

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

### Archives

Rev. Jay Bunting, Chairperson

As I was looking over a historic postcard of one of the churches of the conference, which was dated 1907, I realized that the church had been built only 5 years before the photo was taken. Then I read the correspondence, "This is our church and parsonage. We hope our pastor likes it." It continued further, stating, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." How many of us have ever thought of our historic buildings and their upkeep as our gift to not only to the pastor serving but our gift to the community? Do we take pride in our history and preserve it or do we allow it to become dilapidated and run down? Our church appearance, both inside and out, is a powerful witness to the community. Our good news is often silenced by our lack of concern for the place we worship which is integrally tied to the communities in which we live. Sadly, many of us have lost our pride in the history of our houses of worship because we don't view them as a part of the community or a part of our family life any longer. Scripture tells us that as Christians we are to be the Temples of the Holy Spirit. With that in mind, we should also view our houses of worship as sacred and as part of our heritage that must be preserved.

As we move into this new conference year to Proclaim Peace and Bring Good News, let us remember the witness of our history. I invite you to investigate your church history and create historical records with photos and letters so that future generations can recall the rich heritage from which they came.

### Cabinet Report

Rev. Amy Shanholtzer  
Dean of the Cabinet

*And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.* Hebrews 10: 24-25

God continues to provide our Cabinet with a mix of gifts to lead and guide us toward the mission of discovering, developing, and deploying passionate spiritual leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. I am grateful for those gifts that are freely offered by each person for the work of the Cabinet and the Conference.

We began this conference year with seven Conference Superintendents, covering seven districts, following the decision of the Annual Conference in 2022. Organizing District Conferences were held in each new district. New leaders were named to begin their terms in 2023. There has been great creativity and energy brought to this work by laity and clergy alike. We are grateful that this transition has moved forward to allow us to be better stewards of Conference resources.

We are excited to be part of our Conference-wide initiative for New Places New People. Each district is hosting one learning opportunity next year so folks can learn more. We are grateful to Ken Willard and Joe Webb for their leadership and resourcing as we encourage one another in finding fresh ways to share the gospel in new places. We all want to hear more and learn from one another as we reach out to share God's love.

Following Jurisdictional Conference in November, we celebrated the reassignment of Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball to West Virginia. She continues in her dual role of serving our conference and the Susquehanna Conference alongside Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi. We all benefit from cross-conference resourcing and partnership. In January, we continued valuable relationship building with the Cabinets of the other two conferences when we met in a retreat setting in Charleston at John XXIII.

Melissa Shortridge has been a valuable addition to the team in the role of Conference Property Assistant. Her willingness to work with us in semi-retirement has been important as we share with our churches the best information that we have regarding church property. This has become important as our churches emerge from COVID and assess their viability, as well as offering information about the United Methodist Church and property matters.

Our District Lead Teams continue playing an enormous role in helping us connect in our newly configured districts. Each one has its own way of living out our Conference mission and is always looking for new things to try to bring greater impact to the districts. All the District Lead Teams will be meeting together later in June to network and learn together. We look forward to this time together.

We are grateful for a growing partnership with our Board of Ordained Ministry as we seek to do the work of deploying the leaders that they are helping to discover and develop. We are growing in our understanding of the systems and resources that we both need to do our work well. As we consider ways to invite new leaders into this work, this is a key focus for us. Bonnie MacDonald is a valuable resource to us in this effort as well.

Our partnership with lay leadership is key in making this happen. We're grateful for the work that Kristi Wilkerson and Kim Matthews bring to the conference-wide lay ministry effort and hope to continue to align our work so that it might flourish. It is a beautiful thing to see the friendships and ideas that emerge from Lay Servant courses in person and via zoom. We do hope that many more laity will take advantage of those opportunities.

I am grateful for the supportive community of our Coordinating Cabinet as we continue to do the work together – for the joys we celebrate together and the support during difficult days. It is a grace-filled, learning community that is centered on the love of God in Christ.

**Christian Unity**  
Rev. Jonathan Moon Chair

Greetings to the West Virginia Annual Conference. It is my joy to share with you again the work of the Christian Unity Board and its support of community ministry and inter-denominational relationships. Each year our budget goes toward supporting the West Virginia Council of Churches and the LARCUM Conference (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic, and United Methodist). This year our LARCUM conference was centered around the theological “WHY?” of Evangelism as we listened to presenters from each denomination. The United Methodist Representative was Rev. Dr. Heather Lear from The Foundation for Evangelism who along with the other speakers provided fertile ground for understanding and entering into dialogue with our sister Christian expressions. We hope you will join us next spring for the next LARCUM conference, where we seek to grow in academic, theological, and relational understanding of each other.

I also wanted to share with you the report from the West Virginia Council of Churches director on the ministry that has been completed in the past year.

**West Virginia Council of Churches Annual Report  
to the  
West Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church  
February 6, 2023  
Rev. Jeff Allen, Executive Director**

Greetings from the West Virginia Council of Churches! Although the COVID pandemic was still very much in force last year, the West Virginia Council of Churches weathered the storm well and we were able to achieve some major accomplishments over the past year.

One of the Council’s major accomplishments last year was the addition of the Charleston Black Ministerial Alliance as an Associate Member of the Council. Membership on the Council by the Charleston Black Ministerial Association will help with the Council’s efforts to address racism in West Virginia.

The work of the Dismantling Racism Task Force has also been important in the life of the West Virginia Council of Churches. The Task Force met with the Council’s Executive Committee and led the 2022 Board Retreat. In 2023, the Dismantling Racism Task Force ministry will focus on bringing the National Memorial for Peace and Justice duplicate West Virginia memorial to lynching victims to West Virginia, hopefully to be placed on the West Virginia Capitol grounds.

The Council addressed the issue of COVID-19 by producing two new COVID-19 Vaccination PSA’s with the help of Rev. Deborah Coble, Director of Communications for the

West Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church; distributing a COVID-19 vaccination information flyer and letter to congregations in West Virginia through a grant from the United Methodist Foundation and with the aid of Dr. Lisa Costello and Dr. Julia Fraustino; and by holding several congregational-focused webinars on COVID-19 also facilitated by Dr. Lisa Costello, and Dr. Julia Fraustino.

The Interfaith Program Unit successfully held two webinars this past year: one on the Jewish High Holidays and one on the Jewish Holiday of Tu B'Shevat, often known as the Birthday of the Trees. Both webinars are available on the Council's Facebook page.

The Government Concerns Program Unit was very busy this past year. One of the Program Unit's major accomplishments was the revision of the West Virginia Council of Churches Public Policy Issue Priorities booklet to include a theological context for our stands on various issues. The Government Concerns Program Unit had a pretty good turnout at the "Compassion Calls Us" Day at the Legislature on February 8, 2022 with about 30 people in attendance.

In advocating for the Extended Child Tax Credit, the Council launched its most major initiative since confronting the gambling issue at the West Virginia State Legislature. Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball, Bishop Mike Klusmeyer, Rev. Ron English, and Rev. Alton Dillard all had op-eds concerning the expanded Child Tax Credit published. Rev. Thad Allen also submitted an op-ed to the Washington Post. Several persons from the expanded Child Tax Credit coalition met with Ben Fields, Opinions Editor for the Charleston Gazette-Mail for an Editorial Board meeting. Two meetings were held with Senator Manchin, one by video and in Washington, D.C. While in Washington, D.C. representatives of the Council visited with staff from Senator Capito's and Rep. McKinley's office, as well as with Josh Dickerson, Senior Advisor for Public Engagement, White House Office of Public Engagement. The Council representatives met with the CEO of Bread for the World, Rev. Eugene Cho.

The Council also had the opportunity to work with the Arizona Faith Network on some national legislation. Rev. Katie Sexton-Wood, executive director of the Arizona Faith Network; Warren H. Stewart Sr., chairperson of Arizona-based African American Christian Clergy Coalition, and Rev. Jeff Allen, Executive Director of the West Virginia Council of Churches had an op-ed regarding climate change published in the Charleston Gazette-Mail.

Other important accomplishments for the year include:

- Successfully transitioning the West Virginia Foster, Adoptive, and Kinship Parents Network (WVFAKPN) into its own 501 (c) 3. As part of this effort, Dr. Sky Kershner produced Parent: ACES, Trauma, and Attachment Focus Videos. The Council also wrapped up and published the results of our foster and kinship listening events. Finally, the Council helped to sponsor the 2022 Caring for Kids in Care Conference.
- Officially launching The REACH Initiative as its own nonprofit. In the years to come, I am sure that the Council will look back on this work as being foundational to criminal justice reform in West Virginia. Some of the projects that are still in process include building an emotional support network for persons returning from

the criminal justice system; working with RCCR on housing; and providing a grant to The REACH Initiative for rapid reentry.

- Concluding our Faith and Dementia initiative by completing our listening sessions, including three listening sessions with members of the African American community led by Janie Claytor-Woodson. We also held two webinars on Faith and Dementia – Dementia 101, which was presented at 2021 the Annual Assembly and was led by Dr. Ann Marie Murray of WVU and one led by Rev. Kathy Fogg Berry on Dementia-Friendly Worship.
- Participating in the Synodical listening process at the invitation of Bishop Mark Brennan, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.
- Holding the 141<sup>st</sup> Annual Assembly of the West Virginia Council of Churches. The Assembly featured a keynote presentation by Rev. Sekinah Hamlin, Minister of Economic Justice, United Church of Christ; workshops on Ministry to Mothers in Prison, the Aftermath of COVID and the Condition of Our Faith, The Dangers of Christian Nationalism, and Practical Steps to Reconciliation and Healing in America; an Interfaith webinar on Repentance, Reparation, and Reconciliation, presentation of the Mary Virginia DeRoo Award to Bishop Mike Klusmeyer; and Closing Worship.

Thank you for all your support of the West Virginia Council of Churches!

## **Conference Connectional Ministries Team**

### **An Introduction to Connectional Ministries in the West Virginia Conference**

Connectional Ministries are simply ministries that are meant to connect—to collaborate and work together—for the purpose of discovering, developing, and deploying passionate spiritual leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The reports included each share their part of the story of how, together, we proclaim peace and bring the good news of Christ to the people and communities throughout the West Virginia Conference.

Like the waters that flow throughout our region, from the smallest creek flowing to the largest river, each congregation contributes to the fullness of ministry throughout our Conference. Like the smallest drip of water that carves an impression over time, each act of discipleship offers to God the potential for Christ's impression on the lives that are impacted and for that impact to spread. Leadership development and ministries through our districts and conference are enacted by disciples and also create leaders who then help to make their congregations vital.

We have the blessing of being in ministry throughout the West Virginia Conference, so we have a unique opportunity to connect a variety of ministries and witness to the power of God that can be unleashed through those collaborations. A few examples of such powerful connections include:

- The camping and young disciples' ministry teams have connected to create a consistent theme for Fall Workshop and Spring Heights Camp and Retreat Center summer camp. Students will have a chance to dig deep as disciples of Jesus Christ and learn and grow in intentional ways. This year, we're exploring prayer.
- Summer camp employment gives opportunities for college students to grow as leaders. Through serving at summer camp, young adults discover their passions, gifts and discern God's call. Past staff, who are currently in seminary, serve as nurses, teachers, Sunday school volunteers, and pastors, point to working at camp as a defining experience of their lives.
- Our Justice and Advocacy and Ethnic Local Church Concerns Ministry Teams are working together with our historical African American churches in the Potomac Highlands District to create a retreat to learn and deepen relationships across cultures and race.
- District Lay ministry teams have coordinated efforts to plan lay ministry courses throughout the conference. These courses are open to everyone and offer study on a wide range of ministry topics. Basic courses and all advanced courses necessary for Certified Lay Speakers are being offered throughout the Conference in both the spring and fall. The 2022 Conference-wide Certified Lay Ministry Course completed its work, with students being interviewed and certified. The 2023 CLM cohort began in March.
- Church lay and clergy leaders are using resources like Portico and MissionInsite to aid in their discernment of God's calling for their ministry into the future.

These are examples of the good news that is happening across the West Virginia Conference—from the smallest congregation to the largest ministry team. God is creating disciples, leaders are being formed, and congregations and communities are being impacted, both here and around the world.

We invite you to prayerfully read the following reports of ministry and connections—ways the Christ of peace is being proclaimed. How might you step out in ministry in connection with Christ and others?

### **The West Virginia Conference Connectional Ministries staff team**

Christopher Bartley, Administrative Assistant for Congregational Vitality

Abbi Blosser, Technology Specialist

Deborah Coble, Director of Communications

Louisa Copenhaver, Spring Heights Camp & Retreat Center Director

Shea James, Director of Young Disciples & Outdoor Ministries

Angela Jones, Administrative Assistant & Ethnic Local Church Concerns Coordinator

Judi Kenaston, Conference Secretary

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

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**

Ken Willard, Director of Congregational Vitality

*The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.* – John 1:14, MSG

The verse above speaks of Jesus becoming human and coming to live with us, in our neighborhood. This is a powerful image for us today, and one that guides us in the Congregational Vitality ministry. We are blessed to work with churches, pastors, and laity leaders throughout our conference area . . . and our eyes are always toward those in the neighborhoods not yet connected to a faith community.

During the past year our team has come alongside others to provide resources for pastoral transitions such as coaching, On-Boarding, cohorts, Portico courses, and books. The grant team issued grants to 23 churches for over \$70,000. (Bringing our three-year total to 161 churches and over \$193,000) Over 20 new courses were added to our Portico learning platform from our conference, such as: Local Church Leadership series (Trustees, Nominations, Finance, Ad Council), Identifying Core Values, Vital Mergers, and the Ministry Incubators series. [Partner conferences on the platform added over 100 new courses!]

Ellis Conley is our Conference Coaching Coordinator, and he shares: “The coaching culture for both clergy and laity in the West Virginia Conference is growing! This past year, 21 pastors were invited to participate in one of our transitional cohorts led by either Jim McCune or myself. We have over 15 pastors currently working with coaches who serve as ‘thinking partners’ on a regular basis, and that number continues to grow. A listing of recommended coaches can be found on the conference website under Congregational Vitality. Several churches have also recently worked through strategic ministry planning facilitated by a coach. We continue to offer Basic Coach Training both on Portico and in-person. In March we held our first Advanced Coach Training session led by Kay Kotan. Our goal is to build a cadre of professional coaches within our annual conference. My wife, Julie and I also host a Zoom workshop for retiring clergy in the Spring entitled, ‘Retirement: Your Next Great Adventure.’”

Joe Webb is the New Ministry Coordinator for our conference, and he shares: “With the continued success of our Congregational Vitality Generative Ministries grant program and the launch of our Conference-wide New Places • New People initiative, we are more excited than ever for new ministries and faith communities to take root in the West Virginia Conference. Following our Generative Discernment Academy in June 2022, a 6-month coaching cohort for leaders resulted in new fresh expression-type ministries at Cheat Lake UMC and West Liberty University, with other new ministries in the planning process for 2023 and beyond. More than 50 people attended our Fresh Expressions in Appalachian Context seminar with Luke Edwards in November 2022, almost 100 people heard from Michael Beck in Charleston and Craigsville in October, and our New Places • New People District workshops are generating high levels of interest as leaders begin to imagine new paradigms for faith communities. In 2023 we are looking to ‘Level Up!’”



Our team goals for 2023 continue to focus on the areas of New Places • New People, Portico, and Coaching. Using Ephesians 4:12 as our guide, we continue to focus on equipping God's people to expand God's kingdom.

### **Episcopacy**

Judi Kenaston, Chair

There has been a lot of uncertainty surrounding episcopal leadership in the denomination. Budget restrictions and questions about when bishops could retire and new leadership could be elected have loomed over us since 2020. One of those questions was answered in 2022 when the Northeastern Jurisdictional (NEJ) Conference met in November and elected one new bishop for the jurisdiction. The new bishop elected was Bishop Hector Burgos Nunez who is the first Hispanic bishop elected by the NEJ. He is assigned to the Upper New York Annual Conference. This left one episcopal area without a bishop, and coverage for the New England Annual Conference (Boston Area) has been provided by the College of Bishops, with retired Bishop Peggy Johnson serving there. Bishop Steiner Ball was once again assigned to the West Virginia Conference and we were delighted to welcome her back! All of the new assignments began on January 1, 2023. We currently have seven active bishops and one retired bishop serving nine episcopal areas which cover ten annual conferences.

If current plans hold, we will have another jurisdictional conference in July of 2024. It is not known at this time if we will elect more bishops. General Conference could make changes that would affect where, how, and for how long bishops serve. There is a proposal that would limit the number of bishops provided for financially from the General Episcopacy Fund and other expenses would come from the Jurisdiction. It may be possible annual conferences would have to provide additional funding. With all these many possibilities, the Northeastern Jurisdiction is discussing how to best prepare for the future.

Currently, 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.

One of the goals of the current NEJ Episcopacy Committee is to better connect with the Conference Committees on Episcopacy. Our committee will have the opportunity to better understand the process used to assign bishops and to participate in consultations with the NEJ committee. We will continue to communicate our needs so that the NEJ Committee can be best prepare for making future assignments.



Since 2021, Bishop Steiner Ball has had the responsibility of providing coverage in Susquehanna Conference (Harrisburg Area) in addition to her assignment to the West Virginia Area. She works alongside Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, who also serves the Western Pennsylvania Conference (Pittsburgh Area). This experiment of bishops working in a cooperative manner to provide coverage to additional conferences is being looked at throughout the church as a viable way to provide coverage with less bishops.

The Bishop and Cabinet have had to navigate questions surrounding church closures. While closures have accelerated in the past two years, we have not experienced mass disaffiliations that some other conferences have. The Bishop and Cabinet have assigned one individual to coordinate all closures on their behalf. This arrangement has brought consistency and fairness to the process. Another challenge is the number of clergy available for appointment and the ability of some of our churches to sustain salaries needed for a full-time appointment. Bishop Steiner Ball has provided stable leadership in both appointments and financial stewardship.

In addition to providing episcopal leadership in the three conference areas, Bishop Steiner Ball also serves as the president of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. In this capacity, she leads the agency which provides services to the world-wide church.

In personal news, Bishop Steiner Ball and her husband, Rev. Barry Ball, welcomed a granddaughter, Sloane Shay McCammon, to their family. You can usually find one of them willing to share a picture or two. In December, the bishop had a hip replaced and her cabinet has been observed doing her therapy exercises along with her during her recuperation.

At Jurisdictional Conference in November 2022, a task force was established to look at new forms of Episcopal leadership, and possibly recommend boundary changes within the jurisdiction. The task force is in its beginning stages. Rev. Jeff Taylor will be representing the West Virginia Conference and I also will serve on this taskforce as the chairperson of the NEJ Committee on Episcopacy. Among the questions that the task force will ask is: how can we serve all of the needs of the Episcopal areas of the NEJ with fewer bishops?

We are grateful for the steadfast leadership of Bishop Steiner Ball during this time of uncertainty. Her focus on the church's mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world has been critical to the West Virginia Conference. Although this has been an extremely extended quadrennium, we are grateful that it has meant she has remained among us in the West Virginia Conference.

**Equitable Compensation**  
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 are not an exact science and will differ from year to year.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Budget	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$142,500	\$142,500	\$121,500	\$96,000
Income	\$128,827	\$127,857	\$119,840	\$113,476	\$95,161	\$76,192
Expenses	\$77,635	\$77,906	\$47,587	\$31,188	\$26,730	\$12,670
Year-End Bal	\$384,489	\$434,440	\$506,693	\$588,981	\$657,412	\$720,934
Claims	22	16	15	11	8	12

2022 Claim Breakdown

	Claims	Expenses
Medical	5	\$7,000
Renewal	0	\$0
Salary Supplement	7	\$5,670

As indicated by the charts above, we want to celebrate a few things with you. First, we celebrate your faithful stewardship as a charge to provide an equitable compensation package for your clergyperson 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 a small number of claims over the calendar year. This, along with the continued increase in reserve funds, allows the Equitable Compensation Team to, once again, 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 continue supporting a 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 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) \$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

**2024 Base Compensation Recommendation and Rationale:**

During the January 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 \$3,000.00. 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 the various effects on financial giving at the local church level. Included in this discussion was an acknowledgement that such an increase in the minimum salary standards may indeed cause financial hardship to some charges and the team is ready to provide financial assistance using the requested budget and the Equitable Compensation Reserve Funds.

Although we are certain that some will find this recommendation too much for a charge 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 clergyperson 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 clergyperson. In other words, the Charge Conference can increase the salary of a full-time clergyperson, 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.

**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 \$3,000.00. The recommended minimum standard (beginning in January 2024) would be as follows:

- 1. Base Compensation according to the following schedule:
  - a. Category I (Full/Provisional Members) \$42,000.00
  - b. Category II (Associate members) \$40,000.00
  - c. Category III (Full-Time Local Pastors) \$39,000.00

- 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 2024 budget be maintained at the 2023 levels. Our budget amounts would afford the Equitable Compensation team to support the local church in their efforts to provide a just salary for their clergyperson, and it provides the Bishop and Cabinet funds to use for “strategic appointments”. (The “Strategic Appointment Assistance” line 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

**Guidelines and Timeline for Applying for Equitable Compensation**

Below you will find the Guidelines for Applying for Equitable Compensation and a timeline for processing applications. Applications for Equitable Compensation funds are available through the District Office.

**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 6 weeks prior to the beginning of the appointive year or when a new appointment is made and assistance for financial support is needed to maintain the minimum compensation support set by the Annual Conference. Changes in classification must be cleared through the Board of Ordained Ministry upon recommendation of the District Committee and approved by ministerial members in Full Connection. The 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. Charges that need assistance are encouraged to contact their District Superintendent to begin the process of applying for Equitable Compensation Funds. As always, if the Equitable Compensation Team can assist you in this process, please don't hesitate to contact me or one of our team members.

**ETHNIC MINISTRIES****Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM)**

Rev. Dr. Ken Krimmel

Once again, our WVCONAM was invited to welcome everyone to Annual Conference at West Virginia Wesleyan College in June. We are grateful to Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball for extending the invitation to our CONAM to welcome everyone to the sacred land on which we hold our Annual Conference. Special thanks to Dr. Elle High for giving the welcome.



On October 7, 2022, our WVCONAM participated in the online Zoom meeting of the Northeastern Jurisdiction Native American Ministries Committee. Tracy Brown-Dolinski and Ken Krimmel represented the West Virginia CONAM. We plan to elect two members of the CONAM to attend the NEJNAMC meeting again this year as well.

During the meeting we received presentations about the Native American Boarding Schools, particularly in Carlisle, PA, and Canada. The abuse of Native children that occurred at many boarding schools across the US and Canada remains a chief concern of the NEJNAMC.

Our WVCONAM also promoted Native American Ministries Sunday with the help of Rev. Deborah Coble and Rev. Jay Parkins who shared a video on our conference website.

Native American Ministries Sunday is designated to be celebrated on April 23, 2023, but churches are encouraged to observe this Sunday at any time that is convenient for the congregation. The special offering for this Sunday supports ministries with Native Americans and provides scholarships for Native Americans attending seminary. One half of the offering received through this special offering remains within the West Virginia Conference.

Our CONAM has supported the POW-WOW held in Parsons, WV, and the Women's Gathering that was held in North Carolina. This year, some of our WVCONAM members are planning to attend the Thunder in the Mountains POW-WOW in Fayetteville, WV, which is being held on October 14-15, 2023, at Cantrell's Ultimate Rafting in Fayetteville, WV. Plan to come to Fayetteville and experience Native music, song, and dance. Three great drum groups will be present. Please visit [Thunder in the Mountains](#) Facebook page for more information about the upcoming POW-WOW.

I look forward to seeing you at Annual Conference 2023 in June, and to having one of our WVCONAM members welcome you once again to the sacred land that we proudly call "our home among the hills."

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be upon each of you.

## **GLOBAL MINISTRIES**

Judy Raines, Chairperson

In a world and a church facing uncertain times, we look for good news. In a time of increasing concerns about the economy, we see more needs, more hunger, more homelessness, more people living without, more concerns about tomorrow. We need good news and a light for today. Jesus, the Light of the Word has called us to spread that light. The team of Global Ministries of the West Virginia Conference is good at spreading the light and bringing good news.

- From our Church and Community worker and our seven mission projects we are working hard to reach the need in communities across the conference. Folks who have never before asked for help are finding help through Global Ministries.

- Disaster Response and Volunteers in Mission offer help, both materially and spiritually.
- Our hunger and grant ministries are helping churches, organizations and individuals to meet hunger needs and a variety of other needs.
- Burlington United Methodist Family Services helps in all aspects of children and youth needs. From schooling and foster care and adoption services, they are available to meet needs.
- Our Conference Secretary of Global Ministries is our lifeline to missionaries and missions around the world.
- Our Disabilities, Health, and AIDs workers bring us word of happenings and how we can be a part of such important work.
- Parish Development has been busy planning events for the whole church of how we can be involved in mission for the schools and new ideas for ministry.
- Celebration of Mission Events provide money and goods for mission projects, church and community workers, New Vision Depot and Volunteers in Mission.
- Last year we offered our first ever service award, thanks to the generosity of the United Methodist Foundation. We will offer that again this year to an individual or church group who serves in the mission work of the church.

I do hope that you will take the opportunity to read all the stories in the pages to follow and find applications for grants and our service award. Remember that you are a part of all the wonderful mission work done within the West Virginia Conference. Global Ministries are supported by your apportionment payments, and we thank you for being part of this ministry of changing lives.

Got a minute? Come and see what Global Ministries is doing in these uncertain times. I think you will be pleased.

### **Conference Secretary of Global Ministries**

Jeff Matheny

The past year has not seen much change in the way that we interact with our missionaries around the world, the challenges of international travel planning continued to restrict the ability of missionaries to itinerate in the same way they did in the past. This has allowed us to be creative and utilize resources such as video meetings which connect missionaries to church services and presentations while staying at home.

It was good for me to make a visit to the Old Mutare Mission Station in Zimbabwe this past summer after a couple of years of not being able to do international travel. I was impressed with the resiliency of the people I was visiting through the pandemic. They demonstrated that they could adapt and minimize the impact of COVID with limited supplies and vaccines. Yet the difference in our worlds became obvious. Before I left on my trip, we

## GLOBAL MINISTRIES

emailed the hospital about their critical needs and the administrator who I have worked with for several years provided a short list of items which they needed including bulb syringes for babies. When I meet with the nursing director a couple of days after I dropped the items off, she sincerely thanked me for the bringing the syringes and other items. She mentioned that they were down to the last one in the hospital, I was certainly humbled especially when I knew that they delivered over 1600 babies a year.

I was able to meet the new Vice Chancellor of Africa University on my visit and I am very excited about the amazing things that are happening there. Student enrollment has nearly doubled in the past five years, and I see lives transformed through higher education which would not be available without the presence of AU.

In closing I will offer a few opportunities to keep in mind. Please contact me;

- If your church would like to connect with a missionary.
- If your church would like to develop a covenant relationship with a missionary.
- If you know of anyone who might be exploring missionary service.
- If your church would like to hear a presentation about Old Mutare Zimbabwe including Africa University.

I can be reached by email at [jeffrmatheny@gmail.com](mailto:jeffrmatheny@gmail.com) or by calling 304-615-5553.

## **Disabilities Ministries Report**

Rev. Michael D. Ludle

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. As we move into what we may call “a new normal” we still face some challenges and uncertainties with Covid, our church and many other things in our country and world. One thing remains the same - God is still the same today and everyday and we are called to share the Gospel with all God's children no matter who, where, or what we encounter. As we continue to see many folks go through mental health issues due to the pandemic, we as a church need to be mindful of this as this is disabling for many. So, I encourage you to be looking at how you can be the hands and feet of Christ for those who are dis-abled, mentally, physically and emotionally. I encourage you to look to the conference website at [www.wvumc.org/change-the-world/justice-and-advocacy/disabilities-ministries/](http://www.wvumc.org/change-the-world/justice-and-advocacy/disabilities-ministries/) for many resources that can help you or guide you in the right direction. I encourage all churches to take the Disability Audit, also on the website, to see where your church may need to look to make sure that all peoples are

## GLOBAL MINISTRIES

welcomed in our churches without any hinderance of abilities. I call on the Cabinet to help in this as the Audit is supposed to be a part of our charge conference paperwork each year.

God has called us and as a church we are called to Make Disciples for Jesus Christ to Transform 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 and Immigration Ministries

Neal Lacy, Coordinator

It's commonly stated that we are a nation of immigrants. That fact is cherished by some and loathed or denied by others. Many Americans would be happy if immigration were halted immediately, especially immigration from certain quarters. Others welcome the diversity that is enhanced by a welcoming attitude toward newcomers. One wonders how the original occupants of this land felt about the first European immigrants several hundred years ago.

As a person born in the United States to parents who were citizens, some believe I am entitled to greater privilege than a person born somewhere else—they believe my accident of birth location grants me some special right to live and thrive here. We reject that notion. We believe that our creator does not favor one people, one nation, or one location over any other, and we question policies that unfairly discriminate against those who wish to make the USA their home.

We realize that immigration should be orderly and legal, but we believe that our laws, policies, and procedures should not be structured in ways that create undue hardship for people who seek the privileges that are automatically bestowed on us as our birthright.

While West Virginia and Maryland do not face the challenging issues that present themselves to gateway regions such as Texas, California, or New York, we do have some immigrants within our conference borders, and we must find ways to minister to them as sisters and brothers in Christ.

### Disaster Relief

Rev. James McCune, Coordinator

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as Disaster Relief Coordinator for the West Virginia Annual Conference. I have already begun partnering with David Stilgenbauer, who serves as VIM coordinator and as interim coordinator of New Vision Depot. Also, I am grateful to Dan and Sue Lowther for their leadership at the Depot and their willingness to help me with this transition. Our Conference staff liaison, Deborah Coble, has done an excellent job of walking me through this process and helped link me to a number of persons in West Virginia and also with UMCOR. I look forward to working with these persons and the many volunteers to focus on our readiness to respond to needs that might arise in West Virginia and other areas where we are called to respond.

## GLOBAL MINISTRIES

### West Virginia Volunteers-in-Mission (VIM)

Rev. David Stilgenbauer, Coordinator

This has been a good and blessed year for VIM. This year we have journeyed to a few different locations. We were able to clear drainage ditches from a tornado that has affected the area of Cayce Kentucky. We also journeyed to Fairbanks Alaska for five days. While there, we helped First UMC Fairbanks with hanging drywall and painting. After four days, we moved to Anchorage Alaska to assist Anchor Park UMC with painting the exterior of the church. The best project we completed while in Alaska was working with their youth to build a blessing box. During construction a neighborhood gentleman stopped in to thank us for our work. He left and we returned to our work. A few minutes later he came back with some canned goods and said he wanted to be the first to contribute to the blessing box. We also traveled to the Ft Myers, Florida area to help with disaster response.

We also were able to complete some projects in West Virginia. We built five ramps and one fence. We also worked with a church in the MonVally district in restoring a home.

In The Peace of Christ

### Cooperative Community Development Coordinator

Larry Buckland, Coordinator

Cooperative Community Development has continued to offer education events in 2022-2023 around the Annual Conference bringing communities together to dream, vision, and change the ministry from a church-centric mindset to a Kingdom-centric way of life. This vision came last year when 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.

Thanks to the leadership of Rev. Mike Linger and Rev. Neil Leftwich, clergy and laity around the Conference have been equipped to have Hearts of Hope to engage in school partnerships.

If your heart is hopeful and God is calling you to partner with the school in your community, come to our Hearts of Hope event on July 22nd. The Rev. Jake McGlothlin, author of The Mission-Minded Guide To Church and School Partnerships will be our keynote speaker.

If your church or group would like to explore new ideas for ministry development in your community, we would love to connect with you.

## GLOBAL MINISTRIES

### Church and Community Workers

Rev. Jim Martin, CCW Advisory

West Virginia has been blessed over the years to have had excellent Church and Community Workers. With the uncertainties facing the church and the aftereffects of the COVID pandemic, fewer candidates are applying for Church and Community work. We are blessed to have Anna Troy, our only Church and Community Worker to serve the Clarksburg Parish. I hope you will check out her report to see all the ways she is being the hands of Christ to the Clarksburg area. With the loss of apportionment funding, Anna may be the only Church and Community missionary we will have. Please let her know how we appreciate her service to West Virginia.

### Church and Community Worker

Rev. Anna Troy

Open Heart Ministries

As we join the rest of the world in recovering from the pandemic, Open Heart Ministries continues to provide essential aid to the community. Providing more than \$65,000 in assistance, OHM worked with our partners to address the many needs of our neighbors. These needs included: rent, utilities, propane, water tanks, medicine, glasses, hearing aids, car repairs, transportation, and more. I remain forever grateful for the five volunteers and church partners who make this work possible. We continue to operate mostly by phone and email in order to keep our neighbors safe and ease transportation concerns. However, we still visit at length with our neighbors whether it is in person or via phone. Prayer remains a special ministry of OHM during this process.

OHM also moved location to First UMC Clarksburg. Our time with United Methodist Temple was a wonderful partnership but, as with all things, growth meant moving on. By being based in FUMC, OHM is even easier to access for our neighbors as it is on a bus route. Some neighbors receive other services from the church and so our presence makes a great partnership in addressing our neighbors' needs.

As OHM engages with FUMC and new ministry partnerships, it is clear that the need for God's love and grace abound. Whether we work with rapid housing to house someone who has been homeless, helping an immigrant family reach their loved ones in another state, providing grace before Christmas to get a man home, or offering prayer to one in their time of need – OHM is here to fill the gaps and provide hope when it is most needed.

## GLOBAL MINISTRIES

### Conference Missions Coordinator

Gayle Lesure, Deaconess

*"I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it unto me."—Jesus*  
*"Love your neighbor as yourself." —Jesus*

What a busy, blessed, and productive year it has been in the life of our seven (7) conference mission projects and church and community worker. As I reflect on the year behind us, I would say there are three words that would rightly describe the life of our mission projects this year: Change and Confirmations and Celebrations.

#### ***First, came all the changes....***

I have heard it said that "the only constant is change;" how true that statement is. And it is no different with our project directors; we experienced three changes this year. In the spring of last year, Vickie Ballengee retired from Heart + Hand Outreach Ministries in South Charleston. Eddie Buckland now serves as the Director. Then Scott's Run Settlement House saw a change in leadership when Shay Petito left her position as Executive Director, and Michael Richards has stepped into that position. Then lastly, Brenda Hunt retired from Heart and House in Philippi in December and Buck Edwards came on board as Director.

What a year of ministry it has been for all 7 of our mission projects and Church and Community Worker. The project directors meet periodically by ZOOM with Judy Raines, the Chair of the Global Ministries Team to share happenings, concerns, celebrations, and resources with each other. All of their reports are included in this section on Global Ministries Team. The mission projects are involved in so much ministry it is hard to get it all in, things like: children's ministry, mentoring, feeding ministries, food baskets at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas, outreach to youth, homeless ministries, dance and music classes, gardening, assistance to families for rent, utilities and other necessities of life, and the list goes on and on. You can "read all about it" in the pages of this section and I encourage you to do so.

#### ***Second, came the confirmations...***

During the year of 2022 the Global Ministries Team conducted two (2) Reviews and Evaluations of our mission projects. In May we were at Scott's Run Settlement House in Osage with Shay Petito and her staff, volunteer and board of Directors. Then in October, the Evaluation and Review of The House of the Carpenter in Wheeling took place. In each of these cases, the on-site team was amazed and enthralled with the amount of mission and ministry taking place.



## GLOBAL MINISTRIES

This process that takes place once each quadrennium, where all 7 mission projects host members of the team, interviews are done and recommendations are made to enhance, encourage and better improve the onsite ministry. The visiting group is made up of The Conference Mission Coordinator, The Chair of the Global Ministries Team, a member at large and one project director.

This year there will be two more of the projects evaluated: Tyrand Cooperative Ministries with Belinda Toms in March and Heart and Hand House in Philippi with Buck Edwards in the fall.

*Then there were the Celebrations...it has been a wonderful year!*

\*\*\* At the Annual Conference session in June, on a mild Thursday afternoon, an exuberant crowd gathered in the front of the Upshur Parish House to celebrate 30 years of ministry in that place.

\*\*\*In September a great celebration was had at The Bunk House on the Tyrand Cooperative Ministries site as they celebrated 60 years of ministry. Lots of good food, fellowship and cheers to the staff of this vital ministry.

\*\*\* And then last but not least came the “granddaddy” of them all as long time supporters, volunteers and staff gathered at Wesley United Methodist Church in Morgantown to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that project, located in Osage,( the actually name of the community is Pursglove), WV. Just recently The United Methodist Reporter Newsletter had a article written about the history of 100 years. It is online if you would like to read it.

Then lastly I give thanks to all the churches, parishes and individuals who have supported these ministries either directly by monetary gifts or through your prayers and support. I will also give thanks to the many churches who through their apportionments have been a part of these vital ministries that bring hope and help to our neighbors in need. Through your apportionment giving you are helping to make an impact on the lives of the individuals and families that are served by our mission projects, now and into the future. Thank you.

I will end with these words of scripture...”Give from the heart and bless the Lord —for the Lord loves a cheerful giver.”

To God be the Glory!

GLOBAL MINISTRIESCELEBRATION OF MISSION EVENT

Rev. Cliff Schell

WV Conference Celebration of Mission Event Coordinator

The Celebration of Mission Event is an outreach ministry of the Conference Board of Global Ministries that supports ten United Methodist Mission Ministries within the WV Annual Conference. 2023 marks the **26th year** for the Events to be held. Since COVID-19 only a few public COME gatherings have taken place throughout our districts. However, during 2022, being primarily self-motivated by district leadership and the determination of churches to find ways to fund our ten Conference Mission Ministries, **\$100,432.41** was raised and given through COME. In addition, churches and districts found ways to provide large amounts of tangible goods through “drop-off” stations.

The 2022 cash gifts provided \$9,685.00 for each of our seven Conference Mission Projects, Volunteers in Mission, the New Vision Depot and \$5,320.00 for our one Church and Community Ministry. 100% of all cash gifts were distributed to our Mission Ministries. Over the past fourteen years the Celebration of Mission Event has raised a total of **\$1,442,971.54** in cash plus an estimated 40-50% of that amount in food and other tangible goods. **It is important to note** that undesigned cash gifts are divided to provide an equal amount of support for each mission ministry, whereas the tangible goods are given to the ministries assigned to a particular district.

10% of undesigned funds received are deposited in the UM Foundation Trust Fund for Mission Projects (\$7,582.41 in 2022). Each year a distribution is made from the Trust Fund to our Conference Mission Projects, VIM and Church and Community Ministries (\$1,318.00 for each project for 2023). At the close of 2022 the market value of the Trust Fund was **\$358,790.76**. 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.

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- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| #875 – Undesignated Gifts                             | #888 – Tyrand Cooperative Ministries |
| #880 – Heart+Hand Outreach Ministries (S. Charleston) | #889 – Upshur Parish House           |
| #881 – Ebenezer Community Outreach Center             | #882 – Volunteers in Mission         |
| #883 – Heart and Hand House, Inc. (Philippi)          | #893 – New Vision Depot              |
| #884 – The House of the Carpenter                     | #896 – Greater Clarksburg Parish     |
| #887 – Scott’s Run Settlement House                   | C&C Ministry                         |

Our Conference Mission Ministries depend on the Celebration of Mission Event for major support. Churches and individuals who give cash and/or tangible gifts to COME have the satisfaction of knowing that their donations assist someone in need in our own WV Conference. You are always welcome to visit any of our mission ministries and observe for yourself the work that is being done – or better yet, make plans to stay for a few hours (or days) and assist with the loving, caring ministries that are taking place. It will make a difference in your life and church.

The **2023 COME BOOKLET**, providing additional information, Needs Lists and a Remittance Form, is available in printable form on the Conference Website listed under **Change the World**; also available on District Websites. Each of our districts have COME Coordinators to provide information and leadership.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

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

**DISTRIBUTION OF 2022 CELEBRATION OF MISSION EVENT FUNDS  
RECEIVED THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022**

<b>MISSION PROJECT</b>	<b>DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>	<b>UNDESIGNATED FUNDS</b>	<b>TOTAL DISTRIBUTION</b>
UM Foundation Trust for Mission Projects (Formerly CDOM)	\$ 0.00	\$7,582.41	\$ 7,582.41
Heart+Hand Outr Min	\$ 2,570.00	\$7,115.00	\$ 9,685.00
Ebenezer	\$ 2,000.00	\$7,685.00	\$ 9,685.00
Heart & Hand – Phil	\$ 3,923.00	\$5,762.00	\$ 9,685.00
House of Carpenter	\$ 2,280.00	\$7,405.00	\$ 9,685.00
Scott’s Run	\$ 3,803.00	\$5,882.00	\$ 9,685.00
Tyrand Coop. Min.	\$ 425.00	\$9,260.00	\$ 9,685.00
Upshur Parish House	\$ 3,275.00	\$6,410.00	\$ 9,685.00
VIM	\$ 975.00	\$8,710.00	\$ 9,685.00
Clarksburg Parish	\$ 2,160.00	\$3,160.00	\$ 5,320.00**
New Vision Depot	\$ 3,165.00	\$6,885.00	\$ 10,050.00**
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$24,576.00</b>	<b>\$75,856.41</b>	<b>\$100,432.41</b>

Submitted by Cliff Schell  
WV Conference Celebration of Mission Event Coordinator  
December 31, 2022

*\*\*June-December designated funds brought total beyond distribution formula.*

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

**2023 CELEBRATION OF MISSION EVENT  
DISTRICT ROTATIONS**

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

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**Guidelines for Virginia Higgins Grants****Mission Statement**

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

**Application**

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

**Priorities in Funding**

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

**Criteria for Funding General Projects**

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

## GLOBAL MINISTRIES

### **What Happens If Your Project Is Funded**

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

The evaluation shall include:

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

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

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

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](mailto: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):
- |                         |                               |                              |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| _____ Child Care        | _____ Handicapping Conditions | _____ Outreach Ministries    |
| _____ Domestic Violence | _____ Health Care             | _____ Single Parent Families |
| _____ Facilities        | _____ Homelessness            | _____ Teen Pregnancy         |
| _____ Family Ministries | _____ Older Adult Ministries  | _____ 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?

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

- 7. Describe your proposed program/project
  - a) Desired outcomes, not methods.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b) Persons who will benefit.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c) Amount of time it will take to accomplish objectives.
  
- 8. Program Methods and Timetable for Implementation:  
List the activities to be conducted and the timetable to achieve the desired outcomes.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 9. Leadership Group:  
List persons who will be responsible for the implementation and evaluation of this program?

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

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](mailto: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 Mullet, Executive Director

The Mission of BUMFS is, “Changing lives by preventing harm and providing hope & healing to hurting children and families.”

2022 was another amazing year in the life of the staff, board, volunteers and clients at Burlington! While the world was emerging from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, we were pursuing our mission in the lives of thousands of people in dozens of communities across West Virginia and Western Maryland.

Some of the highlights of 2022:

- A representative from the governor’s office visits Keyser to learn about our Recovery Services
- Chief Operations Officer, Sheila Walker Retires after 25 years of service on the Beckley campus
- There was a Law Enforcement Recognition Day on our Burlington and Beckley campuses
- Annual Fishing Rodeo on Burlington’s campus
- Recovery Rocks Community Project at Stagger’s Recovery House
- 1<sup>st</sup> Run4Hope 5K to help promote and fund our Recovery Services and Foster Care (61 runners)
- High School Graduation for Burlington Youth
- Youth participated in community Clean-Up Days
- Celebrated the opening and dedication of the new Apple Harvest Memorial Hall in Burlington
- Held our first Summer Festival in Burlington
- Thanksgiving dinner fundraiser on Beckley’s campus was a great success raising \$10,000
- After a two-year absence we were able to have an Apple Harvest Festival
- Hosted a Child and Family Community Expo
- Added musical instruments to our music classes for residents
- Remodeled Reese Headlee Basement (Burlington Campus) with Dominion Energy volunteers
- Paved Burlington Campus parking lot
- Converted Staggers House Garage into Staff Offices (\$100,000 Donation Funded this project)

### GLOBAL MINISTRIES

- Stagers House -Hosted their annual Christmas Open House
- Participated in Mineral County Day at the Legislature in Charleston
- Received donations for room sponsorships at our new women's recovery house, Hope Meadows, from: WV United Methodist Foundation \$15,000; Truist Foundation \$10,000; M&T Bank \$10,000; Main Street UM Church – Petersburg \$5,000; Anonymous \$5,000
- Had the support of 215 Volunteers

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 325 amazing team members work to safely and lovingly house children 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, maintenance, management and the board of trustees who keep everything together so that this ministry works!

As the CEO of Burlington, 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



What can I say but thank you Lord for another wonderful year of ministry to the people of Huntington in 2022.

Sixty-three children are enrolled in the Learning Center, including preschool and the after-school program. We graduated five pre-K students to go on to kindergarten.

72 children were able to enjoy Christmas a little better last year due to the generous support of First Huntington UMC, First Baptist Church, Steele Memorial, Community of Grace and individuals from the community.

School Supplies, including backpacks and binders, were given to over 70 children.

On a monthly basis, approximately 300 people are served through the various programs and services we offer to parents, children, and the community.

We started our very first Drone Team that competed in local tournaments. Each team member learned about coding, communication and how to work together.

The beginning phase of our new classroom expansion has begun.

A special thank you to ECOC's Board of Directors, The Board of Global Ministries, West Virginia Annual Conference, Nine Rivers District Office, local UM Churches and individuals for their continued support of Ebenezer's mission to our parents, children and the community. These programs continue to provide a relief for many families daily with your support. Thank you!!

Please remember the mission project's work is not complete and would not survive without **YOU!** The Lord's work still needs to be done whether it is through your skills, time or money; please continue to reach out and help those in need. May you be blessed in all that you do!

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

GLOBAL MINISTRIES

**Heart + Hand**  
OUTREACH MINISTRIES

**Heart + Hand Outreach Ministries, South Charleston**

Eddie Bucklen, Executive Director

The past year was a year of transition and change, as Vicki Ballengee retired in April after eight years of dedicated and selfless service as the Executive Director. After I accepted a voluntary, early-retirement offer from Truist near the end of 2021, I knew there was a purpose for what was next in my life. That purpose was revealed when I was honored and humbled to be named the new Executive Director in February. Our mission statement is the main reason I wanted to lead this wonderful organization, because I regard it as my personal mission statement as well...

***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 challenging economic conditions and inflation during the year resulted in a noticeable increase in social services assistance. Emergency food, rent and utility payment assistance that we were able to provide were lifelines to individuals that saved them from what would have been devastating and life-changing consequences. Thanks to the generous support of our community members, businesses, churches and city, we were able to continue as a mission project of the West Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church and to make life easier for over 6,500 individuals who benefited from the following services...

***5438 people served from our food pantry, 465 Senior Food Boxes, 1019 Christmas Food Boxes, 1550 weekend food bags for SCMS students, \$126,000 provided for rent/utility payment assistance, 700 Christmas gifts for children in Kanawha and Putnam counties, 300 back-to-school bookbags with supplies, 62 families benefited from free furniture vouchers and new beds for children, 1645 people benefited from free Clothing and Household vouchers, 182,000 lbs. of clothing for International Aid, towels and blankets provided to animal shelters and 1012 hours of job training provided for disabled youth.***

Our Thrift Store welcomed 31,062 shoppers who benefited from wonderful items donated from our community members, sold at very affordable prices, and allowed us to cover many of our operating expenses! We also welcomed 2,046 people to Community

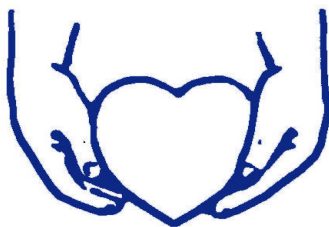
## GLOBAL MINISTRIES

Outreach Activities and Classes held throughout the year and we were overjoyed to benefit from over 15,000 volunteer hours which was 10,000+ hours more than the previous year! Thanks to two grants received from The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation and the United Methodist Foundation, we were able to replace the roof on our building in July, which was only the second roof that had ever been on our building since the 1970's. Our annual Kay Hall Hike for Hunger had 31 corporate sponsors (the most ever!) and 126 community members participated.

It has been both a privilege and a blessing to be the Executive Director, to work alongside the wonderful staff and to serve our community members to the very best of our ability. We remain grateful and appreciative to the individuals, churches, businesses, organizations and volunteers who give us the opportunity to live the mission of Heart + Hand Outreach Ministries every day.

### **Heart and Hand House, Inc.**

Buck Edwards, Executive Director



Since 1965, Heart and Hand House continues to answer the call to provide for the citizens of Barbour County and surrounding area. In 2022, 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 uncertain times include:

- Distributing more than 55,000 pounds of food through our various nutrition programs, with an additional 10,750 pounds of fresh produce provided through special programs by our Community Garden Market;
- Completing home repairs for five families through our Home Repair and Construction Program;
- Providing clothing, household items, and more at low-cost or no-cost to nearly 21,000 customers at our Belington and Philippi Thrift Stores;

### GLOBAL MINISTRIES

- Providing an income opportunity for more than 170 local vendors through sales of fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, other foods, and crafts to over 10,000 customers at our Community Garden Market;
- Distributing food, hygiene items, cleaning products, underwear, hats, gloves, and coats to 250 families at Christmas time;
- Assisting close to 630 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:

- Several FARMacy Program participants learned to prepare and appreciate new dishes by trying new more nutritious vegetables during the 12-week program.
- Students who learn to appreciate fresh vegetable through our Kids Market and translated into the schools being able to keep fresh fruit available.
- Our Thrift Stores were able to assist 5 families who lost their homes due to fire. We were able to provide furniture and clothing for these families.
- A 78 year old lady continues to donate to Heart and Hand House because we provided her assistance when she was starting out with her family.

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 MINISTRIES

### House of the Carpenter

Rev. Dr. Mike Linger, Executive Director



While making a presentation for the House of the Carpenter, one of the participants posed this question. “You do a lot of good things, but do any of them make a real difference?” It is a legitimate question. Our mission is to “Meet the needs of today; Build hope for tomorrow.” Are we really building hope? The short answer is yes. Here are some examples:

- Since opening our food pantry on Tuesday evening, several families have thanked us because they work and having access to the pantry after 5pm is a blessing as feed their family.
- Many of our dance students begin at the House of the Carpenter because the family cannot afford classes, now 9 of them are on scholarship with the Stifel Fine Arts Center pursuing their passion.
- All of the students in our Middle School After School program have raised their GPA's this year. One has raised his grades enough he is eligible to be on the school wrestling team.
- Another one of our Pathways to Success graduates is enrolled in college. She is a freshman majoring in Social Work. She told her instructor, “I am here because of the Pathways program.”
- The day after the Cougar Cocoa distribution at Madison Elementary, the principal called the HOC with one of the students. She wanted to say thank you to us. She continued, I started reading my book last night and this morning I made myself a cup of hot chocolate, my favorite winter drink.
- A grandmother who is raising her grandchildren came to the HOC for Christmas help. When she picked up the gifts, she also received a grocery gift card. She broke down into tears, “My car brakes are failing but I can't afford to fix them. The grocery card will allow me to buy groceries so we can eat and the money I save will fix the brakes. This is a life saver.”
- Over Thanksgiving the students at Madison Elementary had a writing assignment, what are you thankful for today. Many of them included the weekend backpack program. The teachers shared some of the letters with us. From the letters, the



### GLOBAL MINISTRIES

top three backpack items are #3 – pudding cups, #2 – Rice Krispie Treats and #1 – Fresh Fruit. Many of the students talked about eating it first because they seldom have it at home.

- A handicap accessibility ramp was built for a family whose special needs child could not get out of the house for anything. The ramp allows her to exit the house, go to the doctor and the family to begin living life together again.
- Our volunteer Parish Nurse checks blood pressure every Tuesday. Several people come faithfully to be checked. Others have been referred to Health Right for treatment of their high BP.
- A woman described her journey in a letter to the HOC. “Ms. Julie and Mr. Mike downstairs saved my life. I have been addicted since I was a teenager. They believed in me and helped me get into rehab. I have now been clean for 20 months. I lost my dad and my brother to overdoses. I was headed in the same direction. By getting me into rehab, they truly saved my life.”
- One of our summer work team participants told us her high school requires a large number of volunteer hours to graduate. She asked if she could come next summer and do all of her hours at the HOC because this is just an awesome place.

Thank you for all the support provided to us. Your generosity, prayers and your presence help make life changing ministry possible.

## GLOBAL MINISTRIES

### Scott's Run Settlement House

Michael Richard, Executive Director



Scott's Run Settlement House (SRSH) serves individuals and families in Monongalia County by providing necessities with kindness, dignity, and respect. Below are some of the highlights of what you helped us accomplish in 2022.

- **11,339 individuals** received a week's worth of groceries, hygiene items, and cleaning supplies through the Food Pantry. SRSH is the county's largest food pantry.
- **Over 18,000 bags of food** were provided to **500 children weekly** in 9 schools in Monongalia County through the Backpack Feeding Program.
- **5,535 seniors** received food through our Senior Food Box Program. These boxes include shelf stable goods in addition to cheese and produce. In 2023, we will be tied for largest Senior Food Box Program in West Virginia among all agencies.
- **3,717 dogs and cats** were fed through the Pet Pantry.
- Our seasonal outreach programs included:
  - Easter – **128 individuals** received Easter baskets.
  - Back-to-School – **200 individuals** received backpacks filled with supplies.
  - Thanksgiving - **1052 individuals (370 families)** received food baskets
  - Christmas – **73 families** were sponsored for gifts.
  - **317 babies and toddlers** received diapers, wipes, hygiene items, formula, and blankets through our Baby Pantry.

We have also had extensive staff changes in 2022, including a new Executive Director, Bookkeeper, Program Assistant, Food Pantry Coordinator and the newly created Assistant Director position. November 2022 marked Scott's Run Settlement House's 100 Year anniversary and a celebration was held November 5 in Morgantown. 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](mailto:tcm@frontiernet.net)****304-335-2788**

We celebrate that we are able to continue serving the less fortunate in Randolph County and part of Pocahontas County, but, we must question how long mission projects can meet those needs with the decline in apportionment dollars and an increase in families and individuals needing our help.

- 1) During 2022 we provided food to 1,089 individuals through our Food Pantry. We also provided Thanksgiving food baskets to 227 individuals and Christmas Food Baskets to 446 individuals. Along with food items we also give cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, dishwashing liquid, deodorant, toothpaste and other items.
- 2) We had eight work teams during the summer that completed projects at 21 homes. Some of those projects included wheelchair ramps, making bathrooms handicapped accessible, repairing porches 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 2022 served 141 children. Each child received toys, underwear, socks and other items for Christmas. We also provided 25 sets of gloves and toboggans to the homeless population in our area. We are very appreciative to all the underwear donations from the Greenbrier/Wesleyan District. The District Lead Team were a tremendous help in setting up our Christmas Store.
- 4) Our Thrift Store remains very busy. We are so humbled by the volunteers who donate their time to run the store. The year 2022 ended with them making over \$8,000.00 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 fund our emergency programs. If you like to shop on e-bay our seller ID is **tyrand2009**. If you have an item you would like 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

- 9) In September 2022 we celebrated Tyrand's 60 years of ministry. This was an exciting time for everyone who has helped throughout the years. As a child I attended Tyrand Day Camp and my mother volunteered in the Clothing Store when it was located in the old Carnation Milk Plant in Huttonsville. Betty Linger, who was part of the group giving birth to Tyrand in 1962, serves on our Board of Directors. For more history you can always check out our web page [www.tyrandcoop.org](http://www.tyrandcoop.org)

We are grateful to all those who have donated to help us serve the less fortunate. We appreciate the Highland Cooperative Parish, the Greenbrier/Wesleyan District Churches and all the congregations in the West Virginia United Methodist Conference and all the other denominational churches 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



An elementary school teacher asked her students what excited them most about Thanksgiving, and one young girl replied, "*We're going to the Parish House to get our turkey and it's going to be the best meal we've had in a long time!*"

Indeed, since the fall of 2022, requests for assistance have increased at a dramatic rate. Demand rose 25% for Thanksgiving and Christmas boxes. This is just one example of how great need continues throughout our Conference. Thanks to our generous supporters, including churches and members of the West Virginia Annual Conference, we have been able to meet every request to date.

Through strategic planning from August 2021 to August 2022, we learned and listened to what services and programs are needed in our region. We also discerned what

## GLOBAL MINISTRIES

God is calling us to do, now and into the immediate future. Throughout this process, we determined a need:

- to hire more staff including a full-time assistant director and a part-time housing repair/work team coordinator
- to offer more programming for neighbors-in-need
- to increase our presence in southern Upshur County
- to expand/acquire more space to meet our enhanced programming needs

We are pleased to share that an assistant director will begin on July 1, 2023, and that role will primarily focus on programming. For example, many of our neighbors are diabetic and have asked for low-sugar, diabetic-friendly recipes and cooking classes. This comes after we conducted a pilot project, funded by the United Methodist Foundation of WV, with a summer intern provided by the WV Conference, where we offered three complete recipes to neighbors for healthier cooking through the use of herbs and spices and less sugar, fat, and salt.

We know that many neighbors lack reliable transportation; therefore, we are exploring an idea to have an annex office in the southern end of our county to make accessing our programs and services more convenient for those who need us most. Further, due to space and storage limitations, we have not yet been able to resume on-site meals. Rather, we provide takeout lunches on Wednesdays and Friday because we no longer have space for neighbors to gather. We recognize that fellowship and community-building are critical needs and are working to find short- and long-term solutions to this problem. The lunch program that used to feed 30-35 now consistently feeds 45-60 every Wednesday and Friday.

We have also felt a nudge to better share our faith with neighbors, and in response to that, we will host an Easter Celebration on Easter Day in April.

Last summer, we celebrated our 30-Year Anniversary and remembered our founders, their dreams for this mission, and the incredible ways our programs have grown since 1992. In October, we hosted the first Mark Petrosky Memorial Hunger Walk, collecting more than \$4,000 and over 1,000 nonperishable food items.

In 2022, we provided a total of:

- 496 Easter food boxes
- 924 backpacks filled with homework supplies and hygiene items
- 809 Thanksgiving food boxes
- 716 Christmas food boxes
- 2,620 monthly food pantry packages
- 647 clothing vouchers with each receiving 4 outfits per family member
- 866 utility payments to prevent shutoffs, totaling more than \$45,000

- 226 gasoline vouchers to medical appointments, among other services and program. Many of these, including backpacks and Thanksgiving, are, by far, the largest number of requests we have ever received.

We continue to be wholly dependent upon volunteer servants. We are unique because of the countless hours our volunteers spend assisting neighbors-in-need each week, and we are thankful for each and every one of them. In addition to serving as a volunteer and offering your prayers, there are many other ways to help us help others. Support and host local fundraisers. Sponsor a food drive. Donate clean, gently used clothing and household items to the Clothes Closet. Make a financial contribution monthly, quarterly, or annually. Share your healthy recipes that we can pass on to neighbors facing diabetes or hypertension. Prepare hygiene or cleaning kits. Find clearance sales of backpacks, notebooks, crayons, and glue sticks. Bake cookies for the annual Community Christmas Day Dinner. Drop off plastic grocery bags so we can re-use them in our food pantry. Share our Facebook posts to help us publicize our services, programs, and specific needs. Share this list with your church family, and invite them to also follow us on Facebook.

To simply say **THANK YOU!** seems insufficient for the many ways you support us, our mission and ministry, and especially our neighbors-in-need. We are grateful beyond words for the hours you give, the donations you bring, the prayers you offer, and the good wishes you share. The highlights above include only a small piece of the whole picture of what the Upshur Parish House really means and does in our community. We truly could not do it without you.

## **Higher Education and Campus Ministry**

Mark Stotler, Chairperson

The Board of Higher Education continued to be active in supporting campus ministry 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. A key tool in this effort is the annual assessment process. The Board continued to receive and review annual assessments of each campus ministry. Each review is followed by one-on-one discussion with each campus pastor. The campus pastors have been busy reviving and creating new initiatives and programs following the shutdown that occurred during the pandemic. A highlight for the year was the offering of a Campus Ministry Retreat in January. Attendance at the Retreat included the campus pastors, local advisory board members, and conference board members. While the retreat provided campus pastors with an opportunity to share ideas with their peers, it also offered targeted discussion on the following topics: assessment, campus ministry scholarship, local board support and finances/fundraising. Joe Webb, New Faith Communities Coordinator, delivered a presentation on a new conference-wide initiative called **New Places New People**.

It is helpful and comforting to know that efforts to reach students are successful. Diann Nickerson, Campus Pastor at West Liberty University, reports that a weekly Bible study has grown through invitation by returning students. Two of the new freshmen students reported that Monday was their favorite day of the week because they get to come to the Bible study and learn and grow stronger in faith and friendship. Jonathan Accord, Director of Religious & Spiritual Life at West Virginia Wesleyan College, reports that he is seeing a new spiritual hunger in his second year. Students are organizing and leading special events that range from sharing personal testimony to teaching about God and mental health. Students are also exhibiting boldness as they participate in prayer walks around campus during which they offer to pray with their peers, faculty, and staff.

In the coming year, the Board will follow up on ideas emanating from the Retreat, work on strengthening the assessment process, and explore new ways of offering campus ministry. This effort will be crucial as the Board looks to respond to a recent vacancy in the Campus Pastor position at West Virginia University. 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 on a regular basis.

## **Justice and Advocacy**

Martha Hill



The Justice and Advocacy Team has been active during the 2022-2023 Conference year living into our vision: “As a means of God’s Grace in a broken and hurting world, Justice and Advocacy educates, energizes, and empowers the church to bring about the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.”

The Team gathered last fall in Charleston to connect and organize; in the spring we will meet in the Potomac Highlands for a listening retreat with our Historic Black Churches; and we will assemble for a luncheon during Conference. Our Team members are active in their respective areas of passion which include, but are not limited to, sustainable potable water, gun violence, disability ministries, racial matters, LGBTQ+ inequities, voting rights, and food insecurity. We often partner with other groups with corresponding interests like Global Ministries, CORR and Ethnic Ministries, within the connection, as well as external groups. A social justice quilt, created by talented quilters through a project led by BA Mis-kowiec, will be shared at Annual Conference.

The Justice and Advocacy Team has become proficient at meeting both online and in-person. News, articles, ideas and concerns are shared on both our group Facebook page and our Facebook public page. Jeff Allen, Director of the 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 and Peace with Justice Coordinators virtual meetings and webinars. 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](mailto:mhill1975@hotmail.com).



## **Conference Lay Leader**

Kristi Wilkerson, Conference Lay Leader

Over the past year, the Lay Ministry Team (Board of Laity) has continued on its journey to equip and empower lay ministry throughout the Conference through increased coordination, collaboration, and communication. To more fully round out our team, we added at-large members, and we also welcomed new district lay leaders to the team.

At a recent retreat/in-person meeting, we reviewed the responsibilities of our team, district and local church lay leaders, and lay members to annual conference, based on two booklets: Guidelines for Lay Leader and Lay Member to Annual Conference and Conference and District Lay Leaders Manual. We discerned a need to increase our focus on providing scriptural learning opportunities for the laity of our Conference. We also continue to work to provide opportunities for fellowship and connection. With these factors in mind, we are now planning a Laity Retreat with Bishop Steiner Ball to take place in August 2023. All laity in the WV Conference will be invited to participate in the retreat.

Kim Matthews has served in the dual role of Associate Conference Lay Leader and Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries for the past year. A team of all district directors of lay servant ministries now meets periodically under Kim's leadership to coordinate lay academies and other courses offered throughout our Conference.

Two devotionals were again prepared for all to utilize in their Lenten and Advent journeys. What a gift these devotionals are, and what gifted laity we have in the WV Conference, who write thoughtful and meaningful messages of reflection!

The two-part laity session in 2022 was a success as we held a virtual session prior to Annual Conference and then welcomed George Howard for an on-site laity gathering. George discussed the theme of intentionally Building Bridges and Making Connections, even when we disagree with others, in order to grow the Kingdom. We also spent time praying for one another during the laity gathering – this is a sight I will not soon forget. Nearly 400 laity paused, greeted their neighbor, and then offered a prayer for that neighbor. What an incredible blessing it was.

In 2023, we anticipate a three-part laity session. In addition to a pre-Conference virtual webinar (scheduled for May 21) and an in-person laity gathering (June 8), we will host a newcomers session for first-time lay members to annual conference via zoom on April 30. We welcome new and returning lay members, and other interested laity, to these sessions, as we strive to Proclaim Peace and Spread the Good News!

Please know that I, along with Lay Ministry Team members, pray for you – the laity, clergy, and congregations of the WV Conference of The United Methodist Church and beyond – and for your ministry. I am grateful, and it is a privilege, to partner with you as we serve together to discover, develop, and deploy passionate spiritual leaders making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Thanks be to God for the many ways you share the grace and love of Christ with others! As always, I wish you abundant blessings!

## **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? How do you equip yourself for this God-given 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 and each provides a way for laity to equip themselves for the ministry to which they have been called.

Lay Ministry faces some common challenges. How do we make courses accessible to those beyond the boundaries of our districts? We are enjoying in-person meetings again, but can we also keep the online door open? 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 2023: continued coordination and increased communication.

In both the spring and fall of 2022 and in the spring of 2023, 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 each “season.” Our plan is 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 trying to make better and more consistent use of the Conference Calendar. If you go to [www.wvumc.com/calendar/](http://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. Our coordination has led to an Annual Conference document of basic and advanced course offerings available in our conference.

In 2022, the second cohort of students began the Conference CLM Course, completed their work in January 2023. A new Conference CLM course began in March 2023. These courses are utilizing Zoom and Portico (the Conference’s online Learning Management System).

**How can you help?**

- Whether you are 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 may be the encourager who speaks God's voice into someone's life! 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, 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 the past few years. 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.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Think about this if you are interested in...</b>	<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Re-certification</b>
<b>Certified Lay Servant</b>	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"> <li>• Be approved by your charge conference.</li> <li>• Complete the basic course.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	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.
<b>Certified Lay Speaker</b>	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"> <li>• Be a Certified Lay Servant</li> <li>• Complete the following six advanced courses – preaching, prayer, polity, United Methodist beliefs, spiritual gifts, and leading worship.</li> <li>• Be approved by your charge conference.</li> <li>• Be interviewed and approved by your District Committee on Lay Ministry and the Conference.</li> </ul>	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 Lay Ministry and the Conference, and take one advanced course at least once every three years.
<b>Certified Lay Minister</b>	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"> <li>• You must be a Certified Lay Servant</li> <li>• Complete specific CLM curriculum with an accountability group.</li> <li>• Be approved by your charge.</li> <li>• Be interested and approved by the District Committee on Ordained Ministry and the Conference.</li> </ul>	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. Lauren Godwin, Chairperson

**Trustees Class of 2027:**

Cynthia Eakle	Clergy Woman
Randall F. Flanagan	Clergy Man
Frank T. Shomo	Clergy Man

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
<b>Elected Members Returning</b>		
John Allevato	2017	2026
Brian Brouillette	2022	2027
Rev. Ellis Conley	2016	2025
Christine Cox	2017	2026
Bill Fahrner	2021	2026
Jason Fiegel	2022	2027
Alan Letton, Ph.D.	2022	2027
Brian Maxwell	2017	2026
Justin Raber	2018	2027
Rev. Vance Ross	2021	2026
Rev. Amy Shanholtzer	2022	2027
Joanne Soliday	2016	2025
Kevin Spear	2016	2025
Craig Welsh	2017	2026
Jamion Wolford	2022	2027
<b>New Trustees</b>		
Arria Hines	2023	2028
Rev. Martha Ognibene	2023	2028
Angel (Williamson) Riley	2023	2028
Curtis Wilkerson	2023	2028
David Young	2023	2028

According to the Conference Rules (2022 Journal, IV. Misc. Standing Rules, 1, p. 381) 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.

## Arria Hines



Arria Hines is an accomplished and energetic business leader and entrepreneur. She was born and raised in rural West Virginia.

Arria founded her first company, a home interior boutique, in her basement in VA in the 1980s. Later, she moved back to her home state to work in project and leadership roles with Ranger Golf, PRC, and SAIC. From this humble beginning, Arria leveraged career opportunities to sharpen her business acumen and her energy knowledge. This led to the founding in 2009 of Allegheny Science & Technology (AST), a Woman-Owned West Virginia-based energy services company.

Under Arria's leadership, AST has thrived. It has been recognized as one of America's fastest-growing privately held companies. Beginning with two employees and one government contract, AST now has nearly 240 employees and more than two dozen contracts across multiple federal agencies. Today, AST is a leader in alternative energy technologies, and renewable energies, and it is a key team member on a DOE hydrogen hub effort, Appalachian Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub (ARCH2).

Arria currently serves on WVU's Visiting Committee, TechConnect Board of Directors, West Virginia Governor's STEM Council, and is an advocate for the WV Public Speaker's Bureau. She serves on the Upshur County (WV) Development Authority Board and is an executive member of the ARCH2 Board.

## Martha Ognibene

Rev. Martha Ognibene, an elder in The United Methodist Church, has degrees FROM West Virginia Wesleyan College, Virginia Tech, and the Methodist Theological School in Ohio. A former teacher, she has served churches in Parkersburg, Huntington, Colliers (Hancock County), and Short Gap (Mineral County), as well as serving as Superintendent of the Northern District. She is presently Senior Pastor of Wesley UMC, Morgantown.



## Angel (Williamson) Riley



Angel (Williamson) Riley graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan College (WVWC) in 1999 with a B.A. in International Studies. During her college career, Angel was active in a variety of campus activities. She dedicated hundreds of volunteer hours serving Upshur and surrounding counties as a Bonner Scholar. Her service included mentoring pre-teen and teenage girls from an underserved area in Clarksburg WV, sorting donations at the Parish House, tutoring adults in preparation to take the GED test, and helping establish a food and nutrition program (Souper Cupboard).

Additionally, Angel was a resident assistant; President of the Black Student Union; member of Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society; and a charter member of WVWC's Sigma Chi chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. – the largest historically Black Greek sorority in the country. It is no surprise Angel was recognized for outstanding student achievement in 1996 when she was one of the United States Achievement Academy National Award Winners.

After graduating Wesleyan, Angel obtained a Master of Public Administration in Government Management from Southeastern University (Washington DC). She has successfully built a 20+ year career managing multi-million dollar political affairs programs for Fortune 500 corporations and prominent trade associations including Deloitte, Freddie Mac, Lockheed Martin, and the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA). Angel is currently Senior Manager, Political Affairs for the North America subsidiary of the leading medical technology corporation Royal Philips (Philips). In this role, she directs the corporation's political action committee, employee political education initiatives, and grassroots programs.

Angel's involvement with WVWC did not end after graduation. In 2005 she co-founded the Black Alumni Network (BAN), an unofficial alumni networking group for African-American graduates, former students, and current students. She often plans meet-ups in the Washington DC area and manages an engaged Facebook group. Angel served on the Alumni Council 2009-2015 where she orchestrated a capital campaign to renovate the BSU house and chaired the Alumni Council's silent auction. She always accepts the invitation to represent WVWC at college fairs and speak with prospective students and their parents about her college experience. Angel continually demonstrates Wesleyan's objective for alumni to be leaders throughout their lives. She served on the executive committee for the non-profit organization Women in Government Relations (WGR) where her outstanding work as the treasurer led to her being named the Distinguished Member in 2014. She's also served on the Board of IDEA Public Charter School located in the Washington DC community where she grew up. Angel is a 4X Amazon Bestselling Author, podcast host, global speaker, and certified life coach. She has been featured in several media outlets for helping Black women achieve their personal, professional, spiritual, and financial goals.

Angel currently resides in the Washington DC Metropolitan area.



## Curtis Wilkerson



Curtis Wilkerson '99, of Buckhannon, West Virginia, earned his bachelor's degree from West Virginia Wesleyan College where he majored in History and Political Science. He and his wife Kristi '99, were married on Wesleyan's campus in 2003 in an outdoor wedding on the lawn in front of the Rose Garden. The couple has two children.

Wilkerson founded Orion Strategies in 2006 - a firm providing strategic communication, public relations, and state and federal government affairs, along with dedicated research and creative divisions. Wilkerson has guided the company through layered expansions with offices in Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, and Washington, DC.

For more than 20 years, Wilkerson has advised numerous organizations and companies as well as state, regional and national trade associations. These efforts include policy influence, permitting, tax abatement and crisis communication. He is often quoted and utilized as a background source for national and regional media outlets.

## Older Adult Ministry

Rev. Dr. Janet L. Flanagan, Chair

The Book of Discipline states that in each annual conference there *may* be a team on Older Adult Ministries. The purpose is to strengthen the Older Adult ministries in the local churches and districts of the annual conference.

In the West Virginia Annual Conference, this team does exist, and it is stronger than ever. The current team is an expanded group of people who are enthusiastic about this ministry and are willing to share resources. Currently our focus is on providing resources to churches where persons experiencing dementia may worship. We also hope to help churches preserve some of the stories from their older members using the gifts of the communications teams within each district.

The Older Adult Ministry team seems to have become a resource for individuals in need of wheelchair ramps. We have limited financial resources, but we are aware of volunteers in various areas of the conference who have the skills and desire to help with installing or building ramps when possible. We are grateful that Volunteers in Mission, David and Don Stilgenbauer, The House of the Carpenter in Wheeling, Glen Dale United Methodist, The SAW Ministry at Beckley Temple, and the CROSS Ministry at Christ Church in Charleston have been the hands and feet of Christ in these endeavors.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if there is a need for help with ministry with seniors in your area. I can be reached at [flanaganjanet8@gmail.com](mailto:flanaganjanet8@gmail.com).



## **Board of Ordained Ministry**

Rev. Scott Sears, Chairperson

The Board of Ordained Ministry of the WVAC has spent its past year looking forward to new ways that we may be able to discover, develop, and deploy spiritual leaders in the Annual Conference and beyond. It has been a year of transition, both in leadership and in focus.

Although there are a total of 30 number of people on the Board, every District Committee on Ordained Ministry is considered a sub-committee of the Annual Conference Board and the work that these committees are doing are acknowledged as ever more important to the overall success of living out our vision. Special thanks are given to each and every member of the District Committees for their faithful service in equipping and interviewing candidates for ministry – Certified Lay Ministers, Local Pastors, and those on the path to ordination.

Among those who serve on the Board, several have special roles that not only need to be acknowledged, but also can be contacted for specific questions about the Board's functions:

- Rev. Scott Sears – Chairperson (co-ordinates the work of the whole Board of Ordained Ministry)
- Yvonne Harris – Vice-Chairperson (works alongside the Chairperson in the coordination of the work of the Board, offers spiritual support to the Board's work, fills in for the Chairperson)
- Rev. Stephanie Bennett – Secretary and District Liaison Coordinator (works with Conference staff to plan for meetings and gatherings, maintains the official record of the Board work, works directly with District Committees to understand each of our roles and responsibilities)
- Rev. Jacob Steele - Registrar (communicates directly with candidates coming before the Board, trains the Board members on Interview process and dynamics, processes applications for those seeking provisional and full membership as well as ordination and works with those groups to make sure that they have a clear understanding of expectations and outcomes)
- Rev. Bonnie MacDonald – Conference Staff Member (works with all members of the Board but especially with leadership to make sure support is in place to carry out the work of the Board)
- Angela Jones – Conference Staff (provides support work and communication to Board members on behalf of the leadership and Conference Office)
- Rev. Jeff Taylor – Chair of the Order of Deacons (represents this Order of Ministry on the Board)
- Rev. Michael Estep – Chair of the Order of Elders (represents this Order of Ministry on the Board)
- Rev. Gwen Wolford – Chair of the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members & Pastoral Ministry License School Coordinator (represents this

Fellowship on the Board, directs an annual Licensing School for those approved for license as a Local Pastor)

- Rev. Chris Duckworth – Candidacy Registrar (provides orientation, testing, and training materials to candidates)
- Rev. Cheryl George – Local Pastor Registrar (works with Local Pastors as they secure Conference funding for Course of Study, reports progress of each Local Pastor in the COS annually to District Committees and the Annual Conference)
- Rev. Joe Kenaston – Conference Relations Committee Chairperson (Works with the committee in dealing with requested/required changes in Conference Relationships of clergy – retirements, leaves, etc.)
- Rev. Sharmune Burgess – Recruitment Coordinator (serves as liaison between Cabinet and Board on matters of recruitment and seminary visitation, and heads up our current recruitment emphasis)
- Rev. Brian Seders – Residency Coordinator (provides oversight and direction to our three-year residency program for Provisional Members)
- Rick Hyre – Scholarship Committee Chair (works with Board, conference staff, and the WV Foundation to find the best ways to offer scholarships to seminary students)

There is no way without the help of all its members the Board of Ordained Ministry could carry out any of the work that you will find reported in the “Business of Annual Conference” report that is approved at the Clergy Session of Annual Conference. All of them, along with other members of the Board are instrumental in carrying out this important work of relationship and order. That report celebrates both those who are entering ministry and those transitioning to new fields of ministry via changing relationships with the Annual Conference.

Over the last year the Board of Ordained Ministry has placed new focus and energy upon two main areas of our mission that take into account particular challenges that are before us. Those challenges include an increasing ratio of retirements to new persons entering pastoral leadership and the shifting of District boundaries leading to increased work being placed upon District Committees.

First, with the leadership of Rev. Sharmune Burgess, and renewed coordination with the Cabinet, we are placing more emphasis on the work of the Board to recruit new leaders both within and to the WVAC. Networks are being built through our connections to seminaries to allow us to actively be in conversation with those who may be looking for the types of ministry settings and challenges the WVAC offers.

Secondly, through some collaborative work with other annual conferences, members of the Board are making new efforts to understand the changing working relationship between District Committees and the Conference Board. The Board is hopeful that through these efforts we will be able to reach a shared narrative of the work done by both groups in both recruiting and preparing candidates for ministry.

As the current chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry, I am thankful for the work of all its members, for the support of Conference staff members, and for the prayers of this Annual Conference. May God continue to bless us the work we have before us.

## **Order of Deacons**

Rev. Jeff Taylor, Chairperson

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 in extending the table to 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 Book of Discipline.

In 2022, we gathered in person for the first time since 2019 at a luncheon at Upshur Parish House during the Annual Conference session. In October, the Order gathered at Stonewall Resort for time with Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball. While most of us were in person, we had several deacons connected to the gathering through Zoom, extending the table as far west as Hawaii and as far east as England! In addition to our time and conversation with Bishop Steiner Ball, we invited Rev. Dewayne Lowther to join us to help us mourn the death and celebrate the life of his spouse, Rev. Mary Virginia “Ginnie” Lowther, one of the first deacons in full connection in The United Methodist Church.

Are you wrestling with a call to a lifetime ministry of word, service, compassion and justice? Contact me or one of the other deacons in the Annual Conference and let us help you discern your call.

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 in order to provide mutual support of all licensed clergy for the sake of the life and mission of the church(¶323). All WVUMC Local Pastors and Associate Members hold membership in the Annual Conference Fellowship simply by their clergy status. Around 50% of the active clergy in the West Virginia Annual Conference are Licensed clergy: Full Time Local Pastor (FL), Part Time Local Pastor (PL), Retired Local Pastor (RL) and Associate Member (AM). Many Local Pastors are bi-vocational, serving the church in part-time status. All Local Pastors are examined each year by their District Committee on Ordained Ministry and must be deemed effective and fit to continue in pastoral duties in order to receive an appointment by the Bishop.

By Discipline the Conference Fellowship is to meet at least annually. During the past three years meeting in person has been prevented by COVID-19 concerns. The large number of licensed clergy and the varying access to sufficient internet access have made online gathering impractical as well. The plan is to return to gathering in person during 2023 Annual Conference. So, if you are reading this and you have not received an email invite or you do not have email, please contact me at the email or phone number below.

As chair of the Fellowship, I have continued to serve on the Board of Ordained Ministry. I have tried to represent licensed clergy well and to keep before our gatherings the ways Local Pastors and Associate members are unique in their service to the local church and essential to the health and effectiveness of the UM Church. In June I will retire from pastoral ministry. In this process of exiting pulpit ministry, I have learned additional aspects of the journey and plan to continue the work of strengthening the ministry of the WVUMC as God leads in this new Conference relationship.

If you have questions regarding The Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members or you have ideas to strengthen the ministry of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world through the WVUMC feel free to contact me at dgwolford.gw@gmail.com or 304-813-0176.



## 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](mailto:jmccune301@aol.com) 304-813-1274.

For general questions or reimbursement details, contact:

Angela Jones, Ministry Support Assistant, [ajones@wvumc.org](mailto:ajones@wvumc.org) 304-344-8331, ext. 39.

Rev. 7/2021

Board of Ordained Ministry

PO Box 2313

Charleston, WV 25328

## **Outdoor Ministries**

### **Spring Heights Camp and Retreat Center**

Shea James, Director of Young Disciples and Outdoor Ministries

Spring Heights Camp and Retreat Center welcomed a new Camp Director in 2023. Louisa Copenhaver has been a camper at Spring Heights for ten years, served on summer staff for four years, and celebrated her marriage at camp in July 2022. She is excited to return in a new role, and we are thrilled to welcome her as the new Director.

Louisa follows in the footsteps of Amy Mullins, who served faithfully at Spring Heights for the past eleven years. Amy resigned to spend more time with her family, but her love for camp has not waived, and she plans to volunteer in the future.

Under Amy's leadership in the summer of 2022, Spring Heights welcomed campers back to our Spencer, West Virginia property. While at camp, young people live into being a disciple of Jesus Christ. They learn to see God in the small moments of each day- whether swimming in the pool, climbing the challenge course, or gathering in the dining hall for taco bake and fresh-from-the-oven cookies. If you want a young person to awaken to God's presence in their life- send them to summer camp. Camp makes all the difference.

Because camp is transformational, everyone should experience it. DaySpring, our mobile camping ministry, connected with 700 campers and volunteers in 2022! DaySpring connects communities to churches, churches to camp, and campers to Christ! DaySpring staff train local volunteers how to build relationships with children and help them grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

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 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. Our spring work weekend is scheduled for April 14-16.

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

For more information about the on-site camp, DaySpring, retreats, or volunteering, please visit the website at [www.springheights.org](http://www.springheights.org) or follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/springheightsfb](https://www.facebook.com/springheightsfb) or Instagram [@springheights](https://www.instagram.com/springheights). If you would like to send Louisa a note of encouragement or welcome, you can reach her at [louisa@springheights.org](mailto:louisa@springheights.org).

**Ministerial Ethics**  
**Safe Sanctuaries Team**

Michael Burge, Miranda Nabers, Shea James

The Safe Sanctuaries team is an extension of the Ministerial Ethics team. This year we are proud to report that we've created online training for those who supervise children, youth, and vulnerable adults. It can be found on the conference learning platform Portico. In addition, the team is offering in-person training for each district during the 2022-2023 year, which includes training on how to write a Safe Sanctuaries policy for your church.

Please note the following updates to the Safe Sanctuaries policy:

- 1) The Sexual Ethics Team changed its name to the Ministerial Ethics Team. We've changed the name of the Conference team from "Sexual Ethics Team" found on page 6, line M to "Ministerial Ethics Team" to reflect the current term.
- 2) We've included a line that Safe Sanctuaries training is valid for four years and must be renewed every four years. This has been our practice but was not included in the policy.
- 3) We've changed the length between background checks from five to four years to align the screening and training requirements.

We thank the West Virginia Conference for creating and following policies to keep children, youth, and vulnerable adults safe.

## **Board of Pensions**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

#### **I. Pensions**

- A. That the Past Service Rate (pension rate for service rendered prior to 1982) increase from \$638 to \$651, effective January 1, 2024.
- B. 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 \$3,767,100.
- B. That 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 does not impact active or retired participants of the Medicare supplement program.
- C. That the 2024 rate billed to each charge per participant in the Plan be \$8,004 for the year. The 2024 participant Health Care Premiums be as exhibited on the attached **2024 WV United Methodist Conference Health, Dental, and Vision Costs** sheet. These rates reflect the effects of the BOP Health Insurance Funding Transition Resolution.
- D. 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 (\$8,004 annually for 2024). 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 (\$8,004 annually for 2024).
- E. 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.



- F. That effective January 1, 2024, if there is a couple where one spouse is participating in HealthFlex and the other in the Conference Medicare Supplement, a charge will only be billed the active health insurance charge responsibility amount/premium (\$8,004 annually for 2024), and not the Medicare Supplement premium in addition.

## 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.
- D. The 2024 monthly premium for the Conference Medicare Supplement Plan be \$170 per covered individual.

**III. Miscellaneous**

- A. That the last Sunday in October 2024 be observed as Day of Remembrance Sunday, to honor and remember retired clergy & surviving spouses. The 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. That the maximum individual Clergy Emergency Fund Policy benefit shall not exceed \$2,500 per calendar year, with a lifetime benefit of \$7,500 in accordance with the included policy.
- D. That the maximum individual Retired Housing Assistance Policy benefit shall not exceed \$5,000 per calendar year, with a lifetime benefit of \$15,000 in accordance with the included policy.
- E. That the following special grants and pension adjustments be approved:
  - **Dependent Adult Children:**
    - Esther Louella Feather
    - Wilma Wayne
    - Amy B. Conner
- F. 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 churches contribution for CRSP-DB, CRSP-DC, and CPP will be 10%, 3%, and 3% respectively.
- G. Pension billing has been approved to be drawn by ACH similarly to the health insurance billing effective January 1, 2024. The Office of Administrative Services will coordinate this rollout.
- H. 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 (Wespath).

2024 WV United Methodist Conference Health, Dental, and Vision Costs									
ALL PREMIUMS ARE COLLECTED THROUGH BANK DRAFT THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH									
Plan / Tier	2024 Total Monthly Premium	HealthFlex Health Insurance 2024 Participant Premiums*					Participant Annual Premium		
		Premium Credit (Amount Paid by Church and Conference)		Participant Monthly Premium	Participant Pre 65 Monthly Premium (Retired prior to 7/1/21)	Participant Pre 65 Monthly Premium (Retired after 7/1/21)	Participant Pre 65 Monthly Premium (Retired prior to 7/1/21)	Participant Pre 65 Monthly Premium (Retired after 7/1/21)	Participant Pre 65 Monthly Premium (Retired after 7/1/21)
		Premium Credit Funded by Local Church	Premium Credit Funded Through Fair Share						
<b>B1000</b>									
Participant Only	\$ 1,991.00	\$ 667.00	\$ 850.00	\$ 474.00	\$ 5,688.00	\$ 1,141.00	\$ 1,383.60	\$ 1,141.00	\$ 850.00
Participant + 1	\$ 3,783.00	\$ 667.00	\$ 2,025.00	\$ 1,091.00	\$ 13,092.00	\$ 1,758.00	\$ 2,558.60	\$ 1,758.00	\$ 2,025.00
Participant + 2 or more	\$ 5,177.00	\$ 667.00	\$ 2,980.00	\$ 1,530.00	\$ 18,360.00	\$ 2,197.00	\$ 3,513.60	\$ 2,197.00	\$ 2,980.00
<b>C2000 w/ HRA</b>									
Participant Only	\$ 1,911.00	\$ 667.00	\$ 850.00	\$ 394.00	\$ 4,728.00	\$ 1,061.00	\$ 1,383.60	\$ 1,061.00	\$ 850.00
Participant + 1	\$ 3,632.00	\$ 667.00	\$ 2,025.00	\$ 940.00	\$ 11,280.00	\$ 1,607.00	\$ 2,558.60	\$ 1,607.00	\$ 2,025.00
Participant + 2 or more	\$ 4,970.00	\$ 667.00	\$ 2,980.00	\$ 1,323.00	\$ 15,876.00	\$ 1,990.00	\$ 3,513.60	\$ 1,990.00	\$ 2,980.00
<b>C3000 w/ HRA</b>									
Participant Only	\$ 1,664.00	\$ 667.00	\$ 850.00	\$ 147.00	\$ 1,764.00	\$ 814.00	\$ 1,383.60	\$ 814.00	\$ 850.00
Participant + 1	\$ 3,163.00	\$ 667.00	\$ 2,025.00	\$ 471.00	\$ 5,652.00	\$ 1,138.00	\$ 2,558.60	\$ 1,138.00	\$ 2,025.00
Participant + 2 or more	\$ 4,328.00	\$ 667.00	\$ 2,980.00	\$ 681.00	\$ 8,172.00	\$ 1,348.00	\$ 3,513.60	\$ 1,348.00	\$ 2,980.00
<b>H2000 w/ HSA</b>									
Participant Only	\$ 1,864.00	\$ 667.00	\$ 850.00	\$ 347.00	\$ 4,164.00	\$ 1,014.00	\$ 1,383.60	\$ 1,014.00	\$ 850.00
Participant + 1	\$ 3,541.00	\$ 667.00	\$ 2,025.00	\$ 849.00	\$ 10,188.00	\$ 1,516.00	\$ 2,558.60	\$ 1,516.00	\$ 2,025.00
Participant + 2 or more	\$ 4,945.00	\$ 667.00	\$ 2,980.00	\$ 1,198.00	\$ 14,376.00	\$ 1,865.00	\$ 3,513.60	\$ 1,865.00	\$ 2,980.00
<b>H2300 w/ HSA</b>									
Participant Only	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 667.00	\$ 850.00	\$ 83.00	\$ 996.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,383.60	\$ 750.00	\$ 850.00
Participant + 1	\$ 3,041.00	\$ 667.00	\$ 2,025.00	\$ 349.00	\$ 4,188.00	\$ 1,016.00	\$ 2,558.60	\$ 1,016.00	\$ 2,025.00
Participant + 2 or more	\$ 4,161.00	\$ 667.00	\$ 2,980.00	\$ 514.00	\$ 6,168.00	\$ 1,181.00	\$ 3,513.60	\$ 1,181.00	\$ 2,980.00
<b>H5000 HSA</b>									
Participant Only	\$ 1,502.00	\$ 667.00	\$ 850.00	\$ (15.00)	\$ (180.00)	\$ 652.00	\$ 1,383.60	\$ 652.00	\$ 850.00
Participant + 1	\$ 2,853.00	\$ 667.00	\$ 2,025.00	\$ 161.00	\$ 1,932.00	\$ 828.00	\$ 2,558.60	\$ 828.00	\$ 2,025.00
Participant + 2 or more	\$ 3,905.00	\$ 667.00	\$ 2,980.00	\$ 258.00	\$ 3,096.00	\$ 925.00	\$ 3,513.60	\$ 925.00	\$ 2,980.00

2024 WV United Methodist Conference Health, Dental, and Vision Costs					
HealthFlex Dental Plan Premiums (Participant Responsibility)**					
Monthly Cost by Tier	Passive PPO 2000	Dental PPO	Dental HMO		
Participant Only	\$ 50	\$ 41	\$ 16		
Participant + 1	\$ 100	\$ 82	\$ 30		
Participant + 2 or more	\$ 150	\$ 124	\$ 53		

HealthFlex Vision Plan Premiums (Participant Responsibility)**			
Monthly Cost by Tier	Full Service	Premier	
Participant Only	\$ 8	\$ 14	
Participant + 1	\$ 13	\$ 23	
Participant + 2 or more	\$ 20	\$ 36	

WV United Methodist Conference 2024 Medicare Supplement		\$170
Monthly Premium Per Covered Individual		
CHARGE PREMIUM FOR MEDICARE PRIMARY PARTICIPANT & NON-MEDICARE ELIGIBLE SPOUSE If there is a couple where one spouse is participating in HealthFlex and the other in the Conference Medicare Supplement, a charge will only be billed the active health insurance charge responsibility amount/premium (\$8,004 annually for 2024), and not the Medicare Supplement premium in addition.		

ACTIVE – Actively appointed at least 75% or employed at least 30 hours a week and not Medicare eligible, including through small employer exception. Also, those retired and not yet Medicare eligible.	
* 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 (\$8,004 annually for 2024). Individuals retiring after July 1, 2021, and being younger than 65, will be bill the participant rate according to their plan elections and the full rate normally billed to a charge per participant (\$8,004 annually for 2024).	
** Participant can use excess premium credit to pay dental and vision premiums	
CPT INCAPACITY LEAVE – (Clergy with conference relationship of incapacity leave) Will be billed the participant amount per their elections and 20% of the rate normally billed to a charge per participant (\$8,004 annually for 2024). This provides a means for a discounted premium for these individuals since they no longer have a church to help defray the cost.	

<b>WV Conference Board of Pensions/Pension Funds, Inc. Financial Report</b>				
<b>As of December 31, 2022</b>				
	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	
<b>WVUMC ACCOUNT</b>				
<b>Department Name: 186 CONFERENCE HEALTH INSURANCE RESERVE</b>				
<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 2,112,169.95</b>	<b>\$ 2,639,386.82</b>	<b>\$ 1,905,491.06</b>	
<b>INCOME</b>				
400100 Fair Share Distribution	\$ 59,141.25	\$ 78,466.54	\$ 79,634.39	
400101 Special CR Distrib		\$ 296.00	\$ 343.00	
400125 CRSP DB Reallocation			\$ -	
400160 Transfer From 187 Claim Account			\$ 653,918.37	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 59,141.25</b>	<b>\$ 78,762.54</b>	<b>\$ 733,895.76</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 1,045,129.20</b>	<b>\$ 605,979.41</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 1,126,182.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,112,169.95</b>	<b>\$ 2,639,386.82</b>	
<b>Department Name: 187 CONFERENCE HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN</b>				
<b>INCOME</b>				
<b>GENERAL INCOME</b>				
400025 Fair Share Distribution - Category I	\$ 3,409,957.44	\$ 3,393,537.42	\$ 3,444,205.60	
400026 Special CR Distrib		\$ 12,762.00	\$ 14,824.00	
400100 Other	\$ 217.43	\$ 612.03	\$ 332.88	
400103 Optional Life Insurance Receipts		\$ 237.60	\$ 237.60	
400105 UM Foundation Trusts	\$ 34,655.07	\$ 32,002.43	\$ 31,061.60	
<b>TOTAL GENERAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 3,444,829.94</b>	<b>\$ 3,439,151.48</b>	<b>\$ 3,490,661.68</b>	
<b>INCOMING TRANSFERS</b>				
<b>TOTAL INCOMING TRANSFERS</b>	<b>\$ 1,045,129.20</b>	<b>\$ 611,709.55</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	
<b>INSURANCE PREMIUMS</b>				
400225 Medical BAC	\$ (16,381.39)	\$ 2,232,491.00	\$ 2,856,828.50	
400250 Medicare BAC	\$ 759,456.00	\$ 797,247.00	\$ 658,233.00	
400425 HealthFlex	\$ 1,851,382.92			
<b>TOTAL INSURANCE PREMIUMS</b>	<b>\$ 2,594,457.53</b>	<b>\$ 3,029,738.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,515,061.50</b>	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 7,084,416.67</b>	<b>\$ 7,080,599.03</b>	<b>\$ 7,005,723.18</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>				
500120 Administrative Assistant	\$ 31,100.00	\$ 34,502.76	\$ 35,329.32	
500130 Conf Pre-Retirement Sem				
500135 GBOP Meeting Expense				
500145 Insurance Plan Book			\$ 2,050.45	
500155 Legal / Professional Fees	\$ 22,120.81	\$ 11,600.00	\$ 17,000.00	
500160 Property Tax (Antero)		\$ 5,306.90	\$ 7,945.04	
500165 Miscellaneous	\$ 6,733.53	\$ 3,707.20	\$ 5,048.00	
500166 AUMCPBO				
<b>500167 Transfer to Insurance Reserve</b>			<b>\$ 653,918.37</b>	
500175 Wellness/Pulse Program	\$ 1,580.00	\$ 12,786.18	\$ 7,117.98	
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>\$ 61,534.34</b>	<b>\$ 67,903.04</b>	<b>\$ 728,409.16</b>	

	2022	2021	2020
<b>BENEFIT ASSISTANCE</b>			
500225 Administration Fees	\$ 196,523.10	\$ 161,016.90	\$ 162,866.50
500235 Consulting Fees	\$ 4,289.55	\$ 6,153.00	\$ 6,519.45
500240 4Most Integrated Health Network	\$ 12,983.68	\$ 49,824.00	\$ 37,103.75
500245 Pre-Certification Fees		\$ 5,674.40	\$ 6,156.15
500255 Specific Premiums		\$ 636,260.61	\$ 666,345.60
500256 4-Most Integrated Health Dental	\$ 6,409.05	\$ 4,395.00	\$ 4,276.50
<b>TOTAL BENEFIT ASSISTANCE</b>	<b>\$ 220,205.38</b>	<b>\$ 863,323.91</b>	<b>\$ 883,267.95</b>
<b>CLAIMS PAID Medicare</b>			
500325 Dental Claims	\$ 119,744.55	\$ 224,305.64	\$ 201,586.69
500330 Hospital	\$ 397,148.63	\$ 3,762,103.37	\$ 2,969,242.94
500335 Medical	\$ 333,608.69	\$ 930,799.93	\$ 1,068,179.16
500340 Prescriptions		\$ 1,004,646.01	\$ 1,041,549.69
500342 Split Fund Deduct Claims	\$ 68,854.05	\$ 209,495.15	\$ 89,441.35
500345 Vendor Fees		\$ 78.47	\$ 7,277.14
<b>TOTAL CLAIMS PAID</b>	<b>\$ 919,355.92</b>	<b>\$ 6,131,428.57</b>	<b>\$ 5,377,276.97</b>
<b>ACTIVE TERMINAL LIAB CLAIMS 2021</b>			
500355 Dental	\$ 35,732.03		
500360 Hospital	\$ 620,636.69		
500365 Medical	\$ 86,356.28		
500370 Prescriptions	\$ 38,604.62		
<b>TOTAL TERMINAL LIAB CLAIMS PAID</b>	<b>\$ 781,329.62</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>WESPATH MONTHLY PAYMENTS</b>	<b>\$ 5,082,485.35</b>		
<b>LIFE INSURANCE</b>			
500525 Conference Paid Insurance	\$ 19,506.06	\$ 17,705.91	\$ 16,531.50
500535 Optional Life Insurance		\$ 237.60	\$ 237.60
<b>TOTAL LIFE INSURANCE</b>	<b>\$ 19,506.06</b>	<b>\$ 17,943.51</b>	<b>\$ 16,769.10</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 7,084,416.67</b>	<b>\$ 7,080,599.03</b>	<b>\$ 7,005,723.18</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Department Name: 460 MINISTERS EMERGENCY FUNDS</b>			
<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 741,448.97</b>	<b>\$ 746,859.62</b>	<b>\$ 672,692.53</b>
<b>INCOME</b>			
400075 Dividends	\$ 5,702.62	\$ 3,469.41	\$ 5,231.93
400100 Estates / Trusts		\$ 12,744.69	\$ 64,307.09
400125 BV - Gifts For Minister Emerg Funds		\$ 500.00	
400130 ROY - Lease Amendment FK053161-1		\$ 400.00	
400170 UM Foundation Receipts Trusts	\$ 63,534.17	\$ 46,874.06	\$ 35,958.03
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 69,236.79</b>	<b>\$ 63,988.16</b>	<b>\$ 105,497.05</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
500050 Emergency Distribution	\$ 10,714.03	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 19,455.74
500075 Moving Expense Reimbursement - Retired Ministers	\$ 24,740.27	\$ 11,608.86	\$ 11,021.00
500100 Property Tax Payments	\$ 6,552.34	\$ 789.95	\$ 853.22
500125 Transfer to Dept 480 (Correction)		\$ 40,500.00	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 42,006.64</b>	<b>\$ 69,398.81</b>	<b>\$ 31,329.96</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 768,679.12</b>	<b>\$ 741,448.97</b>	<b>\$ 746,859.62</b>

	2022	2021	2020
<b>Department Name: 410 CPP HOLIDAY MINISTRY GRANT FUND</b>			
<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 946,917.38</b>	<b>\$ 952,696.95</b>	<b>\$ 851,141.09</b>
INCOME			
400100 CPP Monthly 2018 and 2019			
400110 CPP Monthly May & June 2020			\$ 101,555.86
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 101,555.86</b>
EXPENSES			
500125 Camp Purchases for Pastor Retreats		\$ 4,619.57	
500150 Transf to Spring Heights Pastor Retreats		\$ 1,160.00	
500160 Transf to UMF BOP Unrestricted Reserve	\$ 946,917.38		
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 946,917.38</b>	<b>\$ 5,779.57</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 946,917.38</b>	<b>\$ 952,696.95</b>
<b>Department Name: 465 RETIRED MINISTERS HOUSING LOAN FUND</b>			
<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 1,952,131.66</b>	<b>\$ 1,940,440.75</b>	<b>\$ 1,927,307.58</b>
INCOME			
INTEREST INCOME LOANS	\$ 10,241.95	\$ 11,690.91	\$ 13,133.17
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 10,241.95</b>	<b>\$ 11,690.91</b>	<b>\$ 13,133.17</b>
EXPENSES			
500025 Administration			
500050 Grants			
500060 Transfer to UMF BOP Unrestricted Reserve	\$ 1,055,704.32		
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 1,055,704.32</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 906,669.29</b>	<b>\$ 1,952,131.66</b>	<b>\$ 1,940,440.75</b>
<b>FUNDS HELD AT WV UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION AS OF 12/31/2022</b>			
<b>MMP Annuity Reserve Fund (33595): Established to absorb any market downturns in funding MMP account balances to</b>			
Beginning Balance	\$2,856,479.47	\$2,658,496.33	\$2,276,685.98
Investment Performance	(\$469,159.06)	\$197,983.14	\$381,810.35
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$2,387,320.41</b>	<b>\$2,856,479.47</b>	<b>\$2,658,496.33</b>
<b>Pre-1982 Reserve Fund (33648): Established to invest balances for earnings and liquidity purposes</b>			
Beginning Balance	\$3,679,706.53	\$3,366,524.13	\$2,821,074.33
Contributions/Deposits/Transfers	\$10,550.43	\$60,716.77	\$64,647.55
Investment Performance	(\$605,976.86)	\$252,465.63	\$480,802.25
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$3,084,280.10</b>	<b>\$3,679,706.53</b>	<b>\$3,366,524.13</b>
<b>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</b>			
Beginning Balance	\$1,373,017.04	\$838,763.26	\$328,759.22
Contributions/Deposits/Transfers	\$2,823,986.88	\$460,501.46	\$395,209.83
Investment Performance	(\$374,398.81)	\$73,752.32	\$114,794.21
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$3,822,605.11</b>	<b>\$1,373,017.04</b>	<b>\$838,763.26</b>

	2022	2021	2020
<b>Unfunded Pension Liabilities Acct (54061):</b> A fund established to hold and invest the funds collected per the Book of Discipline and the 2019 WV Annual Conference from the sale of closed church properties or payments from congregations			
Beginning Balance	\$ 395,959.30	\$ 166,112.57	\$ -
Contributions/Deposits/Transfers	\$157,093.12	\$207,509.68	\$ 143,456.00
Investment Performance	\$ (81,947.59)	\$22,337.05	\$ 22,656.57
Ending Balance	<b>\$ 471,104.83</b>	<b>\$ 395,959.30</b>	<b>\$ 166,112.57</b>
<b>FUNDS HELD AT WESPATH AS OF 12/31/2022</b>			
<b>Deposit Account:</b> The "Checking Account" through which the WV Annual Conference Pension Plan makes deposits and			
Current Balance	<b>\$13,035.22</b>	<b>\$7,515.78</b>	<b>\$1,896.37</b>
<b>CRSP-DC and CPP:</b> 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	<b>\$362,981.76</b>	<b>\$360,198.96</b>	<b>\$339,748.07</b>
<b>CRSP-DB:</b> 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	<b>\$6,166,758.59</b>	<b>\$4,852,962.83</b>	<b>\$3,072,683.71</b>
<b>SUPERANNUATE ENDOWMENT FUND:</b> 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			
Current Balance	<b>\$ 693,553.45</b>	<b>\$831,902.24</b>	<b>\$ 764,935.04</b>
<b>PAST SERVICE ACCOUNT (Pre 1982 Service):</b> 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	<b>\$ 39,578,788</b>	<b>\$ 40,409,329</b>	<b>\$ 42,222,676</b>
Overfunding Amount	<b>\$ 10,612,601</b>	<b>\$ 9,346,982</b>	<b>\$ 12,174,675</b>
Overfunding %	<b>137%</b>	<b>130%</b>	<b>140%</b>



## **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.

## RETIRED HOUSING ASSISTANCE FUND POLICY

Background – The W.Va. Annual Conference established “Minister’s Retirement Housing Loan Fund” in 1982 (1982 WV Conference Journal, p.218); throughout the years loans were made to qualifying retirees and surviving spouses. Upon recommendation by the Conference Board of Pensions, the 2022 Annual Conference discontinued the “Minister’s Retirement Housing Loan Fund;” the Conference Board of Pensions establishes a new “Retired Housing Assistance Grant Fund” using the following guidelines based on the current “Clergy Emergency Fund Policy:”

1. The purpose of this grant fund is to provide housing assistance funds for retired clergy and surviving spouses when faced with housing related expenses that would create financial hardship to them.
2. Retired clergy and surviving spouses of the West Virginia Annual Conference may request up to \$5,000 once a year with a \$15,000 lifetime cap for this fund.
3. All requests from retired clergy or a surviving spouse are referred to the Conference Pension Officer (Conference Treasurer). The District Superintendent of record for the individual may be consulted regarding the request and provide retirement status and any information regarding the necessity of the request. Final decision regarding the grant is made by the Conference Pension Officer.
4. Funds may not be granted for utility assistance.
5. The request for assistance must be in writing (email or letter) and be accompanied by a receipt, letter or estimate, either of which describing the necessity for the money. (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 the transaction.)
6. Funds will be sent directly to the recipient.
7. Records of disbursements will be kept in the Conference Treasurer’s Office.
8. Special circumstances and emergency situations must be presented to the Conference Board of Pensions.

## Rules

Rev. Jarrod Caltrider, Chairperson

The West Virginia Annual Conference Rules Committee met virtually by Zoom on February 9, 2023. During that meeting, the committee reviewed and considered submissions for rule changes to our Conference Rules. There were seven committee members present at the meeting including the Secretary of the Annual Conference as an ex-officio member and one guest from the Board of Ordained Ministry who shared a detailed overview of the the proposed change to Rule B.III. As Rules Chair, I continue to be grateful for the dedication of and attentiveness given by our Conference Rules Committee in preparing for our Annual Conference session.

Following discussion and affirmative vote, the Rules Committee proposes the following changes to the WV Conference Rules. The proposed rule change to Rule B.III is being submitted as an amendment by substitution. There is an explanation of the process for voting on this rule change and a rationale for the change. When this rule change is presented at Annual Conference, a Board of Ordained Ministry member will offer a detailed explanation of the changes.

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.I.1

Found on page 372 of the 2022 Conference Journal

*Rationale: This rule change gives flexibility to the role of Conference Secretary as well as amends the rule to align with the current process for preparing and producing the Conference Workbook and Journal.*

1. **Conference Secretary** (§603.7) At the first session following the General Conference, on nomination by the Resident Bishop, after consultation with the district superintendents, the Annual Conference shall elect a secretary to serve for the succeeding quadrennium. The Conference shall annually elect, upon nomination of the Secretary, assistant secretaries from the clergy or lay membership to serve during and after the session in the preparation of minutes, memoirs, and other materials for publication in the *Conference Workbook* and the *Journal*.

The Conference Secretary shall ~~be editor~~ oversee the production of the *Conference Workbook* and *Journal*, be the custodian of clergy records, and supply the records needed for the work of the Nominations Committee.

The compensation and expenses of the Conference Secretary shall be approved by the Annual Conference, upon recommendation of the Council on Finance and Administration, and shall be included in the Conference Administration Budget.

The Conference Secretary shall be accountable to the Resident Bishop.

### **To Amend Rule B.II.8.4**

Found on page 376 of the 2022 Conference Journal

*Rationale: This rule change seeks to bring the language of this rule into alignment with language used in similar areas of our current rules. The rule change also removes the requirement for the four Conference coordinator positions listed in this section of the rule to be nominated annually by the Core Leadership Team, amending it to align with the wording of rule B.II.8.3.*

### **B.II.8. Global Ministries**

4. Coordinators to be nominated by the Core Leadership Team (not subject to Rule IV.7.b B.I.8.b):
  - Disaster Response Coordinator
  - Volunteers-in-Mission Coordinator
  - Refugee/Immigration Coordinator
  - Health and Disabilities Coordinator

### **To Amend Rule B.III**

Found on page 379 of the 2022 Conference Journal

*Because this rule change incorporates a large section of our conference rules, the Rules Committee is proposing the following rule change as an amendment by substitution. As per our conference rules, the first motion made by the Rules Committee to the plenary session of the annual conference will be for substitution. If the motion to consider the substitution prevails, the second motion will be for the adoption of this rule change. Additionally, according to our rules, "All rules relating to licensed and ordained ministry shall be presented to and voted on by an executive session of the clergy of the annual conference prior to being presented to and voted on by a plenary session of the annual conference.*

*The voting response of the executive session shall be reported to the plenary session of the annual conference by the conference Rules Committee” (B.III.1).*

*Rationale: This rule change comes from the Board of Ordained Ministry who approved the changes to the rules relating to Licensed and Ordained Ministry and is being recommended by the Rules Committee. The proposed changes make a profound adaptation of the Rules; consequently, the alterations are being offered as an amendment by substitution. All parts of the rules that are a duplication of the Discipline have been removed. In addition, elements of rules that relate to education have been adapted due to the changing nature of education. This includes recognition that the Discipline allows the University Senate to guide the requirements of distance learning. However, three courses that are unique for those on the elder track in the WV Conference remain: preaching, pastoral care, and church administration. The entire section of the Coordinating Committee on the Order of Elders has been removed. The Order is amply described in the Discipline and most of the rules listed were either a duplicate of the Discipline or no longer practiced by the Order. The Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members as well as Order of Deacons are all part of the Discipline, but their duties were not expanded in the Rules. This update brings equity to the treatment of the fellowship and the two orders. The rules in Section III have been reordered to reflect a logical progression. All the relevant BOD paragraphs are listed in the Rules to enable people to find the relevant information in the Discipline.*

### III. RULES RELATING TO LICENSED AND ORDAINED MINISTRY

**1. Rules.** All rules relating to licensed and ordained ministry shall be presented to and voted on by an executive session of the clergy of the annual conference prior to being presented to and voted on by a plenary session of the annual conference. The voting response of the executive session shall be reported to the plenary session of the annual conference by the conference Rules Committee.

**2. The Candidacy Process.** (~~¶¶310, 311, 312~~) There shall be a three-year time limitation for persons to complete exploration and declared phases of the candidacy process (from the date of assignment of the Candidacy Mentor by the District Committee on Ordained Ministry to date of certification by the District Committee on Ordained Ministry). Each certified candidate for ministry shall have a yearly interview with the District Committee on Ordained Ministry.

**3. Pastoral Ministry Licensing Schools.** The Conference Board of Ordained Ministry shall be authorized to develop and conduct Pastoral Ministry Licensing Schools for the West Virginia Annual Conference. All non-provisional members of the annual conference who are candidates for licensing shall attend the West Virginia Annual Conference Pastoral Ministry Licensing School unless permission is given by the executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry at the request of the cabinet. A person seeking a license under the provisions of ¶311 and ¶315 must have completed the requirements for candidacy and been certified as a candidate for ordained ministry by the District Committee on Ordained Ministry in order to be eligible to attend Pastoral Ministry Licensing School (Additional requirements and provisions for licensing can be found in the *Book of Discipline*, ¶¶312, 316, 317 & 319)

**4. Associate Membership.** Pre-requisites for associate membership shall include the completion of a minimum of 60 hours from a college or university recognized by the University Senate, in addition to any hours gained from evaluative programs; no more than 50% of their classes may be taken by correspondence or on-line. The 60 classroom hours shall include at least 12 semester hours in English composition and literature, six in philosophy and/or religion, six in sociology, three in natural sciences and three in speech or public speaking ¶322.

**5. Pastors.** Persons appointed for the first time as local pastors shall complete the first-year requirements of the Course of Study school within 18 months of that appointment. Pastoral charges shall allow local pastors who are under new appointments to attend the Course of Study school in the first and subsequent years of appointment so they can comply with requirements of (¶319.1 and ¶319.2.) and this rule. Local pastors who have completed the Course of Study shall follow the appropriate guidelines for continuing formation. A bachelor's degree or equivalent degree from a college or university approved by the University Senate shall be completed before conference scholarship funds are available for graduate theological study or advanced Course of Study.

**6. Ordained Elders In Full Connection.** Pre-requisites for elders in full connection with the West Virginia Annual Conference shall include a Master of Divinity or equivalent first professional degree, from a school of theology approved by the University Senate. For those on a degree track no more than 66 2/3% of their classes may be taken by correspondence or on-line. Classes required by the Board of Ordained Ministry include: Old Testament; New Testament; theology; church history; mission of the church in the world; worship/liturgy;

evangelism; United Methodist doctrine, polity, and history; preaching; pastoral care; and church administration, provided, however, that classes in preaching and pastoral care may not be taken in correspondence or on-line format. Associate members may request to be approved by the Board of Ordained Ministry, in consultation with the cabinet, to enter the advanced Course of Study in preparation for the process leading to provisional membership and the possibility of being admitted to membership in full connection without a Master of Divinity degree. Associate members seeking full membership and who are moving toward ordination as elder, shall follow ¶322.4 with the addition of a bachelor's degree from an approved college or university. Associate members or local pastors who are moving toward ordination as elder provided by ¶324.6 shall have completed a bachelor's degree or equivalent degree from a college or university recognized by the University Senate before beginning their graduate theological studies or its equivalent.

### **7. Order of Elders Coordinating Committee - Appointment and Term**

a. The Order of Elders shall, at the first session following the General Conference, elect an Order of Elders Coordinating Committee, consisting of a number of elders equal to twice the number of districts in the Annual Conference and such additional at-large members nominated by the Bishop to enhance the committee's inclusiveness, for a term of four years. This Coordinating Committee shall be directly amenable to the Order of Elders, notwithstanding its organizational relationship within any other agency of the annual conference. Each member shall be an elder in full connection. The Bishop shall nominate members after consultation with the chairperson of the coordinating committee, the executive committee of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, and the cabinet. An elected member of the coordinating committee may serve a maximum of three consecutive four-year terms. (The provisions of this paragraph basically follow the procedure for appointment and terms, as provided in ¶635, for the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry.)

b. The chairperson of the coordinating committee shall be a member of the coordinating committee and shall serve as a member of the Board of Ordained Ministry and its executive committee. (As specified by ¶¶308, 635) The chairperson shall be nominated by the Board of Ordained Ministry, after consultation with the membership of the coordinating committee prior to the quadrennial annual conference at which new officers are elected and elected quadrennially by the Order of Elders (¶308).

c. In response to, and furtherance of, God's covenantal order, and in conformance with those purposes set forth in ¶¶305-309, the Order of Elders coordinating committee shall have the following responsibilities and authorities:

(1) To resource the members of the order in remembering, developing, and strengthening the distinctive nature of their ordination, as servant leaders of the church.

(2) To resource, facilitate and promote elders' recognition of and full participation in the "blessedness of the connection" which is a unique and dynamic cornerstone of United Methodism.

(3) To resource, facilitate, and promote the imperatives of spiritual direction, development, and discipline within the order.

(a) In the event that the conference does appoint a conference spiritual life director(s) (or persons(s) to like or similar position(s)) the coordinating committee shall consult with the bishop and other appropriate conference leaders regarding the appointment and continuing work of this conference spiritual life director(s) (or persons(s) to like or similar position(s)).

(b) In the event that a conference spiritual renewal retreat center for clergy is developed, the coordinating committee shall actively participate in its formation and ongoing ministry.

(4) To represent the order in consultation with the bishop, cabinet, and Conference Board of Ordained Ministry regarding matters of spiritual development, concerns within the appointment system, the evolving understanding of itinerancy, and the well-being of the order.

(5) To actively seek improved communications and meaningful covenantal relationships among elders, in order to enhance awareness of their needs and to facilitate development, understanding and representation on behalf of the order.

(6) To represent the order to the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry; and to present to the board, consistent with applicable conference budgeting procedures, the financial needs of the coordinating committee, for inclusion in the budget of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry.

**8. Residency Program.** All provisional members shall be a part of the residency program during the first three years of provisional membership which follow the completion of the educational requirements for full connection. The residency program will count as continuing formation.

**9. Recognition of Orders From Other Denominations.** Persons transferring from other Christian denominations and holding credentials or ordination may have them recognized and approved by the members in full connection, as deacons or elders, on recommendation of the Board of Ordained Ministry. Orders determined to be equivalent to deacon's or elder's orders in The United Methodist Church, regardless of the nomenclature and privileges granted by other denominations in question, shall be limited to the rights and privileges granted to the order for which they are approved under the authority of our *Book of Discipline*.



**10. Continuing Formation.** All full, provisional and associate members of the annual conference, who are in an effective relationship with the annual conference, and full-time local pastors who have completed the Course of Study, shall be granted at least one week each year and at least one month each quadrennium for continuing formation. Such leaves shall not be considered as part of the clergy person's vacation (§350.2). In addition, all full, provisional and associate members who are in an effective relationship with the annual conference, and full-time local pastors who have completed the Course of Study shall be required to participate in and complete 4 CEU's of continuing formation (or its equivalent of 40 contact hours) every two years under the accountability of the Board of Ordained Ministry, and the Order of Deacons, Order of Elders, or the Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors. Certificates of completion are required.

**11. District Committee on Ordained Ministry.** When possible, a minimum of one and a maximum of two associate members or local pastors who have completed the Course of Study shall be included as members of each District Committee on Ordained Ministry. A quorum for all District Committees on Ordained Ministry shall consist of fifty percent of those persons eligible to vote.

**12. Vacation.** All full members of the annual conference, provisional members, associate members, and full-time local pastors who have completed the Course of Study school shall be entitled to four weeks' vacation with pay (four Sundays), each appointive year (July 1-June 30). Student local pastors, part-time local pastors, and full-time local pastors who have not completed the Course of Study school shall be entitled to two weeks (two Sundays).

**13. Parsonage.** A parsonage shall be provided for each active pastor serving a charge as elder, associate member, provisional member moving toward ordination as an elder, and full-time local pastor. Each is required to live in a parsonage unless permission to live elsewhere has been granted by the cabinet. Exceptions to this requirement may be granted by the cabinet after consultation with the Pastor-Parish Relations committee of the involved church or charge. A retired pastor serving full time shall also have the option of living in a parsonage.

**14. Mentoring Program.** The Conference Board of Ordained Ministry shall oversee a mentoring program for local pastors and provisional members.

**1. Rules.**

All rules relating to licensed and ordained ministry shall be presented to and voted on by an executive session of the clergy of the annual conference prior to being presented to and voted on by a plenary session of the annual conference. The voting response of the executive session shall be reported to the plenary session of the annual conference by the conference Rules Committee.

**2. The Candidacy Process. (§§310-312)****3. Pastoral Ministry Licensing Schools. (§§311, 312, 315-319)**

The Conference Board of Ordained Ministry shall be authorized to develop and conduct Pastoral Ministry Licensing Schools for the West Virginia Annual Conference. Those who are candidates for licensing shall attend the West Virginia Annual Conference Pastoral Ministry Licensing School unless permission is given by the executive committee of the Board of Ordained Ministry at the request of the cabinet. A person seeking a license under the provisions of §311 and §315 must have completed the requirements for candidacy and be certified as a candidate for ordained ministry by the District Committee on Ordained Ministry in order to be eligible to attend Pastoral Ministry Licensing School.

**4. Licensed Local Pastors. (§§316-320, 323)**

Persons appointed for the first time as local pastors shall complete the first-year requirements of the Course of Study school within 18 months of that appointment. Pastoral charges shall allow local pastors who are under new appointments to attend the Course of Study school in the first and subsequent years of appointment so they can comply with requirements of (§319.1 and §319.2.) and this rule. Local pastors who have completed the Course of Study shall follow the appropriate guidelines for continuing formation.

**5. Associate Membership. (§§321-323—Fellowship of LP & AM)****6. Requirements for Ordination.****Provisional Membership and Commissioning (§§324-327)****Deacon in Full Connection (§§328-331)****Elder in Full Connection (§§332-335)**

The West Virginia Conference requires these additional courses for those on the elder track: Preaching; Pastoral Care; and Church Administration.

**7. Residency Program. (§326)**

All provisional members shall be a part of the residency program during the first three years of provisional membership. The residency program will count as continuing formation.

**8. Mentoring. (§348)****9. Covenant and Mutual Support for Licensed and Ordained Clergy****The Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members. (§323)****The Meaning of Ordination, The Order of Deacons, and The Order of Elders.****(§§301-309, 635)****10. Recognition of Orders from Other Denominations. (§§346-347)****11. Continuing Formation. (§350.2)**

All full, provisional and associate members of the annual conference, who are in an effective relationship with the annual conference, and full-time local pastors who have completed the Course of Study, shall be granted at least one week each year and at least one month each quadrennium for continuing formation. Such leaves shall not be considered as part of the clergy person's vacation. In addition, all full, provisional and associate members who are in an effective relationship with the annual conference, and full time local pastors who have completed the Course of Study shall be required to participate in and complete 4 CEU's of continuing formation (or its equivalent of 40 contact hours) every two years under the accountability of the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Order of Deacons, Order of Elders, or the Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors. Certificates of completion are required.

**12. District Committee on Ordained Ministry. (§666)**

When possible, a minimum of one and a maximum of three associate members and/or local pastors who have completed the Course of Study shall be included as members of each District Committee on Ordained Ministry. A quorum for all District Committees on Ordained Ministry shall consist of fifty percent of those persons eligible to vote.

**13. Vacation.**

All full members of the annual conference, provisional members, associate members, and full-time local pastors who have completed the Course of Study school shall be entitled

to four weeks' vacation with pay (four Sundays), each appointive year (July 1-June 30). Licensed local pastors, part-time and full-time, who have not completed the Course of Study school shall be entitled to two weeks (two Sundays).

#### **14. Parsonage.**

A parsonage shall be provided for each active pastor serving a charge as elder, associate member, provisional member moving toward ordination as an elder, and full-time local pastor. Each is required to live in a parsonage unless permission to live elsewhere has been granted by the cabinet. Exceptions to this requirement may be granted by the cabinet after consultation with the Pastor-Parish Relations committee of the involved church or charge. A retired pastor serving full time shall also have the option of living in a parsonage.

#### **To Amend B.IV.13**

Found on page 386 of the 2022 Conference Journal

##### **Rationale:**

*Where dates have been changed within this rule, this rule change brings the rule into alignment with the current practices and deadlines of the Program Team. Deadlines have evolved to accommodate necessary preparation of materials.*

*Where language has changed from "registration" to "check-in," this change clarifies and brings our rules into alignment with the policies of the Program Team concerning distribution of printed material. Registration is now facilitated ahead of the Conference session. Check-in refers to the process members complete to be counted "present."*

*Whereas language regarding resolution submission deadlines has been added, this rule provides sufficient time for Annual Conference members to carefully, prayerfully, and faithfully research actions prior to a vote. It is the body's desire and responsibility to be well informed when making decisions on behalf of the local churches it represents. Requiring a submission deadline will align the desires and responsibilities of the body to our Conference rules.*

**13. Printed Materials.** Lay and clergy members of the Annual Conference shall be given an opportunity to read all reports, recommendations, resolutions, and other supporting material for agenda items prior to their presentation at the Session. All such materials shall be submitted to the Annual Conference Secretary by April 1st 90 days in advance of the

Conference Session each year and a Conference Workbook ~~mailed by May 1<sup>st</sup>~~ distributed prior to the Conference Session. Resolutions shall be considered only if submitted 90 days in advance. Each item submitted for the Conference Workbook shall be clearly identified as to authorship. Items Motions, reports, and recommendations requiring Conference Action not printed in the Conference Workbook shall be assigned a document number by the Annual Conference Secretary, printed at the expense of the presenter, and distributed at the time of registration check-in or ~~12 hours~~ 24 hours prior to presentation. The standard format for documents shall be 8 ½" x 11" paper, punched for three ring binders. Items not requiring Conference Action are to be received by the Annual Conference Secretary ~~by June 1~~ two weeks prior to the opening of the Annual Conference session. These items will be placed in a Conference publicity packet that will be distributed ~~at registration~~ to members at check-in. These items will be printed at the expense of the presenter. Motions from the floor, including amendments, shall be presented to the Annual Conference Secretary in writing. Only those ~~reports, resolutions and recommendations~~ items requiring Annual Conference action may be distributed with the permission of the presider within the bar of the Conference. ~~All other material shall be distributed at the place of registration.~~

**Trustees**

Rev. Dr. Randall F. Flanagan  
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.

At the first meeting after the 2022 Annual Conference the following officers were elected for 2022-2023:

President	Randall Flanagan
Vice President	Rich Shaffer
Secretary	Cindy Eakle
Treasurer	Jamion Wolford

The trustees of the Annual Conference have sought 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 is attached to this report.

The Trustees meets three times a year (February, May and October). We have continued to meet via zoom and face to face. We 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) Disaffiliation 6) GlenWood Park; and 7) 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 episcopal 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

**Property Insurance:**

Conference properties, vehicles, mission projects, and campus ministries (through our Affiliation Agreements) are covered by Annual Conference provided insurance. This year the Trustees bade farewell to Mr. John Thompson who retired after many years of service as the Conference Risk Manager. Our new risk managers are Scott Ransom and Stacy Fisher.

**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 report, "Closed Church Properties Conveyed," submitted from the agent regarding the work in the past year.

**Disaffiliation (BOD Para. 2553)**

The Board of Trustees have fulfilled the responsibilities of the Book of Discipline by creating a plan for disaffiliation as guided by the Book of Discipline for those who seek to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. We have been assisted in the past conference year with the work of Rev. Melissa Shortridge. She has functioned as a part time assistant of the Trustees and the Cabinet. Her responsibilities have been to meet with congregations who seek options concerning closure or disaffiliation. We thank Melissa for her excellent work.

**GlenWood Park:**

Funds from the sale of GlenWood Park Retirement Village have not yet been totally released. We anticipate that will happen in the coming year and that the trustees will be prepared to present a proposal concerning the use of the funds at our 2024 Annual Conference Session.

**Trustee Resolutions:**

We recommend adoption of three resolutions presented by the trustees:  
(See Resolutions 3,4 and 5 in Section VI -- Resolutions of this Journal)

CLOSED CHURCH PROPERTIES CONVEYED  
MARCH 1, 2022-FEBRUARY 28, 2023

PROPERTY/COUNTY	DATE CLOSED	DATE CONVEYED	CONSIDERATION
Victor Chapel (Lot)/Harrison	12-31-19	3-3-22	\$500.00
Newell/Hancock	4-15-21	6-15-22	\$10,000.00
Marvin Chapel/Hampshire	1-27-22	4-8-22	\$10,000.00
Doyle Chapel/Lewis	1-19-22	4-8-22	\$0
Knotts Memorial/Calhoun	1-19-22	5-16-22	\$25,000.00
Evans/Jackson	3-11-22	6-4-22	\$10,000.00
Mt Olive/Upshur	12-15-21	6-27-22	\$1,000.00
King Knob Cemetery/Richie	3-11-22	8-1-22	\$500.00
Pleasant Hill Cemetery/Harrison	6-7-22	10-6-22	\$500.00
Pleasant Hill/Wood	6-7-22	10-6-22	\$5,000.00
Bethel/Roane	8-8-22	10-21-22	\$10,000.00
Hemphill/McDowell	5-15-21	11-19-22	\$5,000.00
Yawkey/Lincoln	7-31-22	11-29-22	\$650.00
Speed/Roane	8-24-22	12-1-22	\$3,500.00
Chesterville/Wood	11-4-22	2-13-23	\$15,000.00
Merrill Chapel/Wirt	11-4-22	2-10-23	\$6,000.00
Slate Chapel/Wood	11-4-22	2-13-23	\$7,500.00
Sinclair/Preston	10-23-22	2-13-23	\$2,500.00
Mt. Union/Upshur	10-12-22	2-20-23	\$5,000.00



**Property Proceeds Account**  
As Of December 31, 2022

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	\$120,510.34	\$480,627.42	\$735,010.09
<b>Income:</b>			
Property/Furniture Sales	\$54,217.00	\$144,052.22	\$588,032.00
Bank Account Closures and Refunds	\$4,720.68	\$4,840.59	\$6,994.80
Interest Income - Foundation			\$0.00
Rents, Leases and Royalties	\$1,581.62	\$817.79	\$599.95
Other Income	\$650.00		\$2,943.26
Transfer from UMF 33440	\$36,609.32		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$97,778.62</b>	<b>\$149,710.60</b>	<b>\$598,570.01</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Salary - Trustee Agent	\$17,702.00	\$17,355.00	\$16,980.87
Travel - Trustee Agent	\$3,063.81		
Salary - Conf Property Assistant	\$6,000.00		
Travel - Conf Property Assistant	\$7,705.83		
Legal Fees	\$431.00	\$4,374.28	\$316.58
Administration	\$2,346.77	\$1,497.70	\$2,571.58
District Parsonage Expenses			
Apppraisals			
Transfer to New Church Development	\$45,940.78	\$223,853.62	\$68,178.44
Transfer to UM Foundation for Ethnic Churches	\$11,485.20	\$55,963.40	\$17,044.61
Agents Expense		\$3,306.95	\$4,704.66
Tranfer to Reserve	\$120,510.34	\$200,810.40	\$735,010.09
Taxes	\$10.56	\$46.14	
Other (Grants)			\$1,750.00
Utilities Closed Properties	\$2,205.33	\$2,509.06	\$6,395.85
Workers compensation	\$69.88	\$111.13	
Wesley Fairmont Campus Repair	\$789.99		
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$218,261.49</b>	<b>\$509,827.68</b>	<b>\$852,952.68</b>
<b>Net Year to Date Activity</b>	<b>(\$120,482.87)</b>	<b>(\$360,117.08)</b>	<b>(\$254,382.67)</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$27.47</b>	<b>\$120,510.34</b>	<b>\$480,627.42</b>

	<b>12/31/22</b>	<b>12/31/21</b>	<b>12/31/20</b>
<b>Investments Held at WV UMF</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Balance</b>
WV Annual Conference Trustees Fund	\$ 1,053,456.09	\$ 1,175,584.31	\$ 898,236.02

<b>Following entries will be made in 2023</b>	
2022 Property Sales Net of Expenses	\$14,681.82
Transfer to UMF for New Church Development (40%)	\$5,872.73
Transfer to UM Foundation for Ethnic Churches (10%)	\$1,468.18

**Property Insurance Account**

As Of December 31, 2022

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Beginning Balance</b>		\$0.00	\$86,058.26	
<b>Income</b>				
Apportioned Receipts	\$290,000.00	\$220,248.50	\$224,274.82	\$224,212.29
UMI Surplus		\$64.01	\$2,815.33	
Other Income (Insur. Refund)				\$3,236.41
Transfer from Conference Operating Fund			\$17,463.34	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$290,000.00</b>	<b>\$220,312.51</b>	<b>\$244,553.49</b>	<b>\$227,448.70</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Commercial Package	\$290,000.00	\$11,349.10	\$99,350.51	\$26,860.49
Conference Auto		\$14,838.16	\$14,563.41	\$18,690.99
District Offices		\$33,085.98		
Archives & History		\$6,185.84		
Camp Package		\$28,397.33	\$74,445.58	\$30,848.19
District Camps		\$24,944.54		
Mission Projects		\$85,968.47	\$127,309.05	\$61,216.49
Campus Ministries		\$10,914.72	\$14,943.20	\$3,774.28
Transfer To Conference Operating Fund		\$4,628.37		
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$290,000.00</b>	<b>\$220,312.51</b>	<b>\$330,611.75</b>	<b>\$141,390.44</b>
<b>Net Gain/(Loss)</b>		\$0.00	(\$86,058.26)	\$86,058.26
<b>Ending Balance</b>		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$86,058.26
<b>Transfer From Insurance Reserve</b>		\$0.00	\$17,463.34	\$0.00

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, 2022

Dept: 180 Episcopal Residence	Budget	2022	2021	2020
Beginning Balance:		\$ 150,971.92	\$ 156,474.63	\$ 132,931.54
Income				
Apportionment Receipts	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 13,320.16	\$ 15,582.00	\$ 15,926.86
GCFA Receipts	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Transfer from Reserves				\$ 5,546.82
	\$ 27,000.00	\$ 23,320.16	\$ 25,582.00	\$ 31,473.68
Expense				
Insurance	\$ 1,000.00			
Lawn / Landscaping	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,950.00	\$ 1,436.38	\$ 1,853.00
Major Appliance Purchases	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 9,791.00	\$ 1,250.00	
Pest Control	\$ 500.00	\$ 475.00	\$ 290.70	\$ 475.00
Repair / Maintenance	\$ 8,000.00		\$ 22,880.42	\$ 746.25
Reserve for Maintenance	\$ 5,000.00			
Utilities for Bishops Residence	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,801.91	\$ 4,927.21	\$ 4,556.34
Other	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
	\$ 27,000.00	\$ 17,317.91	\$ 31,084.71	\$ 7,930.59
Net Activity for the Year:		\$ 6,002.25	\$ (5,502.71)	\$ 23,543.09
Ending Balance:		\$ 156,974.17	\$ 150,971.92	\$ 156,474.63

Trustee - Spring Heights Accounts  
As Of December 31, 2022

Dept: 386 Spring Heights Maintenance Fund	Budget	2022	2021	2020
Beginning Balance		\$216.19	\$0.00	\$0.00
Income				
Apportioned Receipts	\$30,000.00	\$22,808.14	\$23,256.95	\$23,193.81
Other (UMF Distr. & Insur. Claims)		\$1,477.49	\$3,681.61	\$13,076.97
	\$30,000.00	\$24,285.63	\$26,938.56	\$36,270.78
Expense				
Maintenance	\$30,000.00	\$11,954.76	\$4,703.37	\$17,215.18
Tree Removal			\$12,000.00	
Equipment		\$10,560.68	\$10,019.00	
Transfer to Conf. Operating				\$19,055.60
	\$30,000.00	\$22,515.44	\$26,722.37	\$36,270.78
Ending Balance		\$0.00	\$1,986.38	\$216.19
				\$0.00

## **West Virginia Conference United Methodist Men**

### **Wayne Custer, President**

United Methodist Men finally went to open meetings. Our Annual Gathering was held at Jackson's Mill. Around 20 men attended along with around 300 Boy Scouts and their leaders at the Circuit Rider event held at Jackson's Mill at the same time. The newly elected General Secretary of the General Commission on United Methodist Men was in attendance. We are still maintaining about 11 percent of the churches chartered. We have 57 units. Little Kanawha District is still providing potatoes to local food pantries.

Jerry Meadows, our prayer advocate, is looking for men in the conference to work in their local churches as prayer advocates. The Officers would like for 8 men in the conference to take an 8-week course called *The Class Meeting* by Kevin Watson. If anyone is interested in these, please contact Jerry Meadows at [jwmead@fronttier.com](mailto:jwmead@fronttier.com).

The WV UMM have raised \$14,000 to redo the chapel and the wall to the garden. We are still looking for donations.

More information can be found at our website, [wvcummen.org](http://wvcummen.org).

## **United Women in Faith**

### **Becky Adkins, President**

2022 was a great year as we were able to hold two in-person events: Spiritual Growth Retreat at Cedar Lakes, and Annual Meeting at First United Methodist Church in South Charleston.

When nine districts were decreased to seven, the Conference Team gathered to map local units to their new districts. We did not want local units struggling with the change. We gathered by Zoom meeting with District Presidents, presenting a spreadsheet by district of every unit in the Conference. District Presidents then reached out to each new unit in their district to welcome them and give/get information.

Each year, a Local Organization Accomplishments document is completed by local units. It is amazing to see all the work being done on behalf of women, children and youth in the West Virginia Conference.

I want to share some of the mission work being done: Volunteer work in food pantries, thrift stores and our Conference mission sites. Shoe boxes, back packs, and layettes are packed. Prayer Cloths are made and distributed. In addition there are a Card Ministry, Angel Tree, purchasing school supplies, school teacher appreciation lunches, reading programs at schools, mentoring and tutoring programs, and Blessing Boxes. I could list many more projects. These hand-on ministries are done in addition to the monetary funds distributed to missions and ministries locally, in our Conference, and around the world.

Two Conference events were scheduled to be held in 2022. First, the Spiritual Growth Retreat was held in April at Cedar Lakes. Using the theme “Working Together to Spread Our Faith,” Rev. Alicia Rapkins presented our message. Forrest Fitzpatrick was our song leader and musician. Mission Moment was given by Belinda Toms from Tyrand Cooperative Ministries. We brought items for New Vision Depot. Our time together always ends with communion.

Mission u, usually held in June at Cedar Lakes, was cancelled this year due to low attendance.

Our Annual Meeting was held in October at First United Methodist Church in South Charleston. On our first day, two workshops were presented, and both were well attended. Our worship service was held on Friday evening. Using the theme, “Working Together to Spread Gods Love,” Rev. Jarrod Caltrider presented the message. Our mission moment was given by Eddie Bucklen, Director of Heart and Hand Ministries in South Charleston. Special music was shared by St. Marks Steel Drum Band and Rev. Robert Fulton. A memorial service was held for our sisters who have passed away over the last year, and communion was served. We also had an ingathering of items for Heart and Hand. Day Two is our business session. It is a full weekend of laughter, fun, singing, and joy in seeing our sisters around the conference.

One final note of significance for the West Virginia Conference is that the new editor of the official magazine of the UWF, Response is conference member, Audrey Stanton-Smith. Audrey is a member of United Methodist Temple, Beckley, and has served on the Conference Communication Team for several years. We are excited that she is using her talents to expand this important ministry for the world-wide United Women in Faith. If you don’t already receive the magazine, please subscribe to Response by going to <https://uwfaith.org/resources/response-magazine/>

**Our Purpose:** United Women in Faith 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.

### **United Methodist Youth**

Jacob Henley and Lauren Shanholtzer  
Conference Youth Co-Coordintors

In an attempt to best meet the needs of students throughout the Conference, in 2022 the position of Conference Youth Coordinator was divided between Jacob Henley and Lauren Shanholtzer. We are excited for the opportunity to help facilitate conference wide youth ministry and have been thrilled to work with the wonderful student leaders who make up CCYM.

I (Lauren) work as a Pediatric ICU RN at Ruby Memorial Children's in Morgantown, WV. I love my job and the ability I have to touch the lives of children and their families from all over the east coast, especially the children of WV. I am so thankful Shea asked me to take on one of the Co-Coordinator roles so I can stay active and involved in the conference and with the youth of WV! Growing up as a PK (if you know, you know), I've been blessed to have a connection to the WV Annual Conference as well as several local churches. Looking forward, I cannot wait to build greater relationships throughout the conference and connect more youth to the conference. I'm excited for the dreams and plans that have been created for the youth and young people and for what's to come for the conference!

I (Jake) work as the Youth and Family Life Coordinator at Saint Marks in Charleston, WV. My primary role is overseeing, leading, and facilitating kid and student ministries for the church. In addition to my position as Conference Youth Co-Coordinator, I am also serving on the conference team helping with camping ministries such as Spring Heights and DaySprings. I grew up in Saint Albans, West Virginia and was an active student in my youth group and in the West Virginia Baptist Convention's youth organizations. I studied Theology at Wheeling Jesuit University, earned my Master of Divinity from Palmer Theological Seminary, and am currently working towards my Doctor of Ministry also through Palmer. As a kid I loved participating in the opportunities for discipleship and spiritual formation and am thrilled to have the chance to help facilitate similar events for the emerging generations of West Virginia and beyond!

The first major event we had the opportunity to facilitate and plan with CCYM was the conference's longstanding Fall Workshop. Returning to Cedar Lakes after a two-year gap due to COVID, our theme was 'This is our Prayer' and the more than fifty students in attendance spent the weekend learning about the importance of prayer and developing meaningful and personal methods of talking and listening to God. In addition to their selected workshops, the students had the opportunity to play games, hear the hysterical Bill Lepp, participate in worship and sing live karaoke with the incredibly talented Jason Lovins Band, spend time in devotion with their peers, hear from several speakers, walk a candle lit prayer labyrinth, and pray as the Apostle Paul encourages: ceaselessly. We are indebted to Shea James, Bob Cover, Allie Sears, Brandon Moll, the student leaders of CCYM, and a wonderful group of Adult Leaders who gave their weekend and sacrificed a great deal of sleep to make Fall Workshop 2022 a truly sublime experience for all.

We have several noteworthy events scheduled in 2023. We expect to see plenty of students at the Annual Conference this year to serve as members of the session. Later this summer, the UMC's quadrennial national youth conference is scheduled for July in Daytona, Florida. The theme for Youth 2023 is *BOLD: Being ourselves. Living Differently*. The conference is supporting a bus to transport students of the conference to the event. Finally we have already begun turning our thoughts and prayers to Fall Workshop 2023 where we will help CCYM to improve upon the successes and strengths we saw from 2022.

We have much to be grateful for and also much to pray for as we look to the future of Youth Ministry in the West Virginia United Methodist Church. We ask for your prayers and support as we continue seeking to meet the needs of our wonderful students.

**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 2022.

**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. In 2022, we hosted quarterly webinars featuring various national leaders. We connected with more than 150 people in these forums.

In 2023, we are planning a Foundation Academy of Faith and Generosity at Pipestem Resort on September 25-27. While we look forward to connecting in person, we are offering this as a hybrid event. See your Annual Conference materials and watch our website and social media for updated information and details about registration. In addition to the Academy, we plan to host at least two webinars throughout the year. 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 2022 totaled nearly \$4.6 Million. Total assets under management as of December 31, 2022 were \$121.4 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:**

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

*Returns:* All four of our funds experienced losses in value during 2022. Our focus as investors is long term; we do not try to outguess the markets in the short term. We make sure we are being good stewards of the assets our donors and clients have entrusted to us.

Our investment decisions are guided by an experienced and capable Finance & Investments Committee with the advice of the experts from Wespath Institutional Investments. If history is any guide, we believe that markets will revert back to their normal cycles, and our disciplined approach will be rewarded. Market underperformance is not uncommon, and we remain steadfast in our belief that the key to a successful investment program is to remain fully diversified and invested, focused on the long-term.

The chart below provides the net returns for all of our Funds for 2022 as well as the 3-, 5-, and 10-year average returns. For 2023 year-to-date returns, visit [www.umfwv.org/total-returns](http://www.umfwv.org/total-returns).

Investment Fund	2022	3-Year Average 2020-2022	5-Year Average 2018-2022	10-Year Average 2013-2022
Fund A—Fixed Income Fund	-6.52%	-1.47%	0.09%	-0.02%
Benchmark*	-7.12%	-1.78%	-0.17%	-0.30%
Fund B1—Conservative Balanced	-15.98%	1.44%	3.27%	4.11%
Benchmark*	-15.88%	0.88%	2.69%	3.76%
Fund B2—Moderate Balanced	-16.42%	2.60%	4.29%	5.68%
Benchmark*	-17.20%	1.75%	3.64%	5.27%
Fund B3—Aggressive Balanced	-17.38%	2.70%	4.28%	5.93%
Benchmark*	-17.36%	1.90%	3.45%	5.63%

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

**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 \$6.0 Million 2022, 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 \$200,000 of our own money in grants, including \$134,000 through our Foundation Grants program. 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.

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@umfww.org](mailto:info@umfww.org), or go to our website ([www.umfww.org](http://www.umfww.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@umfww.org](mailto:jefftaylor@umfww.org)  
Kim Matthews, Vice President – [kimmattthews@umfww.org](mailto:kimmattthews@umfww.org)  
Susannah Carpenter, Chief Financial Officer – [scarpenter@umfww.org](mailto:scarpenter@umfww.org)

To be added to our mailing list, contact us at **[info@umfww.org](mailto:info@umfww.org)**.

Check us out on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/umfww](http://www.facebook.com/umfww)) to receive the latest news from the Foundation.

Visit our website at [www.umfww.org](http://www.umfww.org).

### **West Virginia Wesleyan College**

Welcome back to campus! We are so thrilled to host you again and we pray that the work you undertake is productive and positive.

It's been a busy year here at Wesleyan and I'm so excited with the progress we've made on the initiatives that are driving us towards being a thriving institution. I shared a similar note in our recent *Sundial* mailing, and I wanted to include many of the same pieces of news here.

These are challenging times in higher education, made all-the-more difficult because of the after-effects of the global pandemic. There has been talk for years about a so-called "demographic cliff" that is approaching higher education thanks to declining numbers of traditional college-aged students. In fact, in a few short years there will be nearly 30% *fewer* high school graduates than there were in 2008. That time is certainly upon us, and one can find lots of examples of colleges and universities experiencing enrollment shortfalls all over the nation. Competition is nothing short of fierce. Add to that the impact of inflation and global economic recession fears, and it makes for a lot of uncertainty. In spite of these extremely challenging times, the Wesleyan spirit is at work and great things are happening.

But amidst the challenges, there are great opportunities. We have been working actively to form partnerships with regional healthcare providers, and you may have seen some of these announcements. Mon Health, Community Care of WV, and others have emerged critical partners as we work to make Wesleyan an even more relevant institution in the health sciences space. This is in line with the college's strategic direction, and it's moving us towards being of service to Appalachia and finding solutions to the obstacles we all face here. Our goal is to be of service to our region. We've always graduated servant leaders, and the world needs more of those folks than ever before. We're leaning into healthcare and building on the foundation of our world-class nursing program because West Virginians and Appalachians are crying out for this type of care. We're working to create strategic partnerships that will allow us to improve the lives of the citizens of West Virginia and beyond, and our development of the MA in Clinical Mental Health is one such example. All of this needs to happen not only because Appalachia needs Wesleyan, but also because our Methodist roots drive us to do good work, at all times, in all places.

I truly believe that, if this college is to be successful for the long haul, there has to be meaning in our work. We will always serve our students because that's at the core of our identity and mission. As members of the Wesleyan family, you all know this. But the next phase of Wesleyan's journey will be one that places us at the center of solving big problems, advancing the people of Appalachia, and doing so holistically and with intentionality. And we're already on our way.

To that end, the College has adopted a new strategic vision. I'm proud that it's been informed greatly by our Methodist heritage, but I'll let you be the judge of that. Read on.

*To Serve - West Virginia Wesleyan College seeks to prepare the next generation of servant leaders in order to meet the needs of West Virginia, Appalachia, and the broader community. We recognize that, as a College, we have a responsibility to align our academic programs, our campus environment, and our extra- and co-curricular offerings not only with what students want, but with what our region needs.*

I hope that this gives you a window into our efforts, and that it is clear that our mission to serve comes from a place of real meaning. I look forward to our future because there's a lot of work to be done. If we keep our focus on serving the needs of our students, our faculty and staff, and our community, then I know we will be making the shift from surviving to thriving in a very intentional way.

I look forward to sharing more as our work progresses. Welcome back to your home among the hills, and I can't wait to see you all in person.

James H. Moore, PhD

President

## AFRICA UNIVERSITY

United Methodists worldwide celebrated an 'Ebenezer' moment in the ministry of Africa University in 2022, marking 30 years of faithfulness, generosity, growth, and impact within and beyond The United Methodist Church.

God's presence in the life of Africa University is evident, thanks to the prayers and generous support of the West Virginia Conference. Thank you, Bishop Steiner Ball, conference leaders, and member congregations for being attentive to the needs of Africa University's ministry and giving sacrificially to ensure its continuing vitality. In 2022, the West Virginia Conference graciously invested 100 percent of its share of general church giving to support the day-to-day operations of Africa University.

Supported by West Virginia United Methodists and others across the denomination, Africa University embraced new opportunities as it emerged from pandemic-related restrictions in 2022.

- **Enrollment:** Africa University achieved a total enrollment at 2,791 students in August 2022. Female students comprised 58 percent of the student population and 23 African nations were represented.
- **Academic Growth:** Africa University launched its first new academic unit in almost twenty years—The School of Law—with a pioneer cohort of 20 students

pursuing the Bachelor of Laws (Honors) (LL.B.) degree program. The institution is launching five new undergraduate and graduate programs approved by the Zimbabwe Council for Higher Education (ZIMCHE), the national accreditation and quality assurance agency.

- **Infrastructure expansion:** A new residence hall for female students at Africa University is under construction, funded by the East Ohio Conference's \$1.5 million *Teach \* Reach \* Bless* campaign. Once completed, the building will boost the available on campus housing for students to around 1200 beds.
- **Outcomes:** 712 graduates from 18 African countries became Africa University alumni in June 2022. The university's almost 11,000 graduates to date are making vital contributions as clergy, educators, agriculturalists, health professionals, entrepreneurs, and innovators. Faculty and student research efforts to address endemic challenges such as malaria and tuberculosis, food insecurity and climate change are gaining continental attention and significant international funding.

Africa University's year-long 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary program culminated in October 2022 with a gathering of more than 3,000 people at its main campus in Mutare, Zimbabwe. Amidst the commemoration and joyful thanksgiving livestreamed to the world, the Rev. Dr. Peter Mageto was formally installed as the fifth vice chancellor (president) of the institution.

Mageto, a Kenyan and academician specializing in theological ethics, echoed the gratitude of the students, faculty, staff, trustees, and alumni of Africa University for the many answered prayers represented in the Africa University story. His inaugural address highlighted the optimism and commitment to purpose that are the foundation of the university's unfolding vision.

"Today, Africa University turns thirty. The number 30 is a blessed figure. Thirty was the age of our Lord Jesus Christ when he commenced his ministry here on earth. It gives us great faith to be walking resolutely towards the fourth decade," Mageto said.

Thank you, West Virginia Conference, for nurturing change leaders and building an enduring legacy through the ministry of Africa University. Let us continue to journey together—learning, leading, and serving God, all the time, everywhere.

*James H. Salley, President and Chief Executive Officer, Africa University (Tennessee) Inc. & Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement  
Africa University*

**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 2022 makes even more relevant BUSTH's historic and ongoing commitments to peace and justice in equipping transformational leaders. We remain hopeful and vigilant in our continued partnership with you.

**BREAKING NEWS:**

- **Students:** Our academic year 2022-23 entering class was among our most diverse, with 88 new students enrolling, 34% of whom are international students.
- **Faculty:** In September we welcomed three new faculty members: James McCarty, Assistant Clinical Professor of Religion and Conflict Transformation; Eunil David Cho, Assistant Professor of Spiritual Care; and Peng Yin, Assistant Professor of Ethics.
- **New Online Degree First Cohort:** BUSTH's first fully online master's degree—the Master of Religion and Public Leadership (MARPL)—welcomed its first students in fall 2022. MARPL seeks students who wish to be prepared for leadership roles that creatively engage the challenges of public life. Learn more at [bu.edu/sth/marpl](http://bu.edu/sth/marpl)
- **Faculty Research:** Prof. Filipe Maia was awarded a Louisville Institute book grant in April, and Prof. Luis Menéndez-Antuña was awarded a grant from the Catholic Biblical Association in August. Other large grants continue to move forward, including the Trauma Responsive Congregations Project led by Prof. Shelly Rambo and supported by the Lilly Endowment, and the Positive Psychology and Formation-Based Flourishing grant led by Prof. Steven Sandage and supported by the Peale Foundation.
- **Scholarships:** This year, we announced free tuition for all residential master's candidates. 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 Research & Teaching Fund and Affirmation & Empowerment Fund as well as the following endowed funds: DEI, Theology & the Arts, and Doctor of Ministry.
- **Accreditation Visit:** BUSTH just welcomed the United Methodist University Senate Review team on February 1-3 for our re-accreditation visit.
- **Online Lifelong Learning:** BUSTH offers online courses for professional and spiritual enrichment of religious leaders. Recent offerings include "Ethics and Video Games," and "Spiritual Mending for Helping Professionals." To learn more, visit [bu.edu/sth/oll](http://bu.edu/sth/oll).
- **Development:** Recent accomplishments include endowing the Faith and Ecological Justice Fund, 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."
- This year's Lowell Lecture topics explore the spiritual dimension of artistic expression. This fall, Dr. Emmett G. Price III highlighted the brilliant resilience and demonstrative hope of Black folk through the lens of two exceptional spiritual beings: Nina Simone and John Coltrane. 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 is 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 educated faithful and creative leaders for the church's ministries throughout the world. An official seminary of The United Methodist Church, Candler holds true to the Methodist value of ecumenical openness, enthusiastically welcoming students from more than 42 denominations, with nearly half of Master of Divinity students coming from the Wesleyan tradition, including United Methodist, African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Christian Methodist Episcopal, Wesleyan, Free Methodist, Church of the Nazarene, and others. Our student body reflects the diversity and breadth of the Christian faithful, with an enrollment of 417 from 16 countries and 33 states, and 43% persons of color. This diversity is a blessing, enriching our life together and providing a "learning laboratory" for ministry in the 21st century—ministry that cultivates community across difference, welcomes all to contribute and belong, and embodies Christ's love in and among us.

Candler offers six single degrees and ten dual degrees, most of which are available in hybrid or online formats so students can remain rooted in their home communities as they pursue their degrees. Our new hybrid Master of Divinity blending online classes and in-person intensives launches in Fall 2023, and our successful Doctor of Ministry—with its high 87% completion rate—is 90% online. Hybrid and online options are also available in the Master of Religious Leadership and the Master of Religion and Public Life programs. Plus, Candler's Teaching Parish program allows student pastors to earn contextual education credit as they serve their churches. We are excited that these flexible learning formats make a first-rate Candler education possible for even more people who are called to ministry.

Alleviating student debt through generous financial aid is a top priority for Candler. In 2021-2022, we awarded \$7.3 million in scholarship support, with 100% of MDiv students receiving aid. 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 receive a scholarship covering at least 50% of tuition. MDiv students also complete a financial literacy program to strengthen their financial and budgeting skills and reduce debt.

Candler was recently honored as one of 16 theological schools to receive a "Pathways to Tomorrow" grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. The \$5 million grant will support Candler in establishing a set of initiatives to create an interconnected continuum of offerings for the education of pastoral leaders. This will position Candler as a hub of theological learning with multiple entry points, including The Candler Foundry, our innovative program to make theological education accessible to the public, the United Methodist Course of Study, undergraduate classes, and a new venture, La Mesa Academy for Theological Studies. Set to launch in Fall 2023, La Mesa Academy will offer diplomas in pastoral leadership via a two-year hybrid program with courses in Spanish and English. An optional third year of study will be offered to those aspiring to continue to a graduate professional degree at Candler.

This year, we welcomed the Rev. Dr. Brett Opalinski as Assistant Dean of Methodist Studies, a position made available by the retirement of the Rev. Dr. Anne Burkholder. Brett is an elder in full connection in the Florida Annual Conference and most recently served for nine years as senior pastor of Christ Church United Methodist in Ft. Lauderdale. In addition to other pastoral appointments, he has held a variety of leadership roles in the Florida Conference, including chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry. He is deeply committed to working with students in discerning their call, spiritual formation, and guiding them through the commissioning and 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](http://candler.emory.edu).

—Jan Love

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



Duke Divinity School has been blessed to be part of the fresh work of the Holy Spirit this year and to participate in “little Pentecosts”—signs and foretastes of the hope we profess and the calling we follow. In his Opening Convocations sermon, Dean Edgardo Colón-Emeric said: “If Duke Divinity School is to keep on its Pentecost journey, it needs to devote itself to being guided by the marker of mercy. Our motto of *Eruditio et Religio* only makes sense when we add mercy. . . . How we care for the needy is the measure for the apostolicity of our studies, the holiness of our communion, and the power of our prayers.”

The school has continued in its commitment to form ministers of the gospel who will seek God’s justice and mercy. Our faculty have been leaders in the Duke Climate Initiative participating with colleagues from the Nicholas School for the Environment in the event “Pastoral Care for Climate Change: Weaving Together Science and Theology for Justice,” at the Duke University Marine Lab in Beaufort, N.C. Divinity faculty have also co-taught a university course titled “Let’s Talk about Climate Change,” and welcomed 30 young faith leaders from various religious traditions and places worldwide to understand better how to engage their faith communities in the fight for our climate.

The Office of Black Church Studies, which has been commemorating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, hosted “Justice Ministry Reimagined: Reentry Simulation” for pastors, students, and lay leaders to learn more about how to support people reentering the community after incarceration. We launched the Prison Engagement Initiative with the Kenan Institute for Ethics. Divinity faculty taught a “Trauma Engaged Duke” seminar and led the project team Developing Best Practices for Trauma-Informed Teaching and Learning. These programs and events complement the ongoing work of field education and ministerial formation that puts Duke Divinity students in contexts ranging from rural churches to hospital chaplaincy to farm ministry, and many more.

This fall, we welcomed 226 entering students from 35 different states and eight other countries. The Master of Divinity program gained 130 new students, with 88 residential students and 42 in the hybrid program. The Master of Arts in Christian Practice enrolled 13 new students; the Doctor of Ministry, 28; Master of Theology, six; Master of Theological Studies, 22; the Doctor of Theology welcomed six new students to campus. The Certificate in Theology and Health Care welcomed four residential students to campus and 16 in the hybrid program. Across all degree programs at the Divinity School, 30 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, five percent; and American Indian students, one percent. Fifty-seven percent of students in the incoming class are female. There were 33 denominations represented in the M.Div. entering class, with 30 percent affiliated with the United Methodist Church. Baptists made up 17 percent of the incoming

students; Anglican-Episcopal students, 12 percent; and nondenominational students, 12 percent. Dean Colón-Emeric said: “It is with the guidance of the acts of the apostles, their communal praxis, that the Divinity School continues to build that most delicate and often discredited of structures: an ecumenical community, a community that boldly professes the Apostles’ creed, a community where Christians from estranged churches study together, a community of generous, joyful Pentecost orthodoxy.”

The school continued to build on its rich tradition of ecumenical engagement, with Dean Colón-Emeric participating in the Methodist-Roman Catholic International Commission Dialogue meeting with Pope Francis at the Vatican. Student Eliza Love, M.Div.’23, was awarded the \$10,000 Bossey Institute scholarship from the United Methodist Church Council of Bishops to attend the World Council of Church Ecumenical Institute. The Houses of Study at Duke Divinity School—Methodist House, Anglican Episcopal House, Presbyterian/Reformed House, Baptist House, Office of Black Church Studies, Asian House, and Hispanic House—all enrich the Duke Divinity community through theological formation, student support, dynamic lectures, and robust programming.

The school has also welcomed new leaders who bring their gifts to the work of advancing the mission to serve Christ and the church. Three new associate deans have accepted appointments: Daniel Castelo, William Kellon Quick Professor of Theology and Methodist Studies, as associate dean for Academic Formation; Jung Choi, a consulting professor and director of the Asian House of Studies, as associate dean for Global and Intercultural Formation; and Sangwoo Kim, a consulting professor and senior director of the Methodist House of Studies and the Wesleyan Formation Initiatives, as associate dean for Vocational Formation. Linda Coley, who earned an M.Div. from Duke Divinity along with M.S., M.B.A., and Ph.D. degrees, has also joined as the executive director for the Ormond Center.

Several new programs demonstrate Duke’s sustained commitment to connecting with churches and ministers. The Ormond Center launched the Community Craft Collaborative to create resources for equipping lay and congregational leaders. The Certificate in Conflict Transformation and Reconciliation (CCTR), facilitated by leading scholars and practitioners in the fields of conflict transformation and reconciliation from Duke University and other institutions, provides a timely learning opportunity for pastors and other church leaders seeking theological and practical skills to foster reconciliation in their congregations and surrounding communities. We celebrate the expansion of our connection to UMC colleges through a partnership with Wesleyan College in Macon, Ga., to enable qualified undergraduates to take master’s level course through the Duke Accelerated Pastoral Formation Program. The Clergy Health Initiative supports healthy practices for vibrant ministry.

Our Convocation & Pastors’ School (CPS) returned to an in-person format for the first time since the start of the pandemic with the theme, *Creativity & Courage: From Trauma to Tough Hope*. Professional dancers, visual artists, musicians, and scholars guided participants in facing brokenness and sin honestly, as they offered glimpses of



“the beauty of holiness.” NY Times Best Selling Author & Associate Professor of Christian History, Kate Bowler led a live taping of her *Everything Happens* podcast to kick off CPS with over 1000 registered participants.

Duke Divinity School continues to be grateful for our ongoing participation in The United Methodist Church and partnership with this annual conference. We look forward to our ongoing work with you as we join the leading of God’s Spirit in the task of preparing men and women for Christian ministry. To learn more about Duke Divinity School, please visit our website at [www.divinity.duke.edu](http://www.divinity.duke.edu).

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

### **Drew University Theological School**

Edwin David Aponte, Dean

Drew educates and mentors pastors, preachers, deacons, activists, teachers, thought leaders, and change agents. In Fall 2022 Drew welcomed 77 new students, and as of February 2023 Drew has a total enrollment of 408 students. Many Drew students are just beginning their ministry, while others come to graduate theological education with substantial ministry experience. The latter reflects a growing trend among all theological schools in the United States and Canada. During 2022, Drew classes met on campus in Madison, New Jersey, but also some classes met exclusively online, while other met in hybrid fashion, i.e., partially online, partially in-person. This was also the case with chapel worship. This reflects both our ongoing emergence from the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown, but also Drew leaning into what it means to be a global school with a global student population. With 35% of students coming from 28 different countries Drew Theological School is truly global and diverse in theology, vocations, age, as well as racial, ethnic, national, and international identities. Drew’s interdisciplinary degree programs foster out-of-the-box thinking, provide real-world apprenticeships, promotes adaptive leadership skills, and encourages innovation through a team-taught core courses reflecting the integration of the theological disciplines and practices characteristic of the life of faith. The faculty articulated shared values 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. The Theological School has seen an increase in United Methodist students. Moreover, Drew has many United Methodist Global Fellows who chose to pursue education for ministry at Drew. UMC graduates are serving in conferences across the United States as well as in our regional conferences in Greater New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, and New York Annual Conference.

**Methodist Theological School in Ohio****www.mtso.edu**

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

**International Institute on Theology and Disability meets at MTSO**

MTSO was pleased to host the four-day international Institute on Theology and Disability in June 2022. Founded in 2010, the institute celebrates, explores and investigates the ways that disability impacts many dimensions of religious life; theology and practice mutually inform and support one another; and diverse perspectives enrich and inform theological formation and religious practice.

**MTSO and WomanPreach! share \$1 million Lilly Endowment grant**

Lilly Endowment Inc. has awarded MTSO a grant of \$1 million to support prophetic preaching through a partnership with WomanPreach! Inc. The grant period extends from Nov. 1, 2022, to Dec. 31, 2027. WomanPreach! was founded 12 years ago by MTSO Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs Rev. Valerie Bridgeman, Ph.D., who serves as the organization's CEO. It provides practical training and nurturing community spaces that empower preachers across the country. Begun as a way to train women, WomanPreach! has since grown to include programming for people of all genders. Its numerous programs include the biennial Jarena Lee Preaching Academy, a week-long intensive academy that equips women of the African Diaspora to speak in their own prophetic voices; Sophie's Table: A Conversation Among Siblings, an all-genders program that amplifies voices of people of marginalized genders, women and children; and Chloe's Circle, which gathers women from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds to sharpen preaching that reflects a commitment to justice based in God's call through Jesus.

**Mount Union joins MTSO to offer 3+2 program**

The University of Mount Union and MTSO have begun offering incoming college students a 3+2 program, leading to a Master of Arts in Social Justice degree in five years of study rather than the six years typically required. Students will begin the program at the University of Mount Union in Alliance, Ohio. After completing the program's requirements at Mount Union, they are eligible to begin two years of study at MTSO, where they will finish requirements for a Mount Union bachelor's degree and earn an MA in Social Justice degree from MTSO. Students in the 3+2 program are eligible for MTSO's exceptional scholarships.

Respectfully submitted,  
Danny Russell, Director of Communications



## **Saint Paul School of Theology**

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 serving a diverse community committed to the formation of people for innovative, creative ministry through rigorous academic life. Grounded in the academic study of faith and ministry, theology is practiced in a traditional classroom and in remote spaces. Our contextual curriculum features Ministry Collaboration Groups, Practicum, Spiritual Formation Retreats, and Seminars. Students learn from dedicated faculty, experienced pastors, and community leaders about best ministry practices leaving our graduates with the tools and first-hand experience necessary to meet the needs of a changing world.

We continue to implement the changes the last few years have integrated into our daily lives. Our weekly chapel service utilizes a hybrid format, where participants may join in-person or 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, Saint Paul offers weekly Spiritual Formation allowing students to engage in spiritual practices led by Rev. Jen Logsdon-Kellogg. Some practices will take us outdoors or to other sacred spaces, and others will have us connect with community leaders.

Saint Paul welcomed over 30 new students for the 2022-2023 academic year. Enrollment remained solid for the Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree program with promising growth on our Oklahoma campus. With COVID-19 restrictions lifted yet monitored, prospective students returned to in-person visits on both campuses, experiencing community meals, worship, and the newly implemented "Hammock ministry" on the Oklahoma campus. The Admissions team continues to expand travel to meet new students, including the Carolinas, Washington, D.C., and various parts of Texas.

This year we have focused on strengthening the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry by creating two specializations: Women, Society, and Church; and Social Justice and Advocacy. In each case, the student takes 22 hours of MACM required courses, and then the remaining 12 hours of the degree are comprised of courses focusing upon the specialization. The two existing specializations, Prophetic Witness and Service; and Deacon Ministries, will continue to be offered as well. The Women, Society, and Church Studies specialization is also available in the MDiv program, as is a specialization in Wesleyan Studies.

Saint Paul staff and faculty continue contributing to the academy, church, and society. This year, we welcomed Rev. Dr. Sharon Betsworth as our new Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean and Professor of New Testament. 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 sharing selected highlights.

- Rev. Dr. Sharon Betsworth co-authored a journal article with Julie Faith Parker, “‘Where Have All the Young Girls Gone?’ Discovering the Girls of the Bible through Childist Analysis of Exodus 2 and Mark 5–7,” in *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 38, no. 2 (Fall 2022).
- Dr. Casey Sigmon, Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship and Director of Contextual Education, was the keynote speaker for the United Methodist Church Missouri Preaching Academy “Offering the Word to a Digital World.” She published “Failure to Discern the Online/Hybrid Body: A Captivity of the Eucharist” for the special issue of *Currents in Theology and Mission: Eucharist and Online Worship: Toward Extended Theological Reflection*, vol. 50, no. 1 (2023) and published the chapter “Liturgical Authority and the Table in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)” in *Liturgical Authority in Free Church Traditions*, edited by Sarah Johnson and Andrew Wymer, Calvin Worship and Witness Series.
- Dr. Joshua Bartholomew, Assistant Professor of Ethics, Church, and Society led a “Race, Liberation, and Political Economics” series at Second Presbyterian. He also spoke at The Open Table KC on “Race, Liberation, and Economics.”
- Dr. Amy Oden, Adjunct Professor of Early Church History and Spirituality, was a guest speaker at numerous events around the country this year, including at a Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation in Oklahoma, the Beyond Conference in St. Louis, and the Academy for Spiritual Formation in Alabama.

In October, Saint Paul hosted a forum on “Innovative, Creative Ministry” featuring alumni Matt Austin ‘18, Fabian Gonzalez ‘20, Bo Ireland ‘18, Matt Patrick ‘18, & Abby Peper ‘22, with each sharing their personal stories of innovation in ministry. In November, Saint Paul Evangelical Society, led by Dr. Israel Kamudzandu, hosted a forum given by Rev. Mike Slaughter, former lead pastor at Ginghamburg Church, on “Spiritual Awakening: the here and the not yet.” Later in the year, the Evangelical Society hosted a lecture featuring Dr. Cheryl Bridges Johns, Visiting Professor of Pentecostal Studies and Director of the Global Pentecostal House of Study at United Theological Seminary. And on May 12, Saint Paul again held a hybrid commencement celebration via Zoom, allowing graduates to come together from both campuses with attendees viewing from around the country. During the ceremony, we honored the 2023 Distinguished Graduate Award Winner and Commencement Speaker Bishop Delores J. “Dee” Williamston.

Saint Paul Board of Trustees changed leadership this year as long-time faculty and board member Rev. Dr. Tex Sample concluded his term as chair of the Board. Dr. Amy Hogan, Professor of Education and Dean of the School of Education at Ottawa University, has succeeded him as chair. Dr. Hogan possesses a deep reservoir of experience in teaching, research, and accreditation. In response to President Neil Blair’s announcement that he will retire on December 31, 2023, Dr. Hogan appointed a search committee composed

of faculty, staff, students, and trustees charged with identifying Saint Paul's next president. The search committee is currently conferring with Saint Paul's constituent groups to prepare the position prospectus that will describe Saint Paul's needs and aspirations to candidates.

In September 2022, Saint Paul School of Theology hosted a review team from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), one of Saint Paul's primary accreditation agencies, as part of the Seminary's regular reaffirmation cycle. On November 18, 2022, the Higher Learning Commission notified Saint Paul that the Commission "continued the accreditation of Saint Paul School of Theology with the next Reaffirmation of Accreditation in 2028-2029." The Seminary's Board of Trustees also devoted considerable time to improving its governance capacity. For example, in April 2022, trustees invested a significant portion of their meeting in a facilitated Emotional Intelligence and Trust-Building workshop. The workshop was led by Gail Parker, a noted management consultant who has worked with clients such as KPMG, Goldman Sachs, and Disney, among many others. In October 2022, former executive director of the Association of Theological Schools, Dan Aleshire, offered an overview of demographic and enrollment trends in the nation's seminaries, focusing on how those trends affect institutions' diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. As these activities suggest, the Board remains deeply committed to enhancing its capabilities to guide Saint Paul effectively and knowledgeably.

We are happy to report that Saint Paul School of Theology is financially sound. We operate with a balanced budget, no debt, and an endowment 9-10 times the size of our annual expenses. As always, we continue to be grateful for donations from the community that provide technology, scholarships, and evolving academic programs to students. As of the close of 2022, over one hundred alumni and friends of Saint Paul contributed more than \$60,000 to create the Tex and Peggy Sample Endowed Scholarship Fund honoring the life and work of Tex and Peggy Sample. Sustainability has been our focus over the past five years, and we have achieved our goal. Investments in our future bring exciting new opportunities for our students, staff, and faculty. Our significant technological investments have allowed us to maintain a hybrid educational delivery model providing a flexible working arrangement for our students.

We are continuing to enhance our partnership with Zoom and Neat. Late last Spring, in conjunction with our Neat Board electronic whiteboards and Neat Bars, we implemented Neat's newest product, their Neat Bar Pros, in our large classrooms. These new bars are designed to offer a superior video and audio experience in large spaces and the ability to output to multiple large screens to enhance the overall classroom experience significantly. We have rolled out additional Zoom Room Neat Boards in numerous common areas to encourage ad-hoc use of the technology for breakout groups and other miscellaneous meetings between our two campuses and remote students. One of the best features of this technology is its ability to receive automatic real-time over-the-air features upgrades. Several significant enhancements have rolled out this past year, including improved voice cancellation,

Zoom Room Breakout Groups, real-time Closed Captions with transcripts, and updated use of AI to split each in-classroom student into their individual zoomed-in Zoom window. In addition, our Neat equipment continuously monitors several environmental factors within our classrooms; air quality, temperature, humidity, VOC, and CO2, as well as being able to tell if the classrooms are occupied and how many individuals are in the room. We can also monitor the audio/video quality and network connectivity in each of our classrooms, as well as the connection quality for all remote students attending the class. We are excited about the additional enhancements that will come to our classrooms from Neat and Zoom over this next year and look forward to our continued partnership with Neat and Zoom on this groundbreaking technology.

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 generations to come.

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

spst.edu

*Where Theology Meets Life*

## **United Theological Seminary**

Dayton, OH

United Theological Seminary celebrated rising enrollment in the 2022-2023 academic year. In the previous year, 464 students were enrolled at United; in 2022-2023, the seminary is serving 541 students, a 17% increase. A diverse community of many denominations, races and nationalities, United welcomed students from 36 states, 21 countries, and 43 denominations, with 42% of students identifying as United Methodist.\* The Seminary prepared 103 Course of Study students\*\* and served 10 students through the Hispanic Christian Academy, a 3-year online course of ministry program for Hispanic/Latino lay pastors and leaders serving United Methodist congregations.

### **Houses of Study**

In large part, this enrollment growth is a result of the seminary's House of Study initiative, which is supported by a \$1 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative. As of 2022-2023, the Seminary has established five Houses of Study that are equipping master's students for the unique ministry needs of the communities, movements and denominations in which they serve:

- Fresh Expressions, directed by Dr. Michael Beck;
- Full Gospel Baptist Fellowship, directed by Bishop Lisa Weah;
- Global Methodist, directed by Rev. Gregory Stover;
- Global Pentecostal, directed by Dr. Cheryl Bridges Johns;
- and Hispanic, directed by Dr. Jorge Ochoa.

The largest of these communities is the Hispanic House of Study (Casa de Estudios Hispana), which is meeting a need for Hispanic/Latino pastors and church leaders ready to pursue a Master of Divinity in their native language. Nearly 50 students from across the United States and Latin America, including students from Mexico, Cuba, Columbia, and Peru, started in the online program in the 2022-2023 academic year.

As United continues to expand its offerings to support church leaders, it is preparing to launch three new Houses of Study in the 2023-2024 academic year: a Korean House of Study, taught 100% in Korean for Korean-speaking students, led by Dr. Seok Jae Jeon; an African Methodist Episcopal Zion House of Study led by Bishop Eric Leake; and a Global Lutheran House of Study led by Dr. Richard Blue, Dr. Tom Thorstad and Dr. Dan Landin.

### **Doctor of Ministry**

The Seminary is also seeing growth in its Doctor of Ministry program. In 2022-2023, the Doctor of Ministry program has grown to 250 students, an increase of 32% over the past five years.\* Doctoral students at United are actively engaged in ministry and seeking to become more effective leaders for the Church through a Doctor of Ministry degree. Students identify a need within their congregations or communities and, with the support of a peer group, mentor and United faculty, they develop a model of ministry to address the challenge.

### **Bishop Bruce Ough Innovation Center**

Launched in Fall 2021, the Bishop Bruce Ough Innovation Center, directed by Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey, is connecting with pastors, ministry leaders and congregational members hungry to bring God's renewal to their faith communities. In the past year alone, the Innovation Center has engaged more than 1,000 participants through more than 40 live webinars, training events and courses. The Innovation Center has also partnered with The Center for Spiritual Formation, a connectional ministry of the Susquehanna Conference of The United Methodist Church, to offer a two-year online training course for those called to the ministry of spiritual direction. In addition, the Center is partnering with two United Methodist conferences to provide its Breakthrough Prayer Initiative training for all clergy in these conferences. Through these and other new opportunities, the Innovation Center seeks to set the stage for the increased vitality of leaders and congregations everywhere.

Dr. Kent Millard, President

\* Student data represent 2022-2023 headcount enrollment, as of March 1, 2023. Denominational figures represent those who responded.

\*\* Course of Study figures represent the most recent four terms.



## Wesley Theological Seminary

The Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson, President

Wesley Theological Seminary continues to grow and thrive through research, innovation, and equipping Christian leaders for real-life ministries.

### *Course offerings and support that respond to students' needs*

Get the education you need in the format you want.

- Pursue your call in a dynamic community within the corridors of power in Washington, DC, or earn a degree through flexible hybrid and online options from your home! Learn more: [wesleyseminary.edu/study/](https://wesleyseminary.edu/study/)
- Our **FlexMA** is a 36-hour flexible M.A. degree for those preparing for bi-vocational or specialized ministries. Learn more: [www.wesleyseminary.edu/flexma/](https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/flexma/)
- **Wesley offers specializations** in African American church leadership, public theology, military chaplaincy, and certifications in Christian studies, children and youth ministry and advocacy, and health ministry. Learn more: [wesleyseminary.edu](https://wesleyseminary.edu)

Wesley provides \$2 million annually in scholarships, including **full-tuition scholarships** for master's applicants recommended by alums, campus ministers, or Christian service ministries; **Next Call in Ministry scholarships** for students working 10+ years in a non-ministry setting; and **Generación Latinx Scholarships** for emerging Latinx leaders in ministry.

Wesley's **Doctor of Ministry programs** includes relevant tracks such as Church Leadership Excellence, Soul Care, Global Church Leadership, Howard Thurman, and the ground-breaking track on Trauma, Moral Injury, and Christian Life. Journey with a cohort of leaders with online classes and hybrid week-long intensive sessions. Learn more: [wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/](https://wesleyseminary.edu/doctorofministry/)

### *Research projects support congregational thriving and envision future ministry.*

Over \$11 million in Grants from Lilly Endowment Inc. undergird Wesley's research into and support of congregational thriving and innovation.

- In collaboration with Southern Methodist University Perkins School of Theology, Wesley Theological Seminary is developing professional courses and certificates for pastors.
- The **Wesley Innovation Hub** brings together diverse congregational cohorts to learn and practice ministry innovations that engage young adults for social change. Learn more: [wesleyseminary.edu/wesley-innovation-hub/](https://wesleyseminary.edu/wesley-innovation-hub/)
- **The Wesley Ministry Innovation Fellowship** is a one-year, cohort-based experience with community formation, spiritual direction, graduate-level courses, and hands-on experience leading innovation. Each innovator earns a stipend and



four graduate academic course credits. Learn more: [wesleyseminary.edu/wesley-innovation-hub/design-fellows/](https://wesleyseminary.edu/wesley-innovation-hub/design-fellows/)

- **The Lewis Center for Church Leadership's Religious Workforce Project** offers multi-denominational research into current and future needs. Visit [religiousworkforce.com/](https://religiousworkforce.com/)

*Enrich your congregational outreach and explore new dimensions of ministry.*

**The Lewis Center for Church Leadership** conducts leading-edge research for the local church. Find the **Leading Ideas e-newsletter** and **Leading Ideas podcast**, a weekly resource for over 20,000 leaders, at [churchleadership.com](https://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 online **Health Minister Certificate Program** prepares congregations for public health work in their parishes. Contact: Dr. Tom Pruski, [tpruski@wesleyseminary.edu](mailto:tpruski@wesleyseminary.edu).
- The **Center for Public Theology** creates spaces for civil dialogue at the intersection of religion and politics. Visit [wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/](https://wesleyseminary.edu/ice/programs/public-theology/).

### Stay connected

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