized and oppressed. We are always collecting food, underwear and socks, school supplies, health care items and a host of other items that we donate to local, conference, and national organizations in an effort to make a difference in today's society. Many of our women are involved in making prayer shawls, volunteering at various shelters and mission projects, teaching Sunday School, tutoring school-age children and youth, as well as providing leadership within their own church and community.

United Women in Faith 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 Women in Faith to that of the church.

We were able to have our Spiritual Growth Retreat this past year, although it was very different from what we are used to. Rev. Amy Shanholtzer and Eva Faulkner were filmed by Deborah Coble and staff as they shared a Bible study near the Gauley Bridge Welcome Center with the rivers in the background. It was very well received by the ladies as they watched on their computers.

Mission u was done virtually throughout the month of June, meeting on specific days depending on the study. We continue to educate ourselves through Mission u and the Reading Program. For mission to be successful, there has to be education. We strive to offer opportunities for learning.

Our Annual Meeting was held in-person at Community of Grace UMC in Western District. Rev. Shea James was our guest speaker. Our attendance was lower than usual, but it was great to be back together even if we couldn't hug each other. We conducted our business, elected officers, and shared fellowship while social distancing as much as possible.

We look forward to the new year with new experiences, education, fellowship, and mission. We continue to keep Faith, Hope and Love in Action in our communities and around the world.

We ARE United Methodist Women!

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.

Conference Council on Youth Ministries

Caroline Nichols and Katie Howard, Co-Chairs



Katie Howard

This year the Conference Council on Youth Ministry (CCYM) welcomed two new co-chairs, and we would like to introduce ourselves.

I'm Caroline Nichols; I'm seventeen and I am in my junior year at Bridgeport High School. I worship at Quiet Dell UMC in the Wesleyan District. I have been on the council for four years and am thankful for the opportunity to take part in the conference.

I'm Katie Howard. I am in my junior year at Scott High School. I worship at Madison United Methodist Church in the Midland South District. I have served on CCYM for two years now, and I am incredibly thankful to be part of something with the youth and be involved with the

conference.

As part of an effort to encourage more youth to join CCYM, the team is working on updating the website layout to make access to resources about the ministry and applications more readily available to those interested. In addition to remodeling the website, the team is in the process of creating a promotional package with flyers, posters, and media slides to share throughout the conference with information about the council and how to find our resources. If you know of a young person 12-18 who would like to join us as we grow as young disciples, please get in touch with Shea James (sjames@wvumc.org) or one of us!



Caroline Nichols

This year we were excited to offer "Find Your Fit" for students throughout the West Virginia Conference. Young people took a spiritual gifts inventory to discover their spiritual gifts and then met in small groups on zoom. We grew in understanding how God has gifted us, and we're excited to use our gifts to grow the church!

This year several youth leaders have met in a cohort to learn more about best practices and how to support their students. Next year the Youth Cohort will partner with Reboot Youth Ministry through Perkins School of Youth Ministry. These programs help adults grow as leaders and help us grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

We are excited about the future and where God is leading us!

Caroline Nichols, cgshines@gmail.com

Katie Howard, katiehoward142@yahoo.com

United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia, Inc.

Rev. Jeff Taylor, President

The mission of the United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia, Inc. is *to create a culture of generosity that transforms the world by raising, managing, and distributing funds that serve the needs of all people and communities*. This Report is intended to provide the Annual Conference with the details of how we fulfilled our mission in 2021.

Creating a Culture of Generosity: The Foundation is committed to providing leadership development opportunities for lay and clergy under the broad banner of stewardship and generosity. We hosted our Foundation Academy in October 2021 at Canaan Valley Resort as a hybrid event, after having to postpone it due to the coronavirus. Thirty-two people participated in-person, with six joining online through zoom. During the three-day event, five speakers covered topics relating to stewardship and generosity. Scott McKenzie and Craig Miller from Horizons Stewardship presented sessions on church finance. Jay Rundell, President of Methodist Theological School in Ohio, presented on stewardship of church property. Kim Matthews and Jeff Taylor presented on legacy giving and endowment building. We left time in the agenda to allow participants to enjoy the splendor of the Canaan Valley area.

In addition to the Academy, we hosted two webinars in a fireside chat format about the ministry of the Foundation. We have had online events again in 2022 with more planned. Even as we can gather safely, we continue to offer online events. We welcome opportunities to lead discussions, classes, and workshops about stewardship, generosity, 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.

Watch for future conference-wide or regional events that can help you and your congregations attain your greatest potential in generosity and stewardship.

Raising Funds: Gifts and deposits in 2021 totaled nearly \$12.8 Million. Total assets under management as of December 31, 2021 were \$146 Million. Of the total under management, 55% is held in Foundation Assets, i.e. donor-designated accounts and Foundation accounts. 45% is held for others, i.e., custodial accounts, charitable gift annuities, and charitable remainder trusts.

Managing Funds: All four of our balanced funds experienced positive growth during 2021. The Moderate Balanced Fund (Fund B2), our most popular investment choice among individuals and ministries, experienced a total return of 7.45% after fees. Because our investment vision is long-term, we encourage you to consider the long-term average annual returns. We have an experienced and capable Finance & Investments Committee overseeing these activities, and we engage highly qualified experts in Wespath Institutional Investments to guide our investment decisions.

The following are the current investment returns, net of all fees, for the full year 2021, as well as the most recent historical average annual returns for all four of our investment funds.

The chart below provides the net returns for all of our Funds for 2021 as well as the 3-, 5-, and 10-year average returns.

Sustainable Investing: The Foundation practices sustainable investing, which means we

2021 Investment Returns, Net of All Fees

Investment Fund	2021	3-Year Average 2019-2021	5-Year Average 2017-2021	10-Year Average 2012-2021
Fund A—Fixed Income Fund	-1.41%	2.50%	1.97%	1.34%
<i>Benchmark*</i>	<i>-1.72%</i>	<i>2.28%</i>	<i>1.56%</i>	<i>0.76%</i>
Fund B1—Conservative Balanced	5.49%	12.16%	8.75%	6.48%
<i>Benchmark*</i>	<i>7.81%</i>	<i>11.39%</i>	<i>7.91%</i>	<i>5.86%</i>
Fund B2—Moderate Balanced	7.45%	14.11%	10.17%	8.29%
<i>Benchmark*</i>	<i>10.03%</i>	<i>13.57%</i>	<i>9.51%</i>	<i>7.74%</i>
Fund B3—Aggressive Balanced	7.13%	15.19%	11.14%	8.78%
<i>Benchmark*</i>	<i>10.25%</i>	<i>14.16%</i>	<i>10.04%</i>	<i>8.26%</i>

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

invest with Christian values in mind in addition to the investment return bottom line. The first part of sustainable investing is negative 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.

Distributing Funds: Our purpose is realized when we distribute funds to expand and enhance United Methodist ministry in the name of Jesus Christ throughout the West Virginia Annual Conference and beyond. We distributed over \$4.0 Million in 2021, which represented thousands paid to beneficiaries of unitrusts and charitable gift annuities and millions to churches, ministries, and other beneficiaries of endowment trusts and custodial accounts. In addition to distributions designated by donors, we gave away over \$100,000 of our own money through our Foundation Grants program and continued to respond to the pandemic

through funds set aside by The Foundation for the use of the Bishop.. We are grateful for the generosity of United Methodists who, since 1974, have enabled us to respond to these needs by placing their trust in our ministry of stewardship. We are grateful for the generosity of United Methodists who, since 1974, have enabled us to respond to these needs.

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 blue box that says "Go Paperless." We hope you will consider the possibilities of our Account Portal and help us to save a tree and Plant a Tree!

LET US TELL YOU MORE

Location:	500 Virginia Street East, Suite 750, Charleston, WV 25301
Mailing address:	P. O. Box 3811, Charleston, WV 25338-3811
Email Addresses:	Jeff Taylor, President – jefftaylor@umfwv.org Kim Matthews, Vice President – kimmatthews@umfwv.org Susannah Carpenter, Chief Financial Officer – scarpenter@umfwv.org

umfwv.org

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

Check us out on Facebook (www.facebook.com/umfwv) to receive the latest news from the Foundation.

Visit our website at www.umfwv.org or on Facebook

West Virginia Wesleyan College

Greetings from West Virginia Wesleyan College. It's our pleasure to welcome you to campus for the 2022 West Virginia Annual Conference. As we begin to return to normal, I'm reminded that my grandmother, Norma Daetwyler Moore, was a regular attendee at annual conference, so it's always been special for me to be here as a faculty member and now as the College's interim president. I trust that your time here will be fruitful, productive, and safe. Our home among the hills is yours.

As I'm sure you're all aware, I recently became the interim president. For those of you who don't know me, let me take just a moment to give you a sense of my background and my time at WVWC. I joined the faculty in 2006 as a music professor and took over directing the jazz ensemble. Since that time, Wesleyan has become my home. I'm a native West Virginian, grew up in The United Methodist Church, and was honored to be selected to serve as Vice President for Academic Affairs in late 2017, before taking over the interim presidency. I have always believed that this is a very special place because I've witnessed the dedication that our faculty and staff have to the success of our students.

That has only become more evident during the pandemic, and one of the great joys of the pandemic for me – if one can find joy in such a situation – was the speed with which the UMC community stepped up to help our students who were far-flung through no fault of their own. Thanks to Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball's leadership, churches all over the country opened their doors to students who needed a place to study, access high speed internet, or were seeking comfort and grace during challenging times. It was a great reminder that the College and The United Methodist Church have always been partners, and that partnership is rooted in a shared mission and vision. I look forward to working with Bishop Steiner Ball and our Director of Religious and Spiritual Life, Jonathan Acord, to further strengthen the ties between the College and the Church. It's important to me for lots of reasons, not the least of which being that I know my grandmother would expect me to "lean in" to my heritage as a Methodist. For those of you who may have known her, I'm sure you'll agree.

Although the College finds itself in a state of transition, I want to assure you that we are strong, focused, and moving forward together. Our new General Education curriculum, crafted by our faculty last year, is taking shape as new courses are developed. Our service scholars are actively engaged in a variety of important activities, notably working to raise funds to support refugees from the crisis in Ukraine. Faculty and staff searches are underway to fill vital positions that serve students, and we are all looking forward to the time that summer will give us to prepare for, what we hope will be as normal a Fall semester as anyone can expect post-COVID.

As we continue to work to become a stronger institution, I hope that we can continue to count on your prayers and support, as well as your guidance. We've all weathered challenging times and I am confident that we will continue to thrive together.

James H. Moore, PhD
Interim President

Africa University

James H. Salley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement
You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can't be hidden.

—Matthew 5:14 (CEB)

This year, The United Methodist Church marks 30 years of vibrant, transformative ministry through Africa University. Thank you, West Virginia Conference, for your faithfulness and generosity in bringing the dream of Africa University to life.

In celebrating its 30th anniversary, Africa University is honoring the past and looking to the future, while remaining true to its mission as the cornerstone ministry for United Methodist-related leadership development in Africa.

Much like the year that preceded it, 2021 affirmed that God's grace is sufficient in all circumstances. In January 2021, the students, faculty, and staff grappled with the sudden death of Africa University Vice Chancellor, Dr. Munashe Furusa. As the year unfolded, national lockdowns continued to restrict travel and damage livelihoods. Unable to be together on campus, the students, faculty, and staff grieved, pivoted, supported, and encouraged each other, and persevered.

Africa University is grateful to the West Virginia Conference for investing 100 percent of its budgeted commitment to the Africa University Fund (AUF) in 2021. Thank you for ensuring access to a life-changing higher education experience for Africa University students, especially those who are unable to fund a college education on their own!

Against the backdrop of a global pandemic, Africa University harnessed new opportunities for missional engagement in 2021. The year's highlights include:

- **Effective online-only teaching, learning and student assessment:** About 99 percent of students participated in online learning. Enrollment held steady at 3,060 students and more than 500 graduates from 24 African countries were awarded degrees in July 2021.
- **The installation of AU's fifth Chancellor:** Bishop Gaspar João Domingos of the Western Angola Episcopal Area was elected Chancellor following the death of Bishop John K. Yambasu of Sierra Leone.
- **Research and community service:**
 - AU researchers received US\$2 million in funding for regional initiatives to eradicate malaria, tuberculosis, and other communicable diseases.
 - AU's students and graduates led, and showed their love of neighbor, with initiatives to feed hungry families, care for the environment, and improve the quality of life of legally blind parents and their children.
 - AU received the 2021 Jairos Jiri Humanitarian Award by the Government of Zimbabwe for its pandemic impact mitigation efforts.

Africa University's journey from day one, in March 1992, to the present is a shared story of being salt and light. AU is also a West Virginia Conference story—of restoring hope, equipping, and sending forth young leaders to shape an abundant life for themselves and for the communities they serve.

Thank you, West Virginia Conference, for letting your light shine for young women and men who would otherwise be left on the sidelines. “A city on top of a hill can’t be hidden”. Similarly, AU’s current students and its more than 10,000 graduates to date are that metaphor made real. The West Virginia Conference walks alongside these young people as they hone their abilities, live fully into their purpose, and join in the work of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

GBHEM seeks to promote innovative and experiential opportunities for transformative learning, higher education, and ministry formation worldwide. The agency works with key partners, churches, and institutions in Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, and Eurasia, Latin American and the Caribbean, and North America to offer connectional, contextual, and collaborative programs to support the Church, the Academy, and the world. Among its various activities, GBHEM is responsible for two initiatives approved by General Conference: The Methodist Global Education Fund for Leadership Development (MGEFLD) – which includes the Grants and Scholarships Program (GRASP) – and the Central Conference Theological Education Fund (CCTEF). The agency also maintains Regional Hubs for Leadership, Education and Development (LEAD Hubs) in various locations around the world, has helped create and support the International Association of Methodist Schools, Colleges, and Universities (IAMSCU), and works with regional education associations on five continents. GBHEM is currently partnering with general agencies and other organizations to support important projects on COVID-19 vaccine equity, mindfulness and wellbeing, net-zero emissions, human rights, and the promotion of a culture of generosity throughout the United Methodist worldwide connection.

In 1972 The United Methodist Church reaffirmed its support of the 11 historically black colleges and universities related to the denomination by creating the Black College Fund and this year we celebrate its 50th Anniversary. Support for the Black College Fund supports the education of world-changing leaders by investing in the hopes and dreams of students from around the world. Continued support for the Black College Fund renews the vision for the next generation of transformational leaders.

We celebrate GBHEM awarding more than 2,250 students a total of \$4,084,979 in scholarships in 2021. These future leaders range from first year freshmen to doctorate level students across the denomination. We are grateful for the support received in recognizing United Methodist Student Day, World Communion Sunday, and Native American Sunday which helps fund a portion of our scholarships. The remaining funds for these awards come from gifts, annuities, and endowments GBHEM has invested and administered for decades.

Worldwide Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (WIDEA) is a strategic focus area for GBHEM to align its work with the mission and ministry of congregations and constituents

around the world. This renewed commitment includes advanced staff development in intercultural competency, active listening, and a deeper understanding of and appreciation for difference so relevant programs and services may be developed, offered, and implemented more equitably and effectively.

GBHEM remains committed to building and sustaining collaborative cross-conference networks that foster collegiality and guide credentialing for ordained and licensed ministry. We have partnered with conference leaders to clarify the role of those in ministry while assisting in the interpretation and application of relevant paragraphs within *The Book of Discipline*. We have supported the work of recruiting, guiding, and credentialing candidates and clergy through the development of Passage - a comprehensive registry resource - as well as a virtual onboarding module for new district and conference board members.

Hundreds of years before amazon.com, John Wesley stuffed the saddlebags of circuit riders with books of theology and biblical interpretation—selling them to fund the movement while spreading it literally. GBHEM continues this innovative spirit by leveraging social enterprise opportunities and creative partnerships as a way of reducing its reliance on apportionments while continuing to focus on delivering the very best services, products, and programs to United Methodist constituents around the world.

The same spirit of service and leadership that first inspired John Wesley lives on in each of us. Today, GBHEM looks confidently to the future taking bold and creative action, remaining good stewards, and continuing to support The United Methodist Church in innovative and meaningful ways.

Greg Bergquist, General Secretary




Bishop Steiner Ball and Bishop Matthew Riegel (West Virginia – Western Maryland Synod of The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) celebrated the Eucharist.



Boston University School of Theology

Boston University School of Theology

I am profoundly grateful for your partnership, prayers, and support in these challenging times. A year like 2021 makes even more relevant BUSTH's historic and ongoing commitments to peace and justice in cultivating transformational leaders. We remain hopeful and vigilant in our continued partnership with you.

BREAKING NEWS:

Return to Campus: Faculty, administrators, and library returned to in-person instruction and work in Fall 2021, with many events reaching hybrid audiences. Strict COVID-19 precautions continue to ensure the safety of students, faculty, and administrators.

- **Students:** Our Fall 2021 entering class was among our most diverse, with 108 new students enrolling in September.
- **Faculty:** In September we celebrated the appointment of [Cristian De La Rosa](#) as Associate Dean for Students and Community Life. Prof. [Shelly Rambo](#) leads the Lilly-funded project on “Trauma-Responsive Congregations,” and two faculty members—Profs. [Dana Robert](#) and [Wesley Wildman](#)—were each honored with festschrifts. Prof. [Jonathan Calvillo](#)'s book *The Saints of Santa Ana* received the HTI Book Award, and Prof. [Choi Hee An](#) published *A Postcolonial Leadership*. BUSTH is conducting two faculty searches with anticipation of welcoming new faculty in the fall.
- **Launch of a New Online Degree:** BUSTH's first fully online master's degree—the Master of Religion and Public Leadership (MARPL)—is currently enrolling students for its first cohort in fall 2022. MARPL seeks students who wish to be prepared for leadership roles that creatively engage the challenges of public life.
- **Peale Foundation Grant:** Prof. [Steven Sandage](#) and his research team were awarded a \$2.19 million, five-year grant by the Norman Vincent Peale Foundation for a project that fosters a network of communities for relational care and support to spiritual leaders and therapists to offer resources to reduce trauma risk and vocational burnout and foster flourishing.
- **Scholarships:** We continue to offer free tuition to UMC-registered candidates for ordained ministry and leadership fellowships that support students in ethnic, gender, and sexuality studies. New funds include the Sacred Worth Scholarship Fund and the Dean Thurman & Bishop Easterling Fellowship Fund.
- **Online Lifelong Learning:** BUSTH offers online workshops for professional and spiritual enrichment of religious leaders. Recent workshops include “Practices of Grief in a Time of Pandemic” and “Reflecting with Howard Thurman.” To learn more, visit bu.edu/sth/oll.
- **Development:** Recent accomplishments include endowing the Center for Global Christianity and Mission upon its 20th anniversary and new funding for student scholarships and academic programs.

COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE and COMPASSION:

- BUSTH's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion offers webinars on timely inclusion efforts, such as "Increasing Participation of Students of Underrepresented Backgrounds."
- The 2021-22 Lowell Lectures are dedicated to cross-advocacy and intersectionality in racial justice efforts. This fall, Dr. Kwok Pui Lan advocated for broader understandings of political theology and greater awareness of anti-Asian sentiment and violence. A diverse panel response fostered rich conversation.
- Work continues to improve accessibility, sustainability, and responsible investing. BUSTH is the first certified Green School at BU and active in the Green Seminary Initiative.

With faith and gratitude,
G. Sujin Pak, Dean

Candler School of Theology

Since 1914, **Candler School of Theology at Emory University** has lived into our mission, educating faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries throughout the world. This year, as we leaned into this critical work and continued to adapt to a world changed by the coronavirus pandemic, we imagined new possibilities for students who are called by God to pursue serious theological study and preparation for ministry. For some, opening avenues to graduate theological education requires moving financial obstacles, and for others, geography or family responsibilities may be the barriers. Candler is committed to assisting students in removing these barriers and opening new pathways to ministry.

An official seminary of The United Methodist Church, Candler holds true to the Methodist value of ecumenical openness, enthusiastically welcoming students from 43 denominations, with 45% of MDiv students coming from the Wesleyan tradition. Our student body reflects the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 466 from 16 countries and 38 states, 45% persons of color (U.S.), and a median age of 28 among MDivs. This diversity is a blessing, enriching our students and our larger community and providing a "learning laboratory" for ministry in the 21st century—ministry that reaches across difference, works to resolve injustice, and embodies Christ's love in and among us.

Candler offers six single degrees (MDiv, MTS, MRL, MRPL, ThM, DMin) and ten dual degrees. Our DMin is 90% online, so students can remain in their places of ministry while earning their degrees. Its high 87% completion rate illustrates both the quality of our students and Candler's commitment to their success. This year, we increased online

offerings in other degrees as well. Now students can complete the Master of Religion and Public Life completely online; the Master of Religious Leadership with concentrations in Youth Ministry, Justice, Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation, or Wesleyan Leadership and Heritage in a hybrid format; and MDiv students can complete core classes online. Plus, our new Remote Teaching Parish (RTP) program allows MDiv students who have jobs in ecclesial settings far from our Atlanta campus to take core classes online and complete their contextual education requirements at their place of ministry, participating in mentor-led online groups with other RTP students.

Alleviating student debt through generous financial aid is a top priority. In 2020-2021, we awarded more than \$6.8 million in financial aid, with 100% of MDiv and 98.5% of all students receiving support. All MDiv students who are certified candidates for ordained ministry in the UMC receive full-tuition scholarships, and all MDiv, MTS, MRL, and ThM students who are enrolled part-time or more receive a scholarship covering at least 50% of tuition for the length of their program.

Hundreds of laity and theology students alike have joined in classes and events offered through The Candler Foundry, our innovative program to make theological education accessible to all. Through short and semester-length courses taught by Candler faculty, videos, and discussion guides to spark conversation in groups or one-on-one, and online panel discussions, those who want to delve more deeply into theology and the Bible have the chance to do just that. View the latest offerings at candlerfoundry.emory.edu.

Associate Dean of Methodist Studies the Rev. Dr. Anne Burkholder will retire from Candler at the end of the 2021-22 academic year. We are grateful to God for her energetic and skillful leadership in this vital area as she strengthened the connection between our students and conferences throughout the UMC, mentoring them as they discerned their call and navigated the ordination process.

Candler's ability to fulfill our mission to provide the church with the faithful and creative leaders it needs depends upon your prayers, partnership, and support. Thank you for the countless ways you advance this essential ministry in the life of our denomination. We invite you to visit us online at candler.emory.edu.

Jan Love

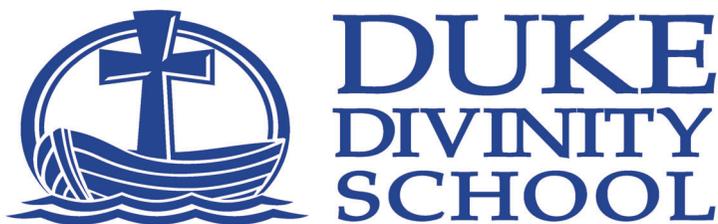
*Mary Lee Hardin Willard Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics
Candler School of Theology, Emory University*

Drew University Theological School
Melanie Johnson-DeBaufre, Interim Dean

In spring and fall of 2021, Drew Theological School began returning to its Madison, New Jersey, campus for some classes, meetings, and worship. As with many churches, in person events were held in spaces equipped for live-streaming or Zoom participation. The shift to remote learning during COVID-19 pandemic thus significantly expanded our online course offerings and accessible community events. Now, a number of students in Drew's masters' programs will progress through their programs in U.S. and global locations far from New Jersey. This year, we welcomed 150 new students, again the largest class in a decade, and have a current enrollment of 376 students.

Drew cultivates pastors, preachers, deacons, activists, teachers, and thought leaders who are taking their place as the next generation of faith leaders and change agents. Diversity is a hallmark of our student body, including theological, vocational, age, and especially racial and national diversity both international (Asian, African, and South American and U.S.), black, white, Latinx, and Asian American students. Our student body is truly global, with 35% of students from 21 different countries. For the first time in its history, Drew has an African student association, initiated by Drew Theological School students from 14 African countries, that is already contributing richly to the Drew community both on campus and online. We have welcomed new faculty in Latinx ministries and world Christianity. We have also seen an increase in United Methodist students particularly interested in the school's Gospel-inspired traditions of social justice advocacy and widely inclusive ministry. We are proud that many United Methodist Global Fellows have recently chosen to continue their journey in ministry at Drew. Our UMC graduates are serving in Greater New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, and New York conferences as well as conferences across the country.

The faculty is committed to continuing to develop the curriculum in ways that take seriously the wide range of lived experience and calls to ministry of the students that gather in our global classrooms. All degree programs at the Theological School include interdisciplinary courses that demand out-of-the-box thinking, apprenticeship training that addresses real-world issues, and modes of learning that promote adaptability and innovation. Our MDiv and MATM degrees include a required gateway year, vocational pathways, and experiential learning that develops and deepens adaptive leadership skills. The curriculum features a team-designed and taught interdisciplinary sequence of core courses reflecting the integration of the theological disciplines and practices characteristic of the life of faith. The faculty have also articulated shared values that are infused across the teaching and learning at Drew: a commitment to anti-racism; gender and sexual-identity equality; eco-sustainability and environmental justice; and interfaith understanding and cooperation.



Edgardo Colón-Emeric, the Irene and William McCutchen Associate Professor of Theology and Reconciliation and Director of the Center for Reconciliation, began his two-year term as the Dean of Duke Divinity School on July 1. Colón-Emeric earned both his M.Div. and Ph.D. from Duke and has been a member of the faculty since 2008. He has served as the director for the Hispanic House of Studies and as the director for the Center for Reconciliation (CFR). An ordained elder in the North Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, he directs the Central American Methodist Course of Study and the Peru Theological Initiative and serves on the United Methodist Committee on Faith and Order and on both national and international Methodist-Catholic dialogues. Recognizing that he is entering the dean's office at a pivotal time for the school, Colón-Emeric stated his commitment to keep the Divinity School heading in a life-giving direction: "The world needs the church, and the church needs the theologically grounded, intellectually vibrant, and socially innovative pastors and leaders that we train. From the heart of Duke University, we cultivate wisdom that is joyfully orthodox, Christ-centered, Spirit-led, and irrevocably anti-racist for the sake of the church in its mission for the life of the world." He is the first Latino dean of the school.

This year the school launched several new programs to provide support for current and future students. A new partnership with North Carolina Wesleyan College will enable qualified undergraduates to take master's level courses at Duke Divinity School (DDS) beginning in 2022. **The Duke Accelerated Pastoral Formation Program** offers select juniors and seniors the option to begin coursework toward the Hybrid M.Div. or Master of Arts in Christian Practice (M.A.) degree programs while completing their baccalaureate degree. Funded by the support of the Kern Family Foundation, the Accelerated Program will help students lower educational debt and accelerate their timeline to engage in the field of ministry. In the spring the school launched the **Asian House of Studies**, a formational community that will support Asian and Asian-American students; build a network of Asian and Asian-American students, alumni, and church leaders; and provide resources for Asian theological studies. Asian House of Studies is under the leadership of Sangwoo Kim, a consulting professor and senior director of the Methodist House of Studies, and Jung Choi, a consulting professor and senior director of Wesleyan Formation Initiatives.

Three new certificates were approved this year, and all can be earned as part of the residential M.Div., Hybrid M.Div., M.T.S., and M.A. degree programs. The **Certificate in Methodist/Wesleyan Studies** is aimed at pan-Methodist/Wesleyan students who want to engage in robust and intentional training in Wesleyan theology and spiritual practice in preparation for leadership positions in Methodist and Wesleyan organizations and

churches, such as the United Methodist Church, AME Church, AME Zion Church, and Korean Methodist Church. In the **Certificate in Latinx Studies**, students will hone skills for ministry while becoming part of a learning community that is committed to and seeks to learn from Hispanic/Latinx traditions and cultures. The **Certificate in Worship** is designed to prepare DDS students to engage in practical formation and theoretical reflection on the worship of God in Christian congregations.

In January, the school announced 12 full-tuition fellowships to support incoming residential Master of Divinity degree program students who pursue a certificate in Black Church Studies or Latinx Studies. In addition to providing full-tuition scholarships, the fellowships provide vocationally specific formation and mentoring opportunities and up to \$24,000 in stipend support and internship opportunities through the Office of Field Education. The fellowships begin in the fall of 2022.

The Office of Wesleyan Engagement announced the **“Rediscovering the Heart of Methodism”** project. This project is a missional initiative of the Divinity School with the support of the Kern Family Foundation. It seeks to nurture innovative leadership within the Wesleyan tradition as a constructive and hope-filled response to a turbulent ecclesial landscape.

Supported by a gift from the Duke Endowment, the school launched **To Heal the Wounded Soul**, a project to strengthen Wesleyan pastors in the Carolinas who are Black, Indigenous, or people of color, including from the AME, AME Zion, CME, and UMC churches. Led by the Office of Black Church Studies and the Clergy Health Initiative, To Heal the Wounded Soul will develop peer networks, support groups, and retreats to address the specific mental, emotional, and spiritual needs of this community.

This academic year DDS welcomed the largest incoming class in the school’s history, with 259 new students. Enrollment in the M.Div. degree program jumped to 133 students, up from approximately 110 students during each of the previous four years. The growth was heavily driven by the first cohort of 52 Hybrid M.Div. students. The Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) welcomed 36 students, the Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.) gained 33, and the M.A. saw 17 new students. The Master of Theology (Th.M.) enrolled 12 students, and the Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) enrolled seven new students. The Certificate in Theology and Health Care welcomed five residential students and a large first cohort of 14 students in the hybrid program. Across all degree programs at the Divinity School, 32 percent of the incoming class identified as a race or ethnicity other than white. Black students made up 18 percent of all students; Latinx students, six percent; Asian students, two percent; and American Indian students, two percent. Women made up 47 percent of incoming students across all programs.

Three new faculty members joined the faculty in 2021. **Polly Ha** is an Associate Professor of the History of Christianity whose work focuses on the history of Christianity and the construction of diverse confessional and ecclesiastical traditions in the Reformation and post-Reformation world. **Ronald K. Rittgers** is the Chair in Lutheran Studies and Professor of the History of Christianity, and his research interests include the religious, intellectual, social, and cultural history of medieval and early modern/Reformation Europe, focusing

especially on the history of theology and devotion. **Daniel Castelo**, William Kellon Quick Professor of Theology and Methodist Studies, taught intensive Wesleyan theology courses in Mexico, Honduras, and Brazil, and then took a teaching post at a Mexican seminary for three years. He has been an active participant in the Central American Methodist Course of Study program and recently has served as a doctoral mentor for the Hispanic Theological Initiative.

We remain deeply grateful for the relationships among The United Methodist Church, this Annual Conference, and DDS. We look forward to working with you in the task of preparing men and women for Christian ministry. To learn more about DDS, please visit our website at www.divinity.duke.edu.

Respectfully submitted by Edgardo Colón-Emeric
Dean of Duke Divinity School

Gammon Theological Seminary

Gammon Theological Seminary, located in Atlanta, GA, is the Interdenominational Theological Center's United Methodist constituent member. The Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) is a Christian Africentric ecumenical consortium of seminaries and fellowships that educate students to commit to practicing justice and peace through a liberating and transforming spirituality to become leaders in the church and local/global communities.

Gammon was founded in 1883 by The Methodist Episcopal Church, with assistance from the Freedman's Aid Society. Today, Gammon Theological Seminary is the only predominately Black seminary of the thirteen approved United Methodist-related theological institutions. The faculty and administration of Gammon at the ITC create an environment in which critical thinking, investigative reflection, decision making, and responsible action happen. The ITC's accreditation is with the Association of Theological Schools and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Gammon/ITC offers the following degree programs: the Master of Divinity, the Master of Arts in Religion and Education, and the Doctor of Ministry. Admission is open to qualified men and women. The support given to the United Methodist Ministerial Education Fund by United Methodist Conferences continues to enable Gammon students to be grounded in the Wesleyan tradition of theological education. The Gammon Board of Trustees elected our 17th President/Dean, Rev. Dr. Candace M Lewis, and she is the first woman to lead the Seminary in our 138-year history. Dr. Lewis began her tenure on April 1, 2021.

Our new initiatives and celebrations this year at Gammon include:

- **The Rev. Geraldine Williams-McClellan \$100,000.00 Endowment Fund launched** with Bishop Kenneth Carter and Florida Annual Conference.
- **Commissioned our First Gammon Seminary National Research Project** focused on COVID-19's impact on Black United Methodist Clergy,

Laity and Congregations – partnership w SBC21, BMCR, BCW, Discipleship Ministries & Convocation Pastors Black UMC. Please visit our website at www.gammon-itc.org for the findings.

- **Hosted a Virtual Church Leadership Training Event, “Navigating Next,”** in January 2022 to equip leaders for effective ministry 2022 with over 700 registered attendees.
- **Gammon student participates in the 2021 – 2022 Ecumenical Institute at Bossey** – Mr. Tavis Tinsley, a Gammon Senior, was invited by the United Methodist Council of Bishops (COB) the World Council of Churches. He completed the “Complementary Certificate in Ecumenical Studies” through the University of Geneva in Switzerland.
- **Celebrated our 138th Anniversary** and Founder’s Day.

The greatest challenge facing Gammon Seminary is the rising cost of theological education and the significant amount of debt our students are incurring as they answer their call to full-time ministry. Therefore, Gammon is committed to raising a million dollars in the next two years to offer full-tuition scholarships to students who are called and committed to full-time ministry in the United Methodist Church.

We are grateful to the West Virginia Annual Conference for your support of theological education and your commitment to ensuring pastoral leadership is theologically trained to lead us forward in the Wesleyan tradition.

Rev. Dr. Candace M. Lewis, President-Dean

Methodist Theological School in Ohio

www.mtso.edu

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

With \$1 million grant, MTSO supports existing religious leaders and helps form new ones

MTSO has received a five-year grant of \$999,665 to establish “Connecting Pathways: A Multi-Faceted Approach to Strengthen and Sustain Current and Future Faith Leaders.” The project is being funded through Lilly Endowment Inc.’s Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative.

The project utilizes MTSO’s distinct strengths in two distinct parts. Part One, “Connecting Pathways: Congregations and Other Ministry Partners,” supports existing religious leaders, focusing on anti-racism training and resourcing. Working with partner organizations, MTSO helps faith leaders to assess land use and church food programs to assist in building community engagement. Part Two, “Connecting Pathways: Vocational Exploration Intensive for Young Adults,” invites young adults to imagine the possibilities for lifelong faith, offering experiential learning, theological reflection, worship, and relationships

with healthy community leaders and vibrant faith communities. It introduces the “whys” and “hows” of ministry, connecting participants with faith leaders, including some of those involved in Part One of the project.

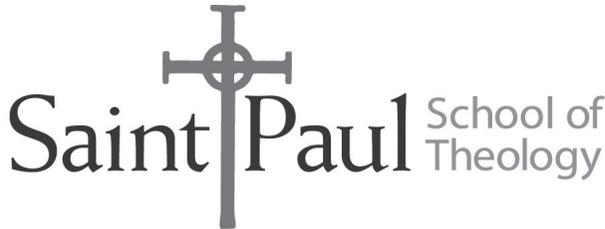
New initiative enhances scientific literacy for seminarians

MTSO has a longstanding commitment to preparing religious leaders who are conversant in and respectful of science. An important part of that effort is “Questioning Science with Good Faith: Shifting the Engagement of Science in Seminaries,” a project that integrates science into church history and theological studies curricula while also contributing to the public discourse on intersection of science and religion. The project is made possible by a \$75,000 grant from the American Association for the Advancement of Science Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion program. The grant is funded by the John Templeton Foundation. In September 2021, MTSO offered an online, multi-professional conversation, “Pastors, Pandemics and Public Health: Building Collaborative Responses to COVID-19.”

Full-tuition scholarships extended to those pursuing United Methodist candidacy

MTSO and the school’s donors pledged to extend a full-tuition pledge to all prospective students who are pursuing United Methodist elder or deacon candidacy. The MTSO admissions staff is happy to answer questions about this initiative at 800-333-6876 or admissions@mtso.edu.

Respectfully submitted,
Danny Russell, Director of Communications



Educating tomorrow’s leaders by offering on-campus, online, and hybrid learning courses at a FLEXible schedule, Saint Paul School of Theology is a seminary of the United Methodist Church committed to the formation of people for innovative, creative ministry. Grounded in the academic study of faith and ministry, theology is practiced in a traditional classroom and a contextual curriculum.

As the global pandemic continues to bring challenges to our daily lives, Saint Paul School of Theology began the 2021-2022 academic year, again offering students an option to attend courses via Zoom or on-campus while maintaining safety protocols. Our weekly

chapel service continues to be available online, allowing staff and students to come together as one institution where all are invited to create a sacred atmosphere from wherever they are. In addition to faculty and staff serving as chapel speakers, we were blessed to have alumni and special guest speakers Rev. Winter Hamilton of Manchester UMC, Rev. Delesslyn Kennebrew, Rev. Dr. Carol Cook Moore, and more. Chapel recordings are available on the Saint Paul YouTube channel for those who cannot join live.

Saint Paul staff and faculty continue to contribute to the academy, church, and society. This year, we have had many faculty and staff changes. After many years of tremendous service to students and the Seminary, Dr. James Brandt and Dr. Hal Knight announced retirement plans effective at the end of the 2021-2022 academic year. In addition, Dr. Jeanne Hoeft will step down from her role as Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean at the end of the academic year but will continue as faculty. New additions to the Seminary family include Dr. Joshua Bartholomew, Assistant Professor of Ethics, Church and Society; Dr. Tiffany Nagel Monroe, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Campus; and Rabbi Michael Zedek, Rabbi-in-Residence.

The faculty of Saint Paul School of Theology maintains high standards of scholarship, research, publication, and engagement. Over the past year, their many activities and publications have been so numerous that space permits only the sharing of selected highlights.

- Dr. Nancy Howell, Professor of Theology and Philosophy of Religion and Oubri A. Poppele Professor of Health and Welfare Ministries, was re-elected to a second term on the Executive Committee of the International Society for Science and Religion. She also had an article published in a South African journal. With more than a decade of service, she serves on the Broader Social Impacts Committee of the National Museum of Natural History at the Smithsonian.
- Dr. Casey Sigmon, Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship and Director of Contextual Education, was invited to be a writer for “Lent Another Way,” an e-course, with The Plural Guild and The Many, and she offered the convocation address for Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in Fall 2021. She also applied for and received a grant from the Wabash Center for Teaching to support my project entitled: “Resisting the Plagiarized Pulpit: Helping Students and the Professor to Find trust their voice through Artistic Instructional Design.”
- This January, Dr. Joshua Bartholomew, Assistant Professor of Ethics, Church and Society, was the guest speaker at a Kansas City event, “Black Theology and the Black Panthers: A Conversation with Dr. Joshua Bartholomew.” In addition, he was recently interviewed by Climate Central for the article “ ‘A moral imperative’: Monastic sisters in rural Midwest make faith-based case for climate action.”

Saint Paul welcomed 45 new students for the 2021-2022 academic year. New student enrollment for the Fall semester increased by 44% (34 new students), with an overall increase for the year of 73%. With the COVID-19 pandemic still in our midst, prospective students previewed the Saint Paul community and curriculum via online visits. Students

joined in community worship, attended classes, and participated in online discussions with current students to discern if Saint Paul was indeed their choice for theological education. Enrollment remained strong for the Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree program with promising growth in our newly designed Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS) and Master of Arts in Christian Ministry (MACM) programs.

In September, Saint Paul held the 2021 Harrington Lecture online featuring Dr. Eboo Patel. His lecture, “We Need to Build: Field Notes for Diverse Democracy,” expanded knowledge and built skills, helping people become the kind of leaders our diverse democracy needs. In the Spring Semester, Saint Paul Evangelical Society, led by Dr. Hal Knight, hosted a forum given by Dr. Amos Yong, Professor of Theology and Mission, and Dean of the School of Mission and Theology at Fuller Theological Seminary, on “The Holy Spirit and People of other Faiths: Relational Christian Witness in the 2020s.” Later in the semester, the Evangelical Society hosted a lecture featuring Dr. Joy Moore, Professor of Biblical Preaching and Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Academic Dean at Luther Seminary. And for the first time, on May 13, Saint Paul held a hybrid commencement celebration via Zoom, allowing graduates to come together from both the Kansas and Oklahoma Campuses with attendees viewing from around the country. We honored the 2022 Distinguished Graduate Award Winner and Commencement Speaker Dr. Stan Copeland during the ceremony.

For the 2021-2022 fiscal year, Saint Paul Course of Study (COS) School educated 228 individual students, 49 of which were new students, with approximately 550 registrations and offering a total of 50 courses. Serving 32 Conferences, including 94 Districts, 121 Full Time and 106 Part-Time Licensed Local Pastors comprised these registrations. Saint Paul Course of Study School welcomed new Regional Director Dr. Lucas Endicott. Dr. Endicott has been serving as Associate Director for the Office of Mission, Service, and Justice at the Missouri Annual Conference and lecturing at Central Methodist University. Due to the continuing pandemic, the school has continued its course offerings in both asynchronous and synchronous online formats. Utilizing this online format, we reached students in 24 states. Plans include an increase in the number of hybrid course offerings. This fiscal year has also ushered in the new ability of online registration completed by the student and access to their student account through Populi as used by Seminary students. All our students share the same benefits by integrating Course of Study School into Populi, making them a more integrated part of the Saint Paul experience.

Saint Paul Board of Trustees added two new members to their ranks: Ms. Debra “Debbie” Buzard, Director of Outreach Ministry at First United Methodist Church of Kearney; and Rev. Martin “Tino” Herrera, Congregational Care Pastor at UM Church of the Resurrection. Through a Board initiative related to diversity and inclusion, the Saint Paul Board of Trustees has devoted a significant portion of the last year’s meetings to church leaders with experience and expertise in creating more diverse and inclusive communities and organizations. Aiding Saint Paul’s trustees in better understanding these issues, the Board hosted the Rev. Dr. Benjamin Boswell in April 2021. Dr. Boswell, Senior Pastor of Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, described the anti-racism work he has led in that community. The City of Charlotte awarded Dr. Boswell its Martin Luther King,

Jr. Medallion for his work. In July 2021, Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II of Kansas City shared his perspective on the racial and social justice issues confronting our nation and the efforts he and his colleagues in the House of Representatives hope to undertake in response. With the Board's assistance, led by Board Chair Rev. Dr. Tex Sample, the seminary focuses on its mission. Our trustees continuously enhance and evaluate the strategic plans to guide us into the future.

As we have happily reported in years past, Saint Paul is financially sound and operates with a balanced budget. These last years' changes have established a solid financial foundation for years of sustainability. As always, we continue to be grateful for donations from the community that provide technology, scholarships, and evolving academic programs to students. Our significant investments in technology have allowed us to maintain a hybrid educational delivery model providing a safe learning environment during the continuing pandemic.

Our aim has always been to utilize technology as a conduit to bring faculty and students together regardless of whether they are on-campus or joining remotely through Zoom. We took a hard look at the distance learning landscape during the pandemic to see how we could substantially enhance the classroom experience. After significant testing, we opted to replace our distance-learning classroom technology with Neat's offerings, including technology still in development. All our classrooms began upgrades in Fall 2021 with offerings from Neat. Each smaller classroom added a 65" neat.board, a self-contained screen that functions as a full Zoom room, as well as an electronic whiteboard. Anything written or drawn on these boards is transmitted through Zoom to the screens in the classroom and remote Zoom participants. This content can also be saved and emailed to all participants. We implemented neat.bars in other classrooms that connect to our classrooms' existing screens. We are currently implementing neat.bar pros, just released at the end of 2021, in each of our large classrooms. At Saint Paul School of Theology, we have always tried to be pioneers with distance-learning technologies. We are very early in the lifecycle of this stimulating and groundbreaking technology. We are thrilled to partner with Neat and Zoom in revolutionizing the classroom experience.

Saint Paul School of Theology is blessed to be your partner in ministry and help those seeking to discover more and answer the call. We are grateful for your support of our students and our seminary. May we continue to live into the call of Jesus Christ to be faithful witnesses for healing in these unsettled times and for generations to come.

President Neil Blair, Saint Paul trustees, faculty, staff, alumni, and students thank you for your prayers and support.

Where Theology Meets Life

United Theological Seminary

Dayton, OH

For the past 150 years, United Theological Seminary has educated men and women for Christian ministry within the historic traditions of the United Brethren, Evangelical United Brethren and United Methodist churches. On October 11, 1871, United Theological Seminary, then Union Biblical Seminary, held its first classes in Dayton, Ohio. From a starting class of 11 students, the seminary has grown to 488 students in its most recent academic year,* representing 39 denominations, 11 countries, and 39 states. Today's seminary serves a diverse student body that is 53% African American.**

On October 10, 2021, the seminary celebrated its 150th anniversary and burned the mortgage on its current campus facilities, freeing up \$400,000 annually to support student scholarships.

In 2021, United received a grant of \$1 million from Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative to expand the seminary's Houses of Study, which offer specialized master's tracks to equip students for the unique ministry needs of the communities, movements and denominations they serve. The seminary has introduced six **Houses of Study**, currently enrolling for 2022-23:

- Fresh Expressions, directed by Dr. Michael Beck;
- Mosaix, in partnership with Mosaix Global Network and directed by Rev. Chip Freed;
- Hispanic, 100% in Spanish for Spanish-speaking leaders, directed by Dr. Jorge Ochoa;
- Black United Methodist, directed by Dr. Vance Ross;
- Global Pentecostal, directed by Dr. Mark Chironna;
- Global Wesleyan, directed by Rev. Gregory Stover.

Because United believes so passionately in this initiative, the seminary has dedicated additional resources to offer half-tuition scholarships for inaugural students in its Houses of Study programs.

United also introduced the **Academic Dean's Scholarship**, which provides 50% tuition for the duration of a master's degree program, and the **Presidential Scholarship**, awarding up to \$5,000 per year to new students.

In honor of United's 150th anniversary year, a generous donor gifted \$2 million to help graduating students reduce their educational debt. Each graduate in the 2021-22 academic year will receive up to \$20,000 toward student debt from theological and previous academic studies.

As United looks forward to the next 150 years with gratitude and anticipation, the seminary remains committed to the preparation of faithful and fruitful Christian leaders to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Dr. Kent Millard, President

* *Student data represent 2020-2021 headcount enrollment.*

** *Figure represents those who responded.*



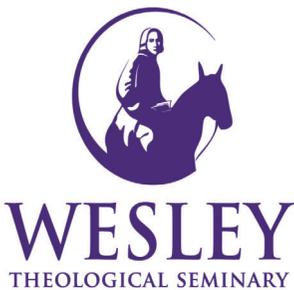
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Wesley Theological Seminary



Some days, it seems that we, and the religious, civic, and educational institutions we love, stand peering into the fog of an unknown future as questions resound: What does our collective future look like, and who will lead it? In the midst of these questions, Wesley remains committed to supporting pastors and churches and to preparing graduates to lead innovative ministries grounded in God's mercy and justice. We stand ready to accompany you on the path to which God is calling you.

Creating new models of education that respond to students' needs

Building on Wesley's strengths and responding to student needs, Wesley is pleased to announce two pathways for master's level students beginning in Fall 2022. For students who reside on or near campus, classes will continue to be offered **each week on campus** during daytime and evening periods. For students needing to remain in their own contexts, Wesley will offer a hybrid pathway

that invites students to campus for a **one-week intensive immersion** each semester, with the remaining coursework being held online. Learn more about how you can be part of the Wesley community and the Washington, DC experience through these pathways at <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/mdiv/>

These course pathways also support our FlexMA, a degree program built to provide robust learning and theological formation for busy individuals that integrate faith, life, and professional experience with the flexibility needed to customize content and accommodate hectic schedules. Whether preparing for bi-vocational ministry in congregational and institutional settings, going deeper in one's own spiritual journey, or integrating faith and theology into an existing career or "third career" post-retirement, wherever God is calling, the FlexMA will help you prepare to respond fully. Learn more at <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/flexma/>.

Research projects support congregational community engagement and envision future ministry

Four grants from the Lilly Endowment Inc, totaling \$5.25 million, undergird Wesley's research into and support of congregational thriving and innovation.

- A new five-year project through the Wesley Innovation Hub will have two main foci: a one-year Design Fellowship to equip young adult leaders and the Wesley Design Lab, featuring both in-person and online curricula, training, and other resources for congregational innovation. Young adults ages 23-29 years are invited to apply for the Design Fellowship, which will provide an \$8,000 stipend, community formation, spiritual direction, graduate-level courses in design thinking for ministry and hands-on experience leading innovation in congregations. Wesley will also be seeking creative persons of faith to be "Innovators in Residence" at Wesley and partner churches who have interesting challenges or opportunities for young adult ministry. To learn more: <https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/wesley-innovation-hub/>
- A second new grant will undergird Wesley's move toward comprehensive theological education for the whole church. Wesley will strengthen its existing excellent master's and doctoral programs while also expanding a suite of pre-degree, post-degree (continuing education), and non-degree courses to meet the current and emerging needs of spiritual leaders in their context.
- Now in its second year of The Source Collaborative, Wesley continues to work with congregations in adjacent UMC annual conferences to identify markers of thriving and pursue them. Congregations and coaches interested in joining the 2023 cohort should apply by Sept. 1, 2022, via innovation@wesleyseminary.edu.
- The **Religious Workforce Project**, run by the Lewis Center for Church Leadership, studies religious work in congregations across several denominations to understand current and future needs. Learn about emerging data at <https://religiousworkforce.com/>.

Using research and partnerships to reach and equip the next generation of ministers

Wesley is ready to work with you as we make theological education more accessible and relevant to the realities of ministry today. Wesley offers an 81-hour Master of

Divinity, a 36-hour Master of Arts, and a 60-hour Master of Theological Studies, any of which can be focused on specializations in public theology, urban ministry, arts and theology, missional church, children and youth ministry and advocacy, or African American church leadership. Courses are available in person, online, and in intensive hybrid formats.

Info at www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/try-a-class-3

Wesley provides \$2 million annually in scholarships via regular merit awards, ranging from 25% to 100% tuition with stipends, including **full-tuition scholarships** for qualified applicants recommended by WTS alumni, campus ministers, or Christian service ministries; **Next Call in Ministry scholarships** for students working in a non-ministry setting for at least 10 years; and **Generación Latinx Scholarships** for emerging Latinx leaders for ministries within and beyond the church.

Take your ministry to the next level

The **Certificate for Children and Youth Ministry and Advocacy (CYMA)** is a **non-residential certificate completed in 12 - 15 months** via online classes and up to two residential sessions (www.wesleyseminary.edu/admissions/cyma-3).

The **Certificate in Faith and Public Life explores the foundations of public theology, religious freedom, and civil discourse** (www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/public-life/).

Wesley's premiere **Doctor of Ministry programs** includes three new 2022 tracks: Ministry in a Digital Age; Justice, Compassion, and Witness in a Turbulent World (Cambridge, UK); and a program focused on Latinx ministry. In 2023, we will again see popular DMin tracks: the Cambridge UK track, Military and CPE Chaplains, Global Church Leadership program, Church Leadership Excellence and a ground-breaking track on Trauma.

Visit www.wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/.

Enrich your congregational outreach and explore new dimensions of ministry

The **Lewis Center for Church Leadership** conducts leading edge research for the local church. The Lewis Center's **Leading Ideas e-newsletter** and Leading Ideas Talk podcast is the go-to source for over 20,000 people in ministry each week. Subscribe at www.churchleadership.com.

The **Community Engagement Institute** embraces a vibrant vision to be the premier center for churches and faith-based organization engaging their communities. The innovative online **Health Minister Certificate Program prepares congregations for public health work in their parishes.**

Contact: Dr. Tom Pruski, tpruski@wesleyseminary.edu.

The **Center for Public Theology** equips pastors, seminarians, people of faith, and the media to create spaces for civil dialogue at the intersection of religion and politics.

Visit <http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/>.

The Henry Luce III Center for the Arts and Religion works with students, religious communities, artists, and scholars exploring the intersection of the arts and theology. Visit www.luceartsandreligion.org.

Stay connected

Contact us at (202) 885-8659 or admissions@wesleyseminary.edu and join the Wesley Community online via www.facebook.com/wesleyseminary, on Instagram @wesleyseminary, on Twitter @WesTheoSem , or sign up for our electronic newsletter.

The Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson
President, Wesley Theological Seminary



After meeting remotely for two years, Annual Conference provided a chance to renew fellowship with conference members