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CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Plan of Organization frames the responsibility of the Conference Leadership Team (CLT) in this fashion:

“Hold the various boards and agencies accountable to the boards’ and agencies’ respective processes of visioning, planning, implementation, funding and evaluation, in accordance with the 2012 DISCIPLINE ¶610:

1. “How are we intentionally reaching new people for Jesus Christ through our ministries? and,
2. “How are we helping new people grow and mature as disciples of Jesus Christ through our ministries and areas of responsibility?”

The Plan of Organization requires the CLT to:

2. Annually convene the leaders of the conference’s and districts’ boards and agencies to:
   a. test the current conference vision;
   b. develop vision/strategic plans necessary for future changes for the conference and;
   c. provide an opportunity for training and collaboration.”

During 2016, the CLT gave particular attention to focusing on these areas of mission, ministry, and function:

CONFERENCE BUDGET

The most challenging topic throughout the year dealt with the challenges in preparing the Annual Budget, when faced with an unfortunate consistent financial and membership decline in a number of congregations. Each year the CF&A and CLT forecast possible receipts two years ahead based upon best estimates of what is received from local churches. For 2016, actual receipts were 80.5% when 84% was the projection, based upon data available in 2015 when the 2016 Budget was approved. Present data does not lend toward seeing that trend reversing. It is obvious that fewer churches are able to reach 100%. See some of the real implications of this reality as noted in the reports that follow.

AREA COLLABORATIONS

During 2016, the West Michigan and Detroit conferences were involved in more than 30 areas of ministry collaboration. This cooperative spirit has had a very positive impact upon the gradual process of becoming one new conference.

WEST MI AND DETROIT CLT

During 2016, the Detroit Annual Conference Leadership Team (DAC CLT), and the West Michigan Conference Leadership Team (WM CLT) met twice, (very early at the beginning of the year and again in the Fall). We shared in discussions that acknowledged differences and similarities of how the two CLTs operate functionally as well as the differences and similarities in the budget-building process respectively. Both CLTs operate by consensus with considerable discussion and have an equal balance of clergy and laity. The two DCMs have been working together since 2009 and both are committed to changing the structure of each conference as needed as well as helping to strategically align the resources available.

As part of the Michigan Area Design Team process, the Joint CF&A task group met regularly during 2016 to work toward the time when the two CF&A’s and respective budgets become one Area Budget in 2019.

DESIGN TEAM and CLT – NEW MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

The “Area CLT” has consistently been consulted along the way by the Design Team (DT) as the DT has explored structure options, anticipated staffing options and discussed budgeting priorities. This collaboration has been invaluable in building trust and relationships among the leaders and contributing to a smooth transition. The CLT has also benefited from the “Implementation Timeline” the DT has had as a model.

HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS

Nearly 50% of the congregations in the West Michigan Conference have experienced some phase of the Vital Church Initiative (VCI). For many congregations, this has been an opportunity for a renewed vision, clearer focus, and an opportunity for making meaningful and necessary changes. In some instances this has led to positive growth and the changing of the culture of the congregation. Understandably and unfortunately in some congregations the changes have exacerbated existing conflicts or revealed an unwillingness or capacity to make the necessary changes so that a new community constituency might be reached.
CAMPUS MINISTRY
At the direction of the annual conference the CLT reviewed the $30,000 it had available in its Pooled Resources line item and released $20,000 of this amount for use in 2017 by the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry for the purpose of creating and expanding the fund development capacity of the Wesley Campus Ministries. The CLT continues to have conversation with the Higher Education Board in regard to the board’s evaluation of the effectiveness and fruitfulness of each setting. $360,205 was provided in 2015 and $213,000 was approved for 2017 (a 40.8% decrease).

MISSIONS AND ETHNIC LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES
Funding collaboration took place between the Conference Board of Global Ministries, Racial Ethnic Local Church Committee, Equitable Compensation and the Indian Workers Conference. In 2015 a total amount of $525,500 was divided among these entities. In 2017 that amount has been reduced to $400,415 in light of the need to reduce the Conference Budget (a 23.8% decrease).

CAMPING MINISTRY
2016 was the first year this ministry functioned as its own separate entity. Significant staffing transitions have been necessary, while at the same time quality programs have continued and facilities have been improved thanks to the generous giving of supporters. Camping has also seen funding reductions in the amount of $343,500 for 2015 drop to $183,000 for 2017 (a 46.7% decrease).

Benton R. Heisler, Director of Connectional Ministries (DCM), Ned Weller, CLT Chair

WORLD SERVICE AND CONFERENCE BENEVOLENCES
Summary of the 2017 Budget
[As approved by the Conference Leadership Team]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>World Service &amp; Conference Benevolences</th>
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<th>2016 Budget</th>
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<td>TOTAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE BUDGET</td>
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2017 LINE ITEM BUDGETS
Conference Benevolences Programs
[As Approved By The Conference Leadership Team]

<table>
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<tr>
<th>2017 BUDGET</th>
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COORDINATION AND MEETING EXPENSES:
- COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN UNITY & INTERRELIGIOUS CONCERNS - 3020
- COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE - 3495
- COMMISSION ON STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN - 3050
- BOARD OF EVANGELISM - 3080
- UNITED METHODIST MEN - 3085
- HUNGER/UMCOR COMMITTEE - 3440
- PRISON MINISTRY COMMITTEE & RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CONCERNS - 3480
- BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY - 3030
- BOARD OF DISCIPLESHIP
- COMMISSION ON COMMUNICATIONS - 3040
- DISABILITY CONCERNS COMMITTEE - 3032
- COOPERATIVE MINISTRY COMMITTEE

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<tr>
<th>BOARD OF CHRISTIAN CAMPING</th>
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<td>5033400 Other-Education/Cultivation</td>
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<td>6107300 Block Grant - Grand Rapids District</td>
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### CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES - 3100

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### BOARD OF LAY MINISTRIES - 3460

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### CONFERENCE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - 3470

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### INDIAN WORKERS CONFERENCE BUDGET - 3450

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### VITAL CHURCH INITIATIVE - 3510

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</table>
ABUSE PREVENTION TEAM

2016 has been another year of significant change for the West Michigan Conference Abuse Prevention Team. As with most other conference teams, we are excited about the creation of a new conference that encompasses the entirety of the state of Michigan. The focus of the Abuse Prevention Team’s effort in 2016 was participation in the Transition Task Force with members from the Detroit Annual Conference. The purpose of the Transition Task Force is to develop a new policy concerning protection of children, youth, and vulnerable adults for the new annual conference. Work is proceeding well on that effort. In addition, the work of the Abuse Prevention Team was impacted by the creation of the camping corporation. This action actually decreased the workload of the team, as the camping corporation is responsible for the development of their own policy and the training of their volunteers. The Abuse Prevention Team has supported the camping corporation in this effort.

The Abuse Prevention Team has continued its customary role of providing abuse prevention training to local church volunteers. However, since the vast majority of the previous training was done in support of camping ministries, our numbers are down for the year. The Abuse Prevention Team has trained 88 volunteers in 2016 through the online Safe Gathering Program, and approximately another 70 volunteers through in person training. In addition, the team has provided training, screening of volunteers, and other support to various mission teams, the United Methodist Women’s Mission u event, and the Spring Splash Event.

David Elmore, Chair

AFRICA UNIVERSITY

Africa University ended 2017 poised for the celebration of its Silver Jubilee and eager to embrace its many opportunities for transformative impact over the next 25 years.

The university community – comprised of students, faculty, administrators, trustees and alumni – acknowledges with heartfelt gratitude and appreciation the many ways in which the West Michigan Conference has been faithful and generous in helping to establish and grow the ministry that is Africa University.

In 2016, Africa University made some important strides, including:
- The restructuring of its academic units, merging six faculties and an institute into three colleges. The new structure increases opportunities for interdisciplinary majors for students, improves fiscal efficiency, and positions the institution for growth in spite of the economic pressures on the continent.
- The approval and launch of seven new degree programs.
- The refurbishment of a dormitory and the cafeteria/student union building.

The ongoing support for the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment from congregations in the West Michigan Conference and throughout the denomination enabled more than 1,400 students to have another great year of learning and leadership formation. There were 26 African countries represented on the campus and, as is now tradition, more than half of the students were women.

The Ubuntu Retreat Centre – a gift to Africa University from the West Michigan Conference – came into use in February 2016. The university welcomed a campus minister and students from the Wesley Foundation at the University of Michigan as the first guests. Since then, a wide range of visiting partners and groups as well as the Africa University Board of Directors have given the facility top marks as an on-campus hospitality venue.

Your prayers, annual investment in the Africa University Fund apportionment and second-mile gifts have given us a great deal to be thankful for at this moment in our history. Indicators of vitality and impact include:
- 7,000+ students who have graduated from AU since 1994.
- 31 African countries that have been represented at AU to date.
- 92% of AU graduates who are at work on the continent of Africa, serving communities in 32 countries.
- 27 AU graduates who are GBGM missionaries in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe.
- 45 buildings as well as other infrastructure and equipment that are in place and comprise an entirely debt-free campus.
Thank you, West Michigan Conference, for your continuing support. Your ongoing commitment to a 100 percent investment in the AUF apportionment is crucial to defining the future of the life-changing ministry of Africa University.

James H. Salley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement
Africa University Development Office

COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

The Commission on Archives and History continues to hold items of business before us that have been there for some time. We have discussed ways of providing training for local church historians and the naming of some Conference historic sites. We have had difficulty getting the commission members together in 2015-2016; however, with some new and inquisitive members on the commission added in 2016, we look to make more strides toward our goals in 2017.

Our archivist, Justin Seidler, informs us that we face the continual challenge of finding adequate storage for archival material. Each time a local church closes, the files and artifacts from that church are sent to the conference archives on the campus of Albion College. The commission has discussed possibilities for additional space which may be off campus. In the meantime, Justin fields a number of requests for information and research, especially in areas of family history documentation.

The upcoming creation of a new Michigan conference has prompted discussion between the West Michigan Conference and the Detroit Conference commissions about how we approach the maintenance of the archives. Currently, each conference has a part-time archivist, and we are considering the notion of the creation of a full-time position for the new conference. This discussion is only in the beginning stages.

The Michigan Area United Methodist Historical Society has become reactivated in 2015-2016, after several years of inactivity. This group is related to our commission, but it differs in that the historical society focuses on historical education and reflection, and not so much on archives maintenance.

Our commission continues to be active in the North Central Jurisdiction Convocation on Archives and History, which meets each July. In 2016, we met in Mt Pleasant, Iowa, for our annual business meeting and a tour of historic United Methodist sites in southeast Iowa. The 2017 meeting is taking place in Bismarck, North Dakota.

If you are interested in serving on our commission, please contact me or the Conference Nominating Committee as we attend to the “Ministry of Memory.”

Melanie Young, Chair

BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Members of the West Michigan Conference Board of Church and Society advocate the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the church and world. We focus on issues of peace and justice in the Michigan area, as well as around the globe. Through our work we seek to reflect the compassion of Christ for all humanity and for God’s gift of life and creation.

At the 2016 Annual Conference, the West Michigan Annual Conference’s Church and Society Committee and the Detroit Annual Conference’s Board of Justice, Advocacy, and Equity shared a meal together. The Lifetime Peacemaker award was received by Veroneze Strader.

The following petitions were offered jointly by Church and Society (from West Michigan) and Justice, Advocacy, and Equity (from the Detroit Annual Conference):

- Anti-Discrimination Petition
- Flint Water Crisis Petition
- Gun Control Petition
- Gun Free Zones Petition
- Restorative Justice Petition

All proposed legislation was approved.

We continue to promote the Peace with Justice and Global AIDS Fund offerings each year. One half of these offerings goes to the general church for peace and justice work and HIV/AIDS prevention and education. The second half stays within our conference.
We currently administer the conference’s Peace with Justice fund, United Methodist Global AIDS Fund, and peace scholarship funds available from the Brubaker/Thompson Peace Fund.

In 2017 we continued to bring many issues of justice and peace to the forefront: concerns for stewardship of the earth, peace, immigration, race and gender equality, LBGTQ rights, refugee rights and more. Seeking to be instruments of God’s peace, we continue to work for a world that reflects God’s love and grace, praying and working for justice and peace.

Amee Anne Paparella, Chair

COOPERATIVE MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

Cooperative Ministry can be as simple as a few churches joining together to offer a local food pantry or community Good Friday worship services. It can be as complex as two or more local churches entering into a covenant, creating a ministry team, or combining committees to carry out the mission of the church. By its nature such ministry needs to be flexible and contextual. Cooperative Ministry allows individual churches to share their strengths and accomplish things they could not do on their own. Paragraph 206 of the 2012 Book of Discipline outlines the variety of forms Cooperative Ministry can take and the various roles and responsibilities of local churches, annual conferences, and cabinets.

The Cooperative Ministries Committee has decided on initial goals and objectives. These include:

- Continued support and consultation of the formal Cooperative Ministries (groupings of churches which have entered into covenantal relationships by church conference action) and informal Cooperative Ministries in West Michigan. We currently are exploring ways of connecting across the state as we form a new Michigan Conference. We know there are many informal arrangements of shared ministries throughout the conference.
- Creating and providing regional events to introduce the concept of Cooperative Ministries and / or to resource groups of churches who are already exploring cooperative ministry.
- Identify and develop tools, guidance, and training materials as well as identifying persons with experience in effective cooperative ministry in order to resource local churches and the cabinet. We hope to make much of this “resource library” available online and have taken the initial steps in developing this.

We look forward to developing this vital ministry with local churches in the coming years.

Jodie R. Flessner, Chair

COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY CONCERNS

The Disability Concerns Committee continues to evaluate and discern how to be in ministry with the conference. We met once in the last year and spent much time brainstorming how to best be in ministry. One of our ideas is to write several “disability helps” articles to place in the MIconnect newsletter. Members of the committee will take turns writing these articles. The committee will be in conversation with our counterparts in the Detroit Conference as we begin to work together as a new conference. We covet your prayers as we continue to discern how best to be in ministry with the members of the churches of the West Michigan Annual Conference.

Mark R. Babb, Chair

COMMISSION ON EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

The purpose of the Commission on Equitable Compensation (CEC) is to annually propose the minimum compensation schedule for clergy in various appointment categories and to assist local churches in making disciples of Jesus Christ by helping to meet minimum compensation standards for their pastors when local church resources are not sufficient. In fulfilling the obligations of ¶342, ¶624, and ¶625 of The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, and in using Ministry Shares to ensure compliance with their purposes, the work of the CEC is firmly rooted in our strong connectional heritage. The CEC takes seriously the stewardship of Ministry Share resources entrusted for this purpose.

A 1.5% minimum salary increase for clergy was approved by the annual conference in June. This increase is mandatory for the first 10 years of pastoral service and recommended for each year, thereafter.

In 2016, a total of 11 charges, representing 14 churches, received $59,692 in direct financial assistance from the Commission on Equitable Compensation for support of pastoral compensation. Grants ranged from as little as $2,760 to as much as $10,432, with an average grant of $5,427 per charge. The
The chairperson of the CEC participated with The Mission Church Task Force in 2014. As a result of the task force’s work, the mission churches were removed from the Commission on Equitable Compensation as of the 2016 grant cycle. This gave the commission members a truer picture of churches that require temporary assistance from the CEC budget and also explains the reduction in both grant totals and churches served.

The CEC also approved $7,500 in pulpit supply grants for pastors on medical leave and $200 in administrative expenses while staying within our 2016 approved budget of $76,500.

The Commission on Equitable Compensation considers it part of the CEC’s assignment to assist churches with stewardship campaign techniques, programs such as the Vital Church Initiative, ¶213, and unconventional fundraising ideas, to help reduce the need for salary support from the CEC in future years.

Because the CEC members want to help churches in any way they can as to Equitable Compensation, in 2016 our grant application process became more user-friendly through electronic submission. Electronic submission is easier for both the applicants and the CEC. Some minor glitches are still being resolved.

Beginning in 2009, the CEC was more intentional about paying attention to the rate of payment of Ministry Shares from congregations receiving Equitable Compensation support. The CEC added a statement regarding the expectation of full payment of Ministry Shares to the conference guidelines in 2010. Included in this statement was the stipulation that in consultation with the district superintendent and/or the cabinet, a church not meeting its conference obligations could find its Equitable Compensation grant reduced or rescinded.

The Commission on Equitable Compensation thanks the churches that are faithful in payment of Ministry Shares in full, making it possible for the CEC to continue its work of seeking to support local churches in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

**EQUITABLE COMPENSATION 2016 YEAR-END SUMMARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>SALARY SUPPORT</th>
<th>PENSION SUPPORT</th>
<th>HEALTH INSURANCE</th>
<th>HOUSING</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ALBION DISTRICT:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Litchfield</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DISTRICT TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HEARTLAND DISTRICT:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooks/Barryton/Sears</td>
<td>2,760.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$2,760.00</td>
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<td>LeValley (Pulpit Supply)</td>
<td>4,200.00</td>
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<td>$4,200.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DISTRICT TOTAL</strong></td>
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<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$6,960.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND RAPIDS DISTRICT:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genesis</td>
<td>4,900.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$4,900.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Muskegon Crestwood</td>
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<td>$3,500.00</td>
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<td><strong>DISTRICT TOTAL</strong></td>
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<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<td>$8,400.00</td>
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<td><strong>GRAND TRAVERSE DISTRICT:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bear Lake</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charlevoix</td>
<td>2,000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Empire</td>
<td>10,432.00</td>
<td></td>
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<td>$10,432.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scottville</td>
<td>10,000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DISTRICT TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$27,432.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$27,432.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>KALAMAZOO DISTRICT:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berrien Springs</td>
<td>4,500.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$4,500.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangor</td>
<td>3,000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$3,000.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hopkins</td>
<td>4,000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$4,000.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DISTRICT TOTAL</strong></td>
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<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$11,500.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Thank You West Michigan! For your prayers and financial support of our shared mission and ministry by giving to your Ministry Shares, THANK YOU! In 2016, the pay-in rate (the average rate of payment to ministry shares) was almost 81% which provided 94% of the budget approved by Annual Conference. Total remittances to the conference treasurer were $7.1 million, of which $5.6 million went to the conference’s Ministry Shares, $477 thousand to district funds and over $1 million designated to various causes in the Six Lanes of the Advance program of the West Michigan Conference. Your generosity will help many people and bring hope to their lives. Most of all the good gifts coming to them will cause them to break out in celebration and thanksgiving to God.

## CONFERENCE & DISTRICT MINISTRY SHARES GIVING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>12/31/14</th>
<th>12/31/15</th>
<th>12/31/16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CONFERENCE</td>
<td>Ministry Shares &amp; District</td>
<td>$6,399,340</td>
<td>$6,111,364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pay-In Rate</td>
<td>84.3%</td>
<td>79.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special Giving</td>
<td>$1,531,384</td>
<td>$1,032,463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALBION Remittances Year To Date</td>
<td>$832,232</td>
<td>$796,609</td>
<td>$829,797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pay-In Rate</td>
<td>88.2%</td>
<td>83.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special Giving</td>
<td>$177,042</td>
<td>$119,444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEARTLAND Remittances Year To Date</td>
<td>$732,827</td>
<td>$692,336</td>
<td>$627,287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pay-In Rate</td>
<td>84.7%</td>
<td>79.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special Giving</td>
<td>$144,440</td>
<td>$109,504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRAND Remittances Year To Date</td>
<td>$1,865,093</td>
<td>$1,888,088</td>
<td>$1,807,106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAPIDS Pay-In Rate</td>
<td>88.5%</td>
<td>86.5%</td>
<td>84.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special Giving</td>
<td>$589,602</td>
<td>$295,962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRAND Remittances Year To Date</td>
<td>$859,189</td>
<td>$813,430</td>
<td>$792,763</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAVERSE Pay-In Rate</td>
<td>85.4%</td>
<td>78.8%</td>
<td>80.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special Giving</td>
<td>$155,049</td>
<td>$112,809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KALAMAZOO Remittances Year To Date</td>
<td>$983,160</td>
<td>$874,770</td>
<td>$931,589</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pay-In Rate</td>
<td>76.3%</td>
<td>68.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special Giving</td>
<td>$236,453</td>
<td>$232,576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANSING Remittances Year To Date</td>
<td>$1,126,839</td>
<td>$1,046,131</td>
<td>$1,062,494</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pay-In Rate</td>
<td>81.4%</td>
<td>77.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special Giving</td>
<td>$228,798</td>
<td>$162,168</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## SPECIAL GIVING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>12/31/14</th>
<th>12/31/15</th>
<th>12/31/16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Imagine No Malaria</td>
<td>$ 484,062</td>
<td>$ 62,879</td>
<td>$ 13,295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Camp Endowment Campaign</td>
<td>571</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Christian Education Sunday Offering</td>
<td>3,803</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>2,928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Racial Ethnic Local Church Sunday Offering</td>
<td>5,830</td>
<td>5,427</td>
<td>5,986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Human Relations Day Offering</td>
<td>11,199</td>
<td>13,227</td>
<td>12,913</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where 2016 Ministry Shares Dollars Go

Praise God for the provision that is given to administer God’s grace in various forms. (1Pe 4:10).

District Superintendent Fund & Clergy Support 24% $1,378,101
Conference Program Ministries 27% $1,535,115
New Church Development & Vitality 5% $300,036
Finance, Administrative & Episcopal Area Support 17% $947,217
World Service & General Church Apportionment 27% $1,548,251

100% $5,922,040

History of Church Giving
### Connectional Giving

Our local churches are engaged in various ministries in their locality. But, as part of the UM connectional system, its Ministry Share is the first priority benevolence of the local church. Giving to Ministry Shares means supporting our shared mission and ministry locally and globally. Our commitment to the global mission and ministry of the church is reflected in the apportionment determined by the GCFA. Based on the actual giving by the local churches, the CFA remitted 94% of general apportionments. This is in compliance with the policy approved by the 2015 annual conference session. It is our hope and prayer that we can return to our long practice of supporting our general apportionments at 100%.

### Onward to the New Michigan Conference

The West Michigan CFA and the Detroit CFA have forged ahead in combining the two treasurer’s offices, upon the retirement of Pros Tumonong, our treasurer and benefits officer. David Dobbs and Don Emmert have been elected as treasurer and benefits officer, respectively for the two conferences, effective January 1, 2017. Meanwhile, the Grand Rapids and Flint treasury and benefits offices remain operational until a common space is secured.

A Joint CFA Team from the two conferences has been meeting with the purpose of developing one Ministry Shares formula and financial policies. You can keep track of these developments as the Design Team reports their progress in the MIConnect online.

### 2018 Proposed Budget

The CFA intends to propose to the Annual Conference a reduction in the Ministry Shares Rate from 13.0% in 2016, unless unforeseen needs come up. We believe that the conference budget should reflect the reality that the local church is the focal point of mission and ministry. Therefore the CFA is working hard along with the Conference Leadership Team and the Cabinet towards this common goal. We invite your support of this project when we get to the annual conference in June. The CFA Conference Budget Recommendation will be published in April in accordance with the revised Rules of Order.

### Acknowledgement

For their dedication and good work, the CFA wishes to express their gratitude to Russ Geske, (Controller), John Kosten (Benefits Coordinator), and Ann Buck (Payable/Receivable and Administrative Services). Russ and John remain in the Grand Rapids office and Ann moves to a new position in the UM Foundation office in Grand Rapids.

We also take this opportunity to express appreciation for the leadership and gifts that the CFA members bring to the table as they continue to serve, as follows: Jim Bossard (Vice President), Susan MacGregor (Secretary), Joseph Huston (Assistant Secretary), Arnold Burke, Brad Bartelmay, Roger Bradshaw, Patricia Bromberek, Cameron DeLong, Georgia Marsh, Russell McReynolds, Patrick Tiedt, Molly Williams,

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### Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Ministry Shares Budget</th>
<th>Ministry Shares Receipts</th>
<th>District Funds</th>
<th>Designated Gifts</th>
<th>Total Giving</th>
<th>% Budget Paid</th>
<th>Ministry Shares Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>6,212,681</td>
<td>5,831,246</td>
<td>415,603</td>
<td>2,127,102</td>
<td>8,373,951</td>
<td>93.9%</td>
<td>na</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>6,461,164</td>
<td>6,077,069</td>
<td>495,049</td>
<td>1,695,898</td>
<td>8,268,016</td>
<td>94.1%</td>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>6,710,319</td>
<td>6,101,954</td>
<td>483,183</td>
<td>2,229,571</td>
<td>8,814,708</td>
<td>90.9%</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>6,912,025</td>
<td>6,102,615</td>
<td>464,250</td>
<td>1,686,198</td>
<td>8,253,063</td>
<td>88.3%</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>7,215,846</td>
<td>6,334,732</td>
<td>465,715</td>
<td>1,585,979</td>
<td>8,386,426</td>
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<td>2004</td>
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<td>6,495,492</td>
<td>551,814</td>
<td>1,724,170</td>
<td>8,771,476</td>
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<td>2005</td>
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<td>527,803</td>
<td>2,861,950</td>
<td>9,492,170</td>
<td>84.5%</td>
<td>12.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>6,466,961</td>
<td>6,038,584</td>
<td>497,768</td>
<td>1,478,474</td>
<td>8,016,870</td>
<td>92.6%</td>
<td>12.60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>6,526,221</td>
<td>6,040,628</td>
<td>500,417</td>
<td>1,508,594</td>
<td>8,033,191</td>
<td>91.9%</td>
<td>12.70%</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>6,555,913</td>
<td>5,888,021</td>
<td>512,707</td>
<td>1,207,482</td>
<td>7,898,192</td>
<td>87.9%</td>
<td>12.60%</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>6,094,890</td>
<td>5,888,021</td>
<td>521,944</td>
<td>1,975,543</td>
<td>8,413,363</td>
<td>95.3%</td>
<td>12.40%</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>6,209,076</td>
<td>5,916,148</td>
<td>521,944</td>
<td>1,975,543</td>
<td>8,413,363</td>
<td>95.3%</td>
<td>12.40%</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>6,159,550</td>
<td>5,741,225</td>
<td>491,506</td>
<td>1,487,123</td>
<td>7,719,854</td>
<td>93.2%</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>5,951,495</td>
<td>5,759,683</td>
<td>507,432</td>
<td>1,380,351</td>
<td>7,647,466</td>
<td>96.8%</td>
<td>12.90%</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>6,084,889</td>
<td>5,864,716</td>
<td>512,070</td>
<td>1,313,465</td>
<td>7,690,251</td>
<td>96.4%</td>
<td>12.80%</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>6,185,660</td>
<td>5,922,040</td>
<td>477,301</td>
<td>1,531,383</td>
<td>7,930,724</td>
<td>95.7%</td>
<td>13.10%</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>6,321,843</td>
<td>5,662,974</td>
<td>444,784</td>
<td>1,032,463</td>
<td>7,446,313</td>
<td>89.6%</td>
<td>13.10%</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>5,967,263</td>
<td>5,604,218</td>
<td>446,819</td>
<td>1,026,676</td>
<td>7,077,713</td>
<td>93.9%</td>
<td>13.00%</td>
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</table>
Finally, for his more than twenty years of service to the conference, as CFA we express our appreciation for Pros Tumonong. Join us in wishing him and his wife Merrita God’s bountiful blessings during his retirement. (Although, we will retain his services for a bit as we transition to become the Michigan Conference.)

Lastly, but certainly not the least, we acknowledge the support of our congregations, whose faithfulness and generosity continue to inspire and encourage us as a council. Again, thank you for what you do in the name of Christ.

*With God's power working in us, God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or imagine. (Eph.3:20)*

Susan Cobb, President, Council on Finance and Administration
Pros Tumonong, Treasurer & Benefits Officer (thru 12/31/16)

**BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES (BGM)**

**Committee Leadership and Membership**

This report is provided by chair Delberta Troutman who offers prayers of thanksgiving for the board members who have supported missions in the West Michigan Conference. I also want to add a special thank you to Benton Heisler for his guidance and support.

Grand Traverse District Superintendent Anita Hahn continues to serve the board as a liaison for other district superintendents as well as being an excellent resource for missional churches.

The remainder of the West Michigan BGM membership consists of persons representing specific areas of ministry as well as members representing the church at large. Representatives and at-large membership 2016-2017 are as follows:

- **Conference Secretary BGM** – Mark and Sharon Burkart; **Conference UMCOR/Hunger Coordinator** – David Morton; **Conference Coordinator of Cooperative Ministries** – Jodie Flessner; **UMW Conference Mission Coordinator** – Sue Stickle; **Coordinator of Bible Distribution** – Robert Mayo; **UMW Board of Directors** – Nichea Ver Veer Guy; **Volunteer in Mission Coordinator** – Rob Hughes; **Refugee and Immigration Coordinator** – Rob Cook; **Urban Network Representative** – Billie Dalton; **Town and Country Representative** – Linda Collier; **Haiti Task Force** – Bill Cansfield (ex-officio member); **At Large Representation** – Lynne Bemrose; Julie Elmore; Waltha Leavitt; Joan Bosserd-Schroeder; Scott Marsh; Sandra VandenBrink; Ruth Jones; Kay Pratt; **District Mission Secretaries** – (Albion) John Williams; (Heartland) Kathy Shepard; (Grand Rapids) Laure Mieskowski; (Grand Traverse) Mike Simon.

**Vacant Positions:** Kalamazoo and Lansing are without District Mission Secretaries.

**BGM Highlights 2016:**

- Delberta Troutman along with Sharon and Mark Burkart have continued to meet with their counterparts of the Detroit Annual Conference in the planning of bringing both boards together for the new conference. In 2017 we expect to hold meetings with both boards in further defining those who and what committees will represent the Michigan Conference Board of Global Ministries come 2019.
- Sharon Burkart continues to refine the Advance, working with Jackie Euper of the Detroit Annual Conference bringing a merger plan for the Advance and the DAC Spotlight under a new entity for 2019.
- We are always blessed to have reports from representatives of the committees at our meetings providing updates of missions throughout the conference.
- The combined Ministry Fair at 2016 Annual Conference on MSU campus was a highlight of the conference. Not only were there many hands on missions to take part, but also the time together informing us of the mission focus of each conference.
- **Missionary Itineration** was initiated by Sharon Burkart who worked hard scheduling missionaries into the districts with the help of some district mission secretaries as well as continuing to refine the itineration process even further to minimize costs. Thank you Sharon for a job well done.
- The board approved a grant from the Loan Fund of $25,000 for 2017 and 2018 for a total of $50,000 to be used for Vital Church Initiative consultations.
- We were blessed to have reports from representatives of the committees at our meetings providing updates of missions throughout the conference.
Notable Challenges:

- **District Block Grants** have been a source of ongoing challenge with the budget cuts that have directly affected the block grant funding and Conference BGM budget. It is hard to express the discomfort informing the districts their block grants will be reduced very minimally. We pray other funding sources become available for those who have been so drastically reduced knowing these are all viable mission projects in the districts.

In conclusion, and on behalf of the board, thank you for your support of global ministries in our local churches, districts, and conference.

Delberta Troutman, Chair

CLARK RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

For more than 100 years Clark Retirement Community has created a community of dignity, compassion and respect centered on the lives of older adults and those who care for them. Clark provides a full continuum of care to approximately 500 residents on two campuses in Grand Rapids, and also provides services to more than 400 people throughout the greater West Michigan community.

Clark leadership, with support from the Board of Trustees, has identified four strategic priorities that are driving the organization forward. These “anchoring assumptions” have been chosen to sustain innovation in the core business. They are also designed to keep Clark vibrant, competitive and financially healthy in the years to come.

- **Service Delivery, Design and Redesign.** Clark has been carefully evaluating its organizational structure and model of service delivery. Throughout the last year, the organization has undergone changes in structure, and also brought in new team members. The new structure is part of building an intentional system that supports the organization’s near and long-term goals. Clark is doing this to meet changing resident expectations, enhance quality, partner with health systems and become more efficient.

- **Collaborations in Our Home- and Community-Based Services Business Line.** These are services delivered primarily to people who do not live at Clark. Older adults desire to live and age in place. Community-based services are designed to facilitate this growing need in West Michigan. We continue to expand our service offerings through partnerships with other like-minded organizations.

- **Dementia as a Business Line and a Community Collaboration.** Clark is already positioned as a leader in dementia care, thanks to the innovative work that has been done over the past decade. In 2015, Clark and Holland Home together initiated “Rethinking Dementia: Accelerating Change.” This community-wide summit included thought leaders from around the country who shared what they are doing in the area of memory loss care. The collaborative effort has continued, as funding and partnerships with health systems and other community-based organizations have come together. Lisa Ellens was hired to lead this initiative, and Clark is a key partner moving forward.

- **Growth and Strategy.** Clark is identifying expansion opportunities that will include growth in independent living accommodations and, most likely, more specialized accommodations for memory care. The long-term strategy is a 50/50 balance in independent living and supportive living units. In addition, growth will focus on more community-based services to meet the increasing demand of our older adult population.

During the 2016 fiscal year (ending 4/30/16), revenue received by Clark Retirement Community for operations totaled $26 million, of which $25 million, or 93%, came from direct resident care. Capital investment in new facilities, investment in new services, support for Benevolent Care and ongoing operating expenses totaled $29 million. Clark and the Clark Foundation are extremely grateful to the
individuals, families, corporations and organizations whose gifts make it possible for Clark to fulfill its commitment to benevolent care and continue to enrich the lives of seniors.

Brian A. Pangle, President/CEO

CONFERENCE SECRETARIES OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES

This position, which answers to the bishop and the conference Board of Global Ministries, has three primary responsibilities:

1. To itinerate missionaries.
2. To promote Advance Special giving
3. To serve between the Annual Conference and the Board of Global Ministries.

2016 gave us an opportunity to welcome a new missionary to our conference. Rev Hyo-Won Park serving as a church planter in St. Petersburg, Russia itinerated from June 23rd through July 10th. He was able to visit churches in all six of our districts, sharing his time at VBS, worship on Sunday morning and annual 4th of July events. Through his testimony we were able to get a glimpse into the lives and struggles our brothers and sisters in Russia face on a daily basis.

During our beautiful Michigan autumn we welcomed Jeff Hoover to our conference. He and his wife Ellen have served in the Democratic Republic of Congo since 1979. Education is where they have devoted their ministry service. Ellen serves as director of The English-speaking School of Lubumbashi and Jeff teaches at the theological college of Katanga Methodist University, just to name a few. They will be retiring from service soon, but he shared with the churches he visited, the goals of the future work that will continue after they have gone.

We also have seen changes with the General Board of Global Ministries. They have relocated their headquarters to Atlanta, Georgia, and because of the relocation staff have also changed a little. Now that the moving dust has started to settle things are getting back to normal. 2016 also brought to the North Central Jurisdiction Steve and Gail Quigg who are now serving as the mission advocates for us. Both of them have served in the mission field for many years. We are blessed to have them available now to work with us.

Looking to the future we have been working with Detroit Conference CSGM and the Board of Global Mission on how we will look when we become one new conference. We will be joining the 6-Lane and Spotlight programs together into a mission program that will have familiar faces, new faces and voices of inspiration, which will help guide us into engaging ministries.

May 2016 be the catalyst into 2017 where Matthew 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” is lived out together. We pray that all of our actions and words bring praise and glory to God the Father as we go forth into a new year.

Mark and Sharon Burkart

MISSION U

The 2016 session of Mission u was held at Albion College and included both Children and Youth studies. Mission u is a cooperative school.

The Spiritual Growth study was titled, “The Bible and Human Sexuality; Claiming God’s Great Gift.” All adults were able to take this study which was led by the Rev. Ellen Brubaker who was also the author of the study. Whether you agree or disagree with the stances of The United Methodist Church, it is important to be conversant about them and to be aware of one’s own beliefs, feelings and biases.

A repeat of the Geographical Study, “Latin America, People and Culture,” was led by the Rev. Nohemi Ramirez. Latin America is a large and varied area which includes Mexico and Central America, South America and the Caribbean.

The Social Action study was titled, “Climate Justice,” and was led by Suzanne Hewitt and Clarice McKenzie. The study focuses on those most affected who are often those with the least influence on global policy about climate science.

It was exciting to have a large and active youth class led by MaryJo and Sarah DeLany. The youth and children also studied Climate Justice. The children’s class was led by Kristin Gifford.

Assistant Dean, the Rev. Linda Burton Collier, will be the Dean for Mission u 2017.

Susan Emmons, Dean
TOWN AND COUNTRY COMMITTEE
In 2016 Town and Country Ministry provided $2,500 in scholarships for Course of Study and seminary students in rural and small town settings. These funds were made available through local churches taking the Rural Life Sunday offering. Applications for scholarships can be found on our website through the conference.

We worked jointly with the Detroit Annual Conference Circuit Riders on a joint retreat for clergy and spouses serving in small town or rural settings. The Town and Country / Circuit Rider retreat was held November 7th-9th in West Branch. Retired Bishop Linda Lee was our key note speaker.

Linda Burton-Collier, Chair

UNITED METHODIST COMMUNITY HOUSE
Summary of ministry:
United Methodist Community House (UMCH) has been a venerable, trusted resource in Grand Rapids, Michigan, providing expansive services for everyone from infants to senior citizens in a warm, inclusive, multi-cultural atmosphere since 1902. UMCH continues to fulfill its mission “to increase the ability of children, youth, adults and families to succeed in a diverse community” by treating people with dignity and respect while providing the support services they need. Some of UMCH’s strengths include:

- Proximity of the facility to its client base.
- Proven and recognized history of innovation in a full spectrum of services.
- The series of support services that UMCH provides (child care, food, transportation) that eliminates barriers for people in need of services.
- UMCH’s long history of collaboration with other service providers in and around Grand Rapids.

Community Impact
2016 proved to be a year of change at United Methodist Community House. We changed our logo, our website, and we’ve changed how we are reaching out more into our community. However, our mission, our vision and our values haven’t changed. UMCH continues to be a cornerstone of support to the vulnerable individuals and families in our community.

We encourage you to visit [www.umchousegr.org](http://www.umchousegr.org) and take a first-hand look at all that is happening at UMCH. Through our efforts we focus on honoring and respecting our tradition, but look forward to an exciting, dynamic future. We hope you share our journey as we continue to transform the organization.

Richard Clanton, Chief Executive Officer

UNITED METHODIST METROPOLITAN MINISTRY OF GREATER GRAND RAPIDS
Organizational History
Grand Rapids Metro Ministry was incorporated on October 14, 1954 as the Methodist Union of Greater Grand Rapids with a church planting mission. Church building purchases include Wesley Park, Aldersgate, Forest Hills (later sold to the state highway department), Plainfield, and Georgetown.

In 1970, the organization announced its new calling to move from a property orientation to a people orientation and a Metropolitan Ministry Committee was formed.

In 1978, United Methodist Metropolitan Ministry became the legal successor to the Grand Rapids United Methodist Union. Some of Metro’s early successes include Habitat for Humanity of Kent County, South End Community Outreach Ministries (SECOM), and Grand Rapids Area Service Project (GRASP), along with the development of La Nueva Esperanza United Methodist Church, Vietnamese United Methodist Church, and Pawating Magedwin United Methodist Church.

During the 1990s and the early 2000s Metro provided strategic planning and visioning for congregations and agencies. There was a particular focus on urban United Methodist churches who were working to discern their role in a changed urban ministry landscape. When an urban church does decide to close its doors, Metro assumes the role of property manager to ensure that the property and/or any funds from a potential sale of the property are used to further the impact of the Church in Grand Rapids. When the real estate bubble burst in 2008, Metro was in the process of preparing a handful of vacant properties for sale. With selling the properties no longer a viable option in the short term, Metro worked tirelessly to care for and maintain the properties while still striving to ensure that they were being used in ways that are the most beneficial to the community and in line with the mission of Metro Ministry.
With a much more stable realty market in 2015, all of the properties under the care of Metro Ministry have been sold. By mandate of the Book of Discipline, Metro Ministry maintains fiduciary responsibility for the Urban Ministry Fund, which receives proceeds from the sale of church buildings in the metropolitan area. The Metro Ministry Board of Directors oversees the investment of this fund and serves as the approving body for grant-making from the fund.

2016 in Review
Grand Rapids Metro Ministry went through a number of exciting changes in 2016:
- Circles Grand Rapids launched in January.
- A new Executive Director, Holly Downer, joined the team in July.
- An extensive strategic planning iteration was initiated to define and clarify the vision, mission, and desired outcomes of Metro Ministry. This process continues in 2017. Keep watching for information on what this process turned up!
- Revised organizational bylaws.
- Developed and approved a whistle blower policy.
- Developed and approved a diversity and inclusivity policy.
- Three Board members became certified in Nonprofit Board Leadership

Goals for 2017
Building on the success and enthusiasm of 2016, Metro Ministry has set the following goals for 2017:
- Upon definition of Metro’s vision, bring the mission and programs in line with the vision.
- Clarification the Metro membership and service areas.
- Review grant making policies and procedures.
- Continue to expand and diversify the Board of Directors.
- Develop work teams:
  ▫ Finance
  ▫ Fund Development
  ▫ Community Connections
  ▫ Program Team
- Develop communications strategy in line with vision and mission.
- Build a leadership development structure for both directors and program leaders to smooth the launch of sustainable programs.
- Continue to support Circles Grand Rapids in their goal to build a community where all people have enough resources, relationships, and reasons to thrive.

Funding
Grand Rapids Metro Ministry’s administrative and program costs are funded by ministry shares (52%) and a grant from the District Board of Mission (48%). Looking forward, the funding from both of these stakeholders is expected to decrease significantly. The Metro Ministry Board of Directors is in the early stages of designing a fund development plan to mitigate any funding gaps.

Get Involved!
As Metro Ministry becomes focused on moving toward their vision in 2017, there will be many areas of need to fill. While there is room for everyone who has a heart for urban ministry, Metro will especially be seeking folks with the following skills:
- Fund development/fundraising
- Fluency in Spanish
- Non-profit accounting
- Teaching/public speaking
- Research (specifically on social justice and cultural issues)

If you have any of these skills (or are willing to learn them), and are interested in being a part of the Metro team, please contact Holly Downer, our Executive Director at Holly@GRMetroMinistry.org

Thank you!
Grand Rapids Metro Ministry staff and Board of Directors is grateful for the continued support of all of the greater Grand Rapids area congregations, the GR District Board of Missions, the Conference Board of Global Ministries, and all of our community partners who offer their time, support, guidance, and treasure in dedication to urban ministry in Grand Rapids. Thank you!

Holly Downer, Grand Rapids Metro Ministry Executive Director
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

Good morning, West Michigan Conference! It is my privilege and pleasure to proclaim the good news of United Methodist campus ministry in our area. The mission of the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry (BHECM) is to advocate, secure and allocate resources, hold accountable, promote and evaluate United Methodist Campus Ministries in West Michigan. I appreciate the hard work of our board members in acting on our mission. Their commitment to engaged conversation, discernment, decision making, time, and travel reflect their love for students and all persons who love and support campus ministry.

We oversee the extension of local church ministry to five campuses and our two Michigan United Methodist-related schools:

- Central Michigan University
- Ferris State University
- Grand Valley State University
- Michigan State University
- Western Michigan University
- Adrian College
- Albion College

Their individual reports are in this same volume.

Our board structure includes twelve members-at-large; a local Wesley Board member and student from each of the five campuses; one representative each from Adrian College and Albion College; one representative from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry; one representative from the Conference Council on Youth Ministries; and a district superintendent.

As chairperson, I ask that our board members rise to these expectations: Be faithful financial stewards as disciples by giving intentionally and regularly in our local churches; be aware of our local church’s support for Ministry Shares; be ambassadors for campus ministry in our local churches; and make annual financial gifts directly to our campus ministries or the BHECM. An additional training opportunity was in September. Rev. Katie Fahey (one of our newest board members), Rev. Cora Glass, and I participated in the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) Training and Orientation for Annual Conference Leaders in Collegiate Ministry conference in Nashville.

Our five Wesley ministries are individually incorporated and each has a local board of directors. The local Wesley board is “the basic unit for the management of campus ministry on state university campuses” per our bylaws. Our Wesley directors serve under appointment. They are two full-time elders (Rev. Winston Chu-MSU, Rev. Devon Herrell-FSU), one quarter-time elder working full-time (Rev. Charlie Farnum-CMU), one full-time ordained deacon (Rev. Greg Lawton-GVSU), and one full-time licensed local pastor (Rev. Lisa Batten-WMU). I am inspired by the work of our directors and Adrian College Chaplain Rev. Chris Momany. They are bold, energetic, theologically trained pastors and educators and community organizers and writers whose professional relationships within their university or college are an integral part of the success of their ministries. We have gifted people in place faithfully engaged in the mission of The United Methodist Church.

Thank you for submitting local church student names for campus ministry through your church conference process. For the 2015-16 school year, 29 local churches sent us 166 student names who were attending 55 different schools. For the 2016-17 school year, 36 churches sent us 280 student names who are attending 67 different schools. We compiled your information as we received it and made it available to our local Wesley ministries. We are working to improve the efficiency of this process for local churches and plan to develop a digital submission option in the near future.

Collectively, campus ministry in West Michigan involved approximately 380 active participants (defined as people who participate in some dimension of program ministry at least twice each month) and reached approximately 900 more people in the broader scope of their mission through campus outreach and district events.

Our clearest benefit to the Church and strongest impact on the Church is leadership development. Ministry with students provides immediate, direct experience and encouragement for them to discern calls to ministry in the Church and in the world.

Through our Wesley directors and local board of directors, our campus ministries create young adult faith communities. In this way, students experience vital young adult congregations. With students who are involved in our campus ministries and who have home churches, we extend the baptismal
**promises made in local congregations.** Our Wesleys are secure, safe, non-judgmental environments in which young adults experience the power of grace in the Wesleyan tradition. Through our Wesley directors and student congregations, we offer unique ministry with the most concentrated population of young adults in our culture who want to change the world. We’re THERE and dedicated to ministry in that location.

We remind ourselves that **campus ministry is regenerative in nature** on an annual basis. Each fall or even each new academic term calls for a concentrated effort at community-building. In one way, **campus ministries are perpetual new church starts.** We expect to have relationships with students an average of three years. That means each year one-third of our campus congregations leaves, and one-third is newly invited and welcomed into fellowship and mission.

We celebrate that **campus ministry is on the “clear path to discipleship”** referred to in the Vital Church Initiative process. We focus on the discipleship and bold leadership development of young adults in the mission fields of university and college campuses. We are unique and faithful extension ministry partners in alignment with the vision of the Michigan Conference. Extending the ministry of the local church through higher education and campus ministries belongs to a Wesleyan understanding of the world as our parish. With theologically trained directors, local boards, and active student leaders, our campus ministries daily pursue and experience the life of a vibrant congregation.

Each year the BHECM chooses a recipient for the **Francis Asbury award.** From the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM), “the award recognizes individuals who have made a significant contribution to fostering the church’s ministries in higher education at the local, district, or annual conference level of the church. The award is named for Bishop Asbury and is based on his admonition to the people called Methodist to erect a school in the vicinity of every church. “We must,” he said, “…give the key of knowledge to your children, and those of the poor in the vicinity of your small towns and villages.” It was our honor to posthumously name Jim McCartney as the 2016 Francis Asbury award recipient. Beginning in 2016, the award now includes a $500 gift.

Another annual award we administer is the **Conference Merit Scholarship.** According to the GBHEM, these are the requirements:

- A student from the annual conference attending any United Methodist-related institution in the United States.
- Minimum 1-year membership in The United Methodist Church.
- GPA of 2.5 or higher.
- The minimum amount of a CMA award will be $500 for an undergraduate student and $800 for a seminary student.

We were pleased to select Linda Stephan for the 2016 Conference Merit Scholarship $900 award. This is a portion of Linda’s response, “I have to admit that I am still a little stunned by the generosity I have met with by my church and my conference. It was a huge leap of faith to quit my job a year ago and to go back to school. But now, with one year complete and the second funded, I have every confidence I made the right decision and that I will be provided for. Thank you again and again.”

At the beginning and middle of the year, we met jointly with the Detroit Conference BHECM. At our January 2016 meeting, we also welcomed GBHEM representatives and local Wesley board members. In May, we met with Design Team member Scott Harmon and submitted a detailed response to the Design Team’s questions.

In light of a 40% budget cut ($131,000) for 2017, we took the bold step with the Detroit Conference BHECM of contracting with the DonorPath organization (associated with NetworkForGood) and hiring a part-time Campus Ministry Fund Developer. We were blessed to hire Rev. Cora Glass, a Provisional Deacon in the Detroit Conference, for this position. Her background is uniquely related to fund development in a ministry context as she served with Rev. Faith Fowler, Church of the Resurrection, and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in fundraising capacities. In addition, we created a Fund Development Team to oversee these efforts.

We also adapted our distribution model for this lower level of conference funding. In November, we adopted a proportional Category Model for Fund Disbursement using these categories:

- Number of active participants (2x/month)
- Stage of Board
- Feasibility of Raising Own Funds
- Number of Partnerships
- Total Minimum Cost of Appointment
In other funding advocacy, we supported the restoration of $10,000 for Grand Valley Wesley Fellowship in 2017 at the 2016 Grand Rapids District Conference. In a joint Conference Leadership Team meeting in October, we asked for the re-purposing of $25,000 in Young Adult Ministry funds in the 2017 conference budget and were granted $20,000 of our request. Along with individual Wesleys, we applied for a Rule2Grant (Do Good) from the GBHEM. Our board did not receive the $5,000 grant we requested, however, Ferris State Wesley did receive a grant for their student Food Pantry.

In the emphasis on funding Wesley ministries, and managing the tension of scarcity and abundance mindsets, we have lost a significant connection with our responsibility to affirm the value of higher education and promote the intellectual life of the Church. Adrian College, its Chaplain, and Detroit Conference Trustees are deeply engaged in this dimension of our Disciplinary responsibility.

We gave special consideration to the vitality and viability of Grand Valley Wesley Fellowship during the year. Our accountable relationship with them resulted in plans to evaluate them by the end of February 2017 on our three main goals (having 50 active participants, developing church covenant relationships, and placement of interns in local churches), and their strategic and funding plans.

We are scheduled to have four site evaluations in 2017: Central Michigan, Ferris State, Grand Valley, and Michigan State.

Thank you, West Michigan Conference, for being the greatest investor in our campus ministries. I believe that Conference funding is appropriately substantial for campus ministry because it is a Conference ministry, it belongs to us. I do not believe that cutting campus ministry funding is necessary to revitalize local churches. We can grow together and not at the expense of each other. God is more generous than we believe. My life as a disciple of Jesus Christ and ministry as an ordained Elder in The United Methodist Church are grounded in the deep blessing and prophetic challenge of campus ministry. And while God is still revealing how to move ahead, I rejoice in the faithful ways that faithful servants are loving God and their neighbors as they love themselves on campus and in the world.

Jeff Williams, Chair

ADRIAN COLLEGE

When the fiftieth anniversary celebration of the Wesleyan Theological Society took place, this body of scholars hosted over sixty paper presentations and several panel discussions. Among the presenters was Dr. Christopher P. Momany of Adrian College. Following this milestone event, the Wesleyan Theological Journal published only ten of the presentations, along with three plenary addresses. Dr. Momany’s paper on “The True Nature of Virtue: A Holiness Ethic for the Twenty-First Century” was one of the few selected for publication (WTJ, Volume 51, Number 1, Spring 2016).

Adrian College hosts eight different student spiritual life groups on campus and weekly chapel services. Our staff includes one chaplain and five student ministers. Chaplain Chris Momany teaches as a member of the philosophy/religion department and publishes in both academic and popular church journals.

Dr. Momany is a columnist for The United Methodist Reporter. He continues to write for the United Methodist Publishing House’s Daily Bible Study and for Adult Bible Studies: Teacher. His book on Christian Holiness is used in a variety of classes and workshops. Over the past year, Dr. Momany has served with the National Council of Churches on the “convening table” dedicated to “Joint Action and Advocacy on Issues of Justice and Peace,” and he is serving as a leader among the denominational review of our United Methodist Social Principles.

The Adrian College Chaplaincy is grounded in a theological commitment to the “intrinsic worth” of all people. This conviction guides our approach to campus community and drives our current witness against “human trafficking” or modern-day slavery.

Highlights Include:
- A Wednesday Noon Chapel Series
- A Nationally-Respected Pre-Seminary Program that Unites Student Discernment with Formal Academic Study
- Continued Leadership across the Nation Regarding the Issue of Human Trafficking

You, too, can join our movement. Contact Dr. Chris Momany at 517-265-5161, Ext. 4211.

Christopher P. Momany, Chaplain, Part-Time Professor, and Director of Church Relations
THE WESLEY FOUNDATION at CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY (CMU)

Summary of ministry for the year
Wesley@CMU’s mission is to create Christian community for CMU students. We do this through weekly gatherings: Christ-centered worship and study for Christians, and meals, dancing, exercise, movies, and service opportunities in a Christian environment for all. In addition to these weekly offerings, we provided short term classes, monthly special events, and an alternative Spring Break in Nicaragua. Every year is a “new church start” – in 2016, we built an entirely new student staff as our current staff graduated and/or moved on to student teaching. Every year, we lose 25 to 35% of our students to graduation – and bring in more. Every year, we offer the gospel to people at a pivotal point, as they decide what they are going to do with their adult lives. We appreciate your support – spiritual, emotional, and physical.

Number and profile of the students, staff, and other campus members participating
In 2016, we averaged 69 “regular attendees” (students participating at least twice a month). This is a 12% increase from 2015. Over 240 members of the campus community attended at least two different Wesley-sponsored events over the year. 82% of the regular participants were undergraduate students (cf 88% of CMU campus); 62% were female (cf 55% of CMU campus); 14% were members of ethnic minorities (cf 16% of CMU campus). We had a quarter-time elder as director (working 10 hours a week and volunteering 30+ hours a week), a 25 hour/week deputy director, and 5 part-time students (all undergrad, white, 1 male/4 female) on staff.

List of outreach beyond campus
Wesley@CMU is specifically focused at creating a Christian community on campus, but one of the things our community does is serve off campus. In 2016, we hosted homeless people while classes were not in session with the Isabella County Restoration House (ICRH). Our “Send Me” outreach group served regularly with a free clothing “store,” as well as serving as ICRH volunteers during the semester, at a mobile food pantry, performing highway cleanup, and more.

Brief summary of cooperative activities with local churches
We are covenant partners (sharing our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness) with four churches in the Mount Pleasant area. Examples of our activities include shared meals, helping lead in worship, and hosting youth retreats and worship.

Training received by staff
Staff received training in safe boundaries, family systems theory, and organizational health.

Other pertinent information the Annual Conference needs to be aware of
Our growth in numbers has been substantial (more than tripled) since our director’s decision to volunteer freed up sufficient funding to actually support our organization. The 40% cut in funding in 2017 directly threatens this growth. We anticipate making it through 2017 by spending all of our savings, but without $22,000 of additional funding in 2018, we will need to cut approximately half of our staff hours, plunging us back to a small and inefficient organization.

Charles Farnum, Director

WESLEY FOUNDATION AT FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY (FSU)

Overview of ministry
The Ferris State Wesley House continues to make its mark on the Ferris State University community, the West Michigan Conference, and the world! We have been busy this year building relationships with local churches, connecting with new students, and as always are rooted in the students’ passions for mission and service. Ferris State has approximately 14,400 students this year, 10,000 of which are enrolled full time. The Wesley House seeks to minister to all students as well as to support and encourage the faculty and staff of the university. We believe that we exist to share the love of God with all people, whether it be feeding them a home-cooked meal or offering them a comfortable place to take a rest after class. Our community of active students comes from many different religious affiliations and all are on the journey to grow spiritually as they answer and ask questions that help them clarify their beliefs.

This year we have focused on leadership development as our team of nine student leaders volunteer their time and talents to creating a truly unique, welcoming, and life-changing ministry. This year our leadership team is comprised of younger students who are dedicated to serving and growing the Wesley House for the next few years. This is exciting, as it opens up many opportunities to deepen our programming and allow for student-led small groups and a greater focus on spiritual growth.

Ministry at the Wesley House happens seven days a week. Our building is open for students to study, eat, worship, have conversation, and find community. We have activities planned nearly every day and have started two major ministry opportunities this year. Church in a Café happens once a month at a local restaurant and provides students a worship experience that connects them with the community at large.
This worship service offers Wesley House a greater depth of connection with our fellow United Methodist congregations in Big Rapids. This has been a successful addition to our worship roster. The other new ministry that has truly furthered our mission at FSU is the opening of our Student Emergency Food Pantry. Located in the lower level of the Wesley House this pantry provides food for any student with a need. In addition we also have toiletries, laundry soap and other basic supplies that help college students in a time of financial need. By partnering with both the FSU Office of Diversity and Inclusion as well as Feeding America, we are able to meet the needs of students that may have been overlooked in the past. The best part of this new ministry is that it was spearheaded by a student and continues to be run by a group of Wesley House students. This exemplifies the power of the intentional leadership development aspect of Wesley House, and it is exciting to be a part of that moment when a young adult embraces their passion to serve with their gifts and abilities to lead and develop ministry.

By the Numbers
In 2016, the Wesley House at Ferris State had:

- An average of 25 congregants spending 3 hours each per week in worship and fellowship.
- A community of approximately 50 members.
- 6 congregants moved on due to graduation or changing schools.
- 12 New students have joined our fellowship.
- 9 students attended leadership development events such as Next/Exploration/Worship Training.
- Covenant Church Partnerships have been developed with 11 churches.
- Relationships have been built with an additional 16 churches.
- Over the last year we have visited and led over 35 church worship opportunities.
- Our conference youth overnight had nearly 70 people in attendance and we added an additional youth overnight with the Grand Traverse District youth over New Year’s Eve.

Board Development
This year our Ferris Wesley Foundation Board has made great strides. We have diversified the board including many new members from covenant churches and the Big Rapid’s community. With the guidance of our board chairperson, Deb Johnson we continue to develop a fundraising plan while at the same time doing all we can to equip the ministry of the students. This requires a great deal of effort and intention, which our members are graciously willing to offer because they believe strongly that this ministry truly offers the best future for our denomination.

Why Campus Ministry at Ferris State?
Ferris continues to teach and train young adults for a strong future by placing emphasis on practical, more vocationally-focused programs. In the midst of this education Wesley House provides an opportunity to students to explore their spirituality, grounding them in their God-given identity. We engage students right where they are, often drawing them in by offering opportunities for them to serve others both locally and globally. College campuses are young adult mission fields right in our own communities. It is because Wesley House is located right next to the campus that students have such easy access to these opportunities. This ministry is crucial to the future of The United Methodist Church as these students become pastors and strong lay persons in our churches.

Devon Herrell, Director

WESLEY FELLOWSHIP AT GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY (GVSU)
The Wesley Fellowship at Grand Valley serves the students, faculty and staff of Grand Valley State University, primarily at its Allendale campus, from our home, the Wesley House. GVSU has been a quickly growing university with an increasingly diverse population, both in its student body and its employees. Our community grew to 35 regular participants in the fall semester as a result of dedicated efforts to meet new people and the decision to change the time, location and format of our weekly worship service.

Our Board of Trustees went through a roster change this past summer as we added four new persons and saw a few others step away. Notable among those who continue is Dr. Suzeanne Benet, our faculty advisor. A member at Grand Rapids Trinity United Methodist Church, Suzeanne has been our advisor for several years, but recently saw her work responsibilities change. She went from leading the marketing area of the GVSU School of Business to becoming the assistant vice president for academic affairs. We’ve been fortunate to have a board member with such good connections.

Our campus ministry was recognized in the Spring when our director, Greg Lawton, was named a “sustainability champion” by the Office of Sustainability Practices for his work with the students who run the agriculture project surrounding the Wesley House. We also made the campus news by hosting a 5k walk in October to raise funds for and awareness of the student food resource, Replenish.
In addition to serving as a resource for the student-run organic garden, the Wesley Fellowship offers weekly worship services on Wednesday nights, monthly service opportunities, a spiritual retreat, weekly study groups (led either by students or the director), a drop-in center for students called the Listening Post, and times to be a blessing to campus through simple acts of kindness. A Sunday fellowship meal returns in January 2017. Several recent graduates traveled to Africa University in Zimbabwe in May 2016 to learn the art and skill of mission leadership, and a current student is planning to go to Scotland to serve in the summer.

All of this is made possible through strong partnerships on and off campus. Georgetown UMC and Grand Rapids Trinity UMC were covenant partners with us in 2016 and will continue. A few more churches and ministries are considering this relationship with us in 2017. Coopersville UMC provides a unique connection by setting aside a portion of their communion elements for us to use on campus. They extend their table to include college students at GVSU. And we’ve had youth ministry events with Grand Rapids Faith UMC, Grand Rapids First UMC and East Lansing University UMC. A student highlight is Bailey Williams who serves as an intern at Georgetown UMC with their 56 Group and the Sunday School. Her witness has resulted in several new collaborations with the church.

We continue to seek improvement as leaders and several persons have attended fundraising workshops offered by the Johnson Center for Philanthropy at GVSU. The student leaders have gone through the Clifton Strengths Finder resource so that we can all be leading with our strengths and tackling our challenges together. It is our hope to fully live into our motto, “Be You. With Us,” and provide a physical and spiritual place on campus where all are welcome and invited to share their gifts.

Gregory W. Lawton, Director

WESLEY at WMU (Wesley Foundation of Kalamazoo)

Wesley Campus Ministry serving Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo Valley Community College and Kalamazoo College has had an exciting year working toward our goals of developing leaders, striving for a culture of serving in mission, doing justice, being connectional, and making disciples.

Wesley of Kalamazoo serves 144 students, 20% United Methodist and the remaining coming from a wide variety of denominations, non-religious and nominally religious backgrounds. We have been working on diversifying the student population so that our ministry represents the student population and includes 1% Native American, 20% Black, 3% Hispanic, and 76 White. The diversification has been an intentional effort to partner with other student organizations and to collaborate with an anti-racism non-profit in Kalamazoo. The ministry also includes several university staff persons: a retired professor, a tenured professor, and a university staff person.

Developing Leaders: Wesley leaders receive a three year cycle of leadership training that includes family systems theory, Lencioni’s “Five Dysfunctions of a Team,” and “Building a Gifts Based Church.” Student leaders are also trained in how to build a ministry team and lead the team effectively. In 2016-17 Student leaders participated in several trainings including “What’s Your Why?” a 2.5 day anti-racism analysis and a trans-ally workshop. As Director, I have received training as a VCI facilitator and coach and work with smaller churches in the Kalamazoo District.

Mission: During the 2016-17 academic year, Wesley served a variety of area social service agencies through a weekend Urban Plunge and week-long Staycation opportunity. A spring break team served in Atlanta and a second team participated in a social justice trip visiting sites of oppression and training in anti-racism. Wesley of Kalamazoo has an ongoing relationship with the Kalamazoo Freestore, serving weekly and also served monthly at Kalamazoo First UMC’s Sunday night meal for those experiencing food scarcity. A group of students served at Cass Social Services and learned about the tiny house movement in Detroit. Service and reflection is a big part of our ministry!

Justice: We have been excited to create a new program, Muffins for Advocacy, in which students can participate in weekly advocacy through calling or writing representatives and share in fellowship with coffee and muffins. During the year students have advocated for the sanctity of all human life that include programs providing health care and a county wide I.D. project.

System of Connection: Wesley has covenant partnerships with seventeen churches in which we are in relationship through our prayers, presence, gifts service and witness. Churches provide weekly meals, financial support, serve on the Wesley Board of Directors, and pray for the ministry. Wesley provides support for one time or ongoing ministry events, pulpit supply, leadership in teaching classes, and prays weekly for the covenant partners. Striving to be connected on campus we partner with several campus offices and student organizations. These partnerships and collaborations broaden our reach on campus and resulted in Wesley receiving the Ally-Organization award in 2016.
Discipleship: Three weekly worship services average 38, 20, and 35. We also reach campus through weekly small groups that meet a variety of needs. Wesley is in its fifth year of the Wesley Intentional Living Center in which students live in a covenantal relationship through prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

We look forward to another great year of growing leaders, doing mission, working for justice, building connections, and growing leaders!

Lisa Batten, Director and Campus Pastor

WESLEY at MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY (MSU)
Wesley Campus Ministries and Michigan State University strives to be a Christian Community of young adults that loves without exception, serves without judgment and rejoices without restraint.

By the numbers:
Your ministry at Michigan State University relates to 957 students who have subscribed to our weekly newsletter. This summer at MSU Academic Orientation over 200 incoming students indicated that they were interested in Wesley Campus Ministries at MSU. We have contacted all of these students and several have become part of our active members (students who come to at least two facets of our ministry each month). At the end of our Fall 2016 semester we had 67 active students. TGIT midweek worship attendance is 31 for Spring and Fall 2014. MSU Wesley served 8 students who lived in intentional residential Christian community in 2016. Twenty students have participated in Bible study and small groups. We 12 young adults participate in our fall retreat in combination with Motorcity Wesley at Lake Louise. Our spring break mission trip transformed the lives of 14 student missionaries as we learned and served in Alabama at Camp Sumatanga United Methodist Camp.

Highlights:
MSU Wesley Campus Ministry continues a tradition of peacemaking. This last spring we hosted Keep Making Peace featuring the topic, Lock Up, Locked In and Locked Out: Mass Incarceration. Last fall we collaborated with the Shalom Centre for Justice and Peace to celebrate International Day of Peace 2016 featuring two dialogues around Race and Policing.

One of our students Courtney March, who started a student Lion’s Chapter at MSU, attributes the success of that group to the leadership system that shaped her at Wesley. In fact, she used our leadership system as research subject for her management class final project.

The sale of the Wesley Building was finalized last spring and we have used the proceeds of the sale to establish an endowment for Wesley campus ministry at Michigan State University. The fund is currently at $300,000 and we hope to grow it to $500,000 over the next two years.

Pastor Chu has been serving as full time campus minister since January 2016. We intend to continue under this appointment structure as he helps us expand our ministries.

William W. Chu, Campus Minister
Andrew Dillon, Chair, Board of Directors

COMMITTEE ON HISPANIC / LATINO MINISTRIES
This year was all about coming together and working together. The West Michigan Conference Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries met jointly this year with the Detroit Conference Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries, working together as essentially one committee. We worked together on committee business, programs, and supporting the local churches. We also worked on advocacy for the Latino community.

As one committee, we started off by getting to know the members of each committee and learning about why they are passionate about Hispanic/Latino ministries. We also worked to answer the Design Team’s questions addressing the importance of the Conference Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries in the new Michigan Conference. We emphasized how the Conference Committee on Hispanic/Latino Ministries aligns with the mission of the new Michigan Conference. We stressed that we are called to help create Hispanic/Latino Christ-centered ministry and mission; Hispanic/Latino bold, effective leaders; and Hispanic/Latino vital congregations.

This year we provided several programs. We provided the Hispanic Youth Leadership Academy for the third year at Adrian College. There were 15 youth that participated this year. There was one youth that graduated from the academy this year, as he participated in the academy for all three years. At Annual
Conference we provided a workshop about developing Hispanic/Latino Ministries. During the workshops the steps for developing a Hispanic/Latino Ministry were led out. The three steps are developing relationships, developing leaders, and then developing the ministries. We also provided grants for local churches to host “Who is My Neighbor?” Spanish language classes. There were five churches that participated.

This year we supported the Hispanic/Latino ministries and churches. We provided grants to help with the Vacation Bible School and Las Posadas at La Nueva Esperanza United Methodist Church. One member of the committee got computers from Ames United Methodist Church Drive Ministry for La Nueva Esperanza United Methodist Church. We also provided a grant to support the ministries as St. Johns First United Methodist Church. We also provided grants for community support. We gave a grant to Justice for Our Neighbors-West Michigan, which provides free immigration legal services to people in the community. Another grant was given to the West Michigan Hispanic Center to host a Puerto Rican Celebration and to give awareness to the issues facing the community.

The committee also advocates for the Latino/Hispanic community and ministry. Two members of the committee attended the MARCHA (Methodist Associated to Represent the Cause of Hispanic Americans) meeting in Puerto Rico and discussed important issues in the church. The committee also created a statement after the elections in response to the discrimination that was happening against the Hispanic/Latino community in Michigan. The statement is: The Michigan Area Hispanic Latino Committee expresses great concern over the increasing levels of harassment, bullying, and prejudice that continue to occur toward Hispanic/Latinos and other ethnic groups since the presidential election. We are especially concerned for Hispanic/Latino and multi-ethnic/racial children who are the most vulnerable to bullying and harassment. We are asking The United Methodist Church in Michigan to set a priority for caring, advocating and providing a welcoming and safe place for these vulnerable brothers and sisters.

Sonya Luna, Michigan Area Director, Hispanic/Latino Ministries

LAKE LOUISE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY, CAMP and RETREAT CENTER

VISION
A sanctuary empowering personal growth, faith, and knowledge within community.

Mission
We offer an environment and provide leadership for opportunities promoting healthy relationships, personal wholeness and spiritual well-being.

Ministry
To nurture faith and equip Christian children, youth, families, adults and community leaders to live and work from a place of wholeness, and in so doing, they shall be bearers of promise and hope as they transform the world.

Core Values
❖ Sacred space and time ❖ Diversity and Inclusiveness ❖ Community and Hospitality ❖ Knowledge and Understanding ❖ Spiritual Growth and Renewal ❖ Our Heritage and our Future

Lake Louise came into being in 1934 through the generosity of the Horner family of Eaton Rapids as a gift “to all the Methodists of Michigan.” The Horners had acquired a large tract of cut-over timberland after the logging era of Michigan was over. As the Great Depression descended upon the country, the Horners approached their pastor, Rev. Stanley Niles, with the idea of giving 5,500 acres away. The idea of a church youth camp began to take shape. Through the action of a group of visionary people, the plan culminated in the creation of the Lake Louise Christian Community, encompassing a youth camp and creating cottage sites around the lake upon which clergy families could build a place of their own. The Lake Louise Christian Community would hold the land in trust for the two Michigan conferences. Christian camping began at Lake Louise in 1935 and has continued without interruption ever since. Approximately half of the original gift was sold to the State of Michigan in 1935 to provide for the development of the site. LLCC still holds title to 2,400 acres of the original gift. The land is managed under the Conservation Forestry Act and the Forest Legacy Conservation Easement, providing for the sustainable harvesting of timber and insuring the undeveloped character of the land and the lake.

Lake Louise is a cottager community of 126 families connected to a camp, retreat and conference ministry affiliated with both West Michigan and Detroit conferences of The United Methodist Church. Lake Louise is governed by a 15-member Board of Trustees, including four members appointed by
Detroit Annual Conference and four members appointed by the West Michigan Annual Conference. By Lake Louise bylaws, trustees generally serve three (3) three-year terms, for a total of nine (9) years.

Lake Louise’s summer camping ministries continued to make an impact on hundreds of youth, teens, adults and families each summer. In the summer of 2016, there were four high school camps, two family camps, a multiage Choir Camp (grades 4-12), three elementary camps and a middle school camp, in addition to a variety of volunteer groups, adult retreats, and mission work teams.

Lake Louise’s year-round retreat ministry continued to grow in 2016, serving pastors, lay people and youth from the Detroit and West Michigan conferences, regional Protestant and Catholic parishes and the local community. The Boyne Country Service Project provides mission and ministry opportunities in various projects around Charlevoix and Otsego counties. BCS is a week-long work mission experience for youth groups. Groups stay at Lake Louise and work each day with community service agencies around our area. We are currently accepting reservations for our 2017 Boyne Country Service schedule. If your youth group is looking for an exciting work mission project within Michigan, we invite your participation.

Lake Louise continues to pursue a scheduled program of facility improvements supported by major gifts from donors and volunteers from churches. We are indebted to work groups from Mason, Alden, and Holland First United Methodist churches. These groups gave countless hours and immeasurable skill to projects ranging from painting to helping construct 9 new summer cabins. These cabins form a new camping village with modern and self-contained facilities.

Lake Louise is proud of its heritage as a “gift given to all the Methodists of Michigan.” We remain an asset to churches, clergy, ministry professionals and community groups seeking a place of rest and renewal in a beautiful natural setting. We invite all members of the United Methodist conferences in Michigan to pay us a visit, to join us for a retreat, to send their children to our camps, and to volunteer as a counselor or work camp volunteer. We are glad to be partnering with you in this ministry.

Jim Willford, Executive Director

MICHIGAN AREA COMMUNICATIONS

The purpose of Communication Ministry is to witness to the world the ministry of the Michigan Area of The United Methodist Church and enhance the connection of our members through communication so that we might carry out the mission of making and empowering disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

2016 was the most intense year of communications for the Michigan Area, marked a new level of demand and four major events to cover. With increased need for communications and new challenges, the communications team considered this to be a banner year for reaching a growing number of United Methodists in Michigan. We also faced new challenges in Web and integrated data that has led to redirecting our efforts in 2017.

The Michigan Area Communications (MAC) team comprised of Director of Communications (DOC) Mark Doyal, Editor/Senior Content Manager Kay DeMoss, MIconnect Editor Valerie Mossman-Celestin, Social Media Intern Paul Reissmann and Administrative Assistant, Kristen Gillette. The entire team worked to balance time and commitments to communicate thousands of messages on a broad range of initiatives and news stories in 2016.

MAC continues to be guided quarterly by a communications task force established in 2014, comprised of the Assistant to the Bishop, Lay Leaders from both annual conferences, Conference Leadership Team Chairs and the Directors of Connectional Ministries. Daily feedback from readers is included and used to guide MAC.

HERE WERE SOME OF THE KEY ACTIVITIES OF 2016:

General Conference/Jurisdictional Conference/Annual Conference

The MAC managed 21 total days of live conference coverage in 2016, in addition to equipping these events with hundreds of pages of materials, power point presentations, photos, and videos. Daily News, a daily recap of each conference, was shared electronically to over 3000 people each day bringing a Michigan viewpoint to the global, regional and state-wide conferences.

For the first time, the Michigan team worked in cooperation with communicators from the North Central Jurisdiction to provide complete coverage of the NCJ and GC. This partnership allowed expanded social media, video, newsletters, and for the first time, live-streamed Periscope reports to flow every day.
In June 2016, the two annual conferences met for the first time to share a week of worship, fellowship, learning and mission work in a new venue, the Jack Breslin Student Events Center at Michigan State University. Mark Doyal served as the convener for this event, organizing the two program committees to work as one. The meeting was considered one of the highest rated annual conferences. More than 12 video presentations were shot and managed through communications.

**MIconnect**
Guided by award-winning Editor/Senior Content Developer Kay DeMoss, MIconnect, the weekly digest of United Methodist life in Michigan, subscribership remained steady in 2016. Each week more than to 9,000 people are reached with news, information, resources and inspiration. MIconnect continues to have an open rate of more than 60%, compared to an industry average of 40%. Additionally, the click through rate continues to beat the industry standard by more than two times. At the Annual United Methodist Association of Communicators Awards in Portland, OR, Kay DeMoss, shared two awards with Mark Doyal: 1st Place Digital Publications/Electronic Newsletter, MIconnect Weekly; and 2nd Place Print Publications/Newsletter, MIconnect Monthly Digest. “Prayer Transforms Plainwell,” a story written by DeMoss for Michiganumc.org, received a 2nd Place Donn Doten Award of Excellence/Feature Article.

**Social Media**
The Michigan Area social media effort continues to see significant growth. Facebook Pages include the Michigan Area, Detroit Annual Conference Mission & Ministry, Michigan Area Vital Church Initiative and Praying for Detroit. Reach increased 17% in 2016.

**Education**
Training is an area of growing development through MAC. In addition to providing marketing support to the various ministry training events throughout the year, MAC also led dozens of website training for local churches, monthly technology training for area administrative assistants, and small group training events for church leadership. Education is seen as an important growth area for the local church.

**Consulting**
Supporting the work of conference and district leadership and local churches, 2016 brought with it a high level of communication and crisis management, including an internationally covered incident with a presidential candidate visiting a Flint United Methodist Church. Consulting hours also included time on branding, marketing, communication strategy and public relations. This significant increase in consulting hours can be attributed to continuing differences of opinion within the church on polarizing. Consulting hours are expected to be steady again in 2017 with local churches going through the VCI process, utilizing communications consulting.

**MIUMC**
In January 2015, MAC began a three-year initiative to invest in a new data management/web system for the Michigan Area. In partnership with the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA), the new system has linked with Ezra, the data management of the denomination. Lanio, a Grand Rapids based innovation company, was retained to complete phase one of the plan to launch a major new website, migrate all integrated data into a new data management system and sync Michigan data with GCFA Ezra data.

In 2016, Rock RMS launched. Rock was intended to be the new integrated data system for the Michigan Area replacing Brick River. When concerns emerged that Lanio was not on a path to complete the project by 2016, a United Methodist consultant with expertise in data systems was retained to provide an outside evaluation. This expert determined that Lanio had been significantly lagging in their timeline, was understaffed and unable to complete the project as contracted. The retainer agreement with Lanio terminated in December 2016, and the consultant is being retained to help us select a new vendor.

**IT Support**
Following the ending of the Lanio contract, the DOC in collaboration with the Treasurer and head of Administrative Services for the Michigan Area, Bishop Bard, the Directors of Connectional Ministry and Clergy Assistant to the Bishop accessed our IT needs and some of the failures we have contended with over the past three years. The Michigan Area is the only conference in the NCJ without an IT support staff member. For example, Ohio West has as many as 5 IT staff. IT work has been spread over communications, administration and multiple third-party vendors. After careful assessment, it was decided that an IT staff member will be hired in 2017. This individual will work to secure reliable web, data and telephone service for the Michigan Area. The Treasurer/Administrative Services Director will provide supervision with oversight by the DOC.
KEY STORIES IN 2016:

Design Team
Communications helped facilitate the messaging of this team creating the new Michigan Conference by 2019. Through the website Design.MichiganUMC.org, MIconnect and a new newsletter MIdesign, reports on progress, sharing of relevant documents and an avenue to share feedback continues. Over the past 12 months, we have held two live webcasts of listening sessions and covered five others.

Leadership Changes
In 2016, Bishop Deborah Lieder Kiesey stepped down from leading the Michigan Area after four years. Bishop David Alan Bard of Minnesota was elected in July 2016 and took office in Michigan on September 1st. Additionally, Clergy Assistant to the Bishop Melanie Carey stepped down after five months in office. The bishop selected Rev. John Boley to replace her. There were also changes in district leadership with three new district superintendent appointments in 2016. All of these changes were covered in print, social media and on video.

Human Sexuality
Divisions over the subject of human sexuality and the church continued in protests throughout the year. Many of those stories were picked up by local, regional and national news agencies and United Methodist news organizations. The DOC worked with reporters to provide background and context for these events and connect media with representatives from both sides of the issues. The MAC team is committed to being a trusted source for news and information on these matters.

Flint Water Crisis
With an entire community, including 7 UMCs in the City of Flint, Communications worked to keep the story of contaminated water and the church response on the front page through 2016. Kay DeMoss produced numerous stories that were picked up by the national news services and reprinted. Communications produced two new videos to share this remarkable story.

OTHER
In January, DOC Mark Doyal was named United Methodist Communicator of the Year at the Annual Meeting of the United Methodist Association of Communicators in Portland Oregon. Calling him one who, “works tirelessly to tell the story,” UMAC Chair Arthur McClanahan said, “Our honoree is both a visionary and a responsive manager who helps people to appreciate the importance of communication ministry.” Doyal was asked to speak during two plenary sessions during General Conference Orientation on “Telling the GC Story,” And “On the Front Lines” covering difficult stories.

Mark Doyal, Director of Communications, Michigan Area

MICHIGAN AREA EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS / DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM

During 2016 Ps. Bob Miller DAC and I have continued to work on refining the Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response plan for presentation at the annual conference in 2017. The additional goal is to develop leadership and disaster response capability within both conferences in Michigan.

In the last quarter of 2015 Bob Freysinger completed his training to be a trainer of the Early Response Teams (ERT). We had 2 sessions, February 12-13 and April 29-30, training 12 and 14 people respectively. This is our current capacity of ERTs as all previous badges expired in 2014. We are also working to re-certify several people from Holt who took the course in 2014 but never received their badges.

UMCOR released the Connecting Neighbors Curriculum designed to help every church to become “Disaster Ready Congregations.” We are seeking people in every congregation who are able to inspire their congregation to become disaster ready. The 14mb curriculum is available in .pdf by contacting me.

August both Bob and I went to the NCJ UMVIM Jamboree in Hiram, Ohio, taking the leadership development sessions presented by Jason Frazer, NCJ Disaster Liaison.

On December 5, with Cathy Earl from UMCOR, Bob Miller and I presented the proposed Michigan Area Emergency Preparedness/Disaster Response Plan to the Cabinet. The purpose of the session was to share learnings that led to the charge to begin developing and enabling such capability for the new Michigan Area Conference.
Our focus:

- Develop readily actionable Michigan Conference structure and plan for emergency preparedness and disaster response
- Re-build Early Response Team (ERT) bench
- Build from recent experience with UMCOR and Michigan disasters
- Be response-ready by Spring 2017
- Provide orientation to UMCOR processes and offerings around preparing and responding to disasters
- Share progress to-date regarding new Michigan Conference EP&DR plan … obtain feedback and endorsement
- Get buy-in from the Cabinet to:
  - Continue filling EP/DR Committee positions
    - District level Disaster Response Coordinators (DRCs) → target 3/1/2017
  - Endorse identification of local church DRCs (will be ongoing)
- Continue deepening the ERT bench
  - Minimum of 4 certified Trainers
  - Train new and re-certify expired ERT badges
  - Obtain “hands-on” experience
- Populate web page & social media (Facebook)
- Incorporate supporting appendices/addendums to EP/DR Plan
- Complete identification of EP/DR Team members
- Conduct EP/DR Leadership Whole-Team Training mid-March 2017
  - Requires identification of District DRCs by District Superintendents.
- Roll-out UMCOR Connecting Neighbors preparedness training
  - Pursue Conference, District, Local Church opportunities
- Establish capability to provide adequate response by April 2017
- Complete identification of DDRCs for each District by March 1?
  - Ideally not a serving Pastor
  - Passionate, networking, motivated to connect with local churches and EMAs in the District
- Encourage Local Church engagement in preparedness & response
  - Identification of Local Church DRCs
  - ERT engagement
  - Learning opportunities, i.e., District Learning Days, Connecting Neighbors training

It was a long day but well worth the time and effort as we received complete support for this initiative. The work ahead of us is substantial. I recently decided to retire from my position as Facilities Manager at Cornerstone Church in May, having served for 4 years, so I can focus on this commitment.

Bob Miller and I are planning on being available for presentation as required at the Annual Conference in Traverse City.

Dan O’Malley WM Disaster Relief Coordinator

MICHIGAN AREA COMMITTEE ON THE EPISCOPACY

The Michigan Area Committee on the Episcopacy is comprised of members of the Detroit Conference and the West Michigan Conference. Our work in 2016 focused on planning farewells for Bishop Kiesey and welcomes for Bishop Bard.

The work of the committee is defined by the Book of Discipline. It meets four times a year and seeks to be a support group for Bishop Bard, much as a Staff Parish Relations Committee is for pastors in the local church. The committee seeks to share the joys and concerns of the Michigan Area. We are blessed by Bishop Bard’s spiritual leadership and for helping to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
We also are grateful for the leadership of Reverend John Boley in the role of Clergy Assistant to the Bishop and the support of Deana Nelson as Executive Administrative Assistant to the Bishop and Jennifer Weaver as Executive Administrative Assistant to the Clergy Assistant to the Bishop.

Jay Hook, Chair

MICHIGAN AREA HAITI TASK FORCE (MAHTF)

2017 marks the Bi-Centennial Year of Methodism in Haiti! By the time this report is published a number of Michigan clergy and laity will have traveled to Haiti to participate in celebration events that begin on Sunday, February 5. Michigan Area Bishop David Bard will be sending a video greeting from the Michigan Area and several members of MAHTF will also be present. In addition, an invitation has been extended to Bishop Gesner Paul of the Methodist Church of Haiti (EMH) to be present with us at the 2017 Annual Conference sessions of the Michigan Area. A Friday Focus Meal has been planned for the 12:00-2:00pm lunch break in Tower B Room for those interested in hearing about our mutual ministry with EMH in Haiti.

During 2016 the fourth and final sessions of the Haiti Local Preachers’ Academy were completed, fulfilling one of the Michigan Area’s significant commitments in our Covenant with the Methodist Church of Haiti. Over $100,000 from various sources has been invested in this effort to prepare and equip the more than 300 Local Preachers in Haiti who were able to participate. Final courses were held in November 2016, just weeks after Hurricane Matthew devastated much of southwest Haiti. Despite concerns about conditions on the ground, EMH leadership asked, and the teams agreed to go ahead as planned. Though numbers of Michigan Area clergy gave of their time and talents in 2015/2016 to prepare and teach the courses offered during each of the four sessions, we owe much gratitude to Karl and Carmen Ziegler for their passionate commitment to seeing this program through to completion. All of the classes offered over the course of the sessions were recorded in each location so that EMH leadership and Karl Ziegler might select and edit the best videos for future training of Local Preachers in Haiti. During the 200th Anniversary Celebration of Methodism in Haiti those Local Preachers who completed the work will be recognized. Praise God for the faithfulness of all those who gave, led, taught, and participated!

In the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, the MAHTF held an emergency conference call to begin efforts to coordinate a Michigan Area response with EMH, UMCOR, and others. Out of that first meeting a core team was brought together to connect weekly by conference call as further reports of damage emerged and the relief and response efforts moved forward. We are grateful to both AC CF&A’s for helping find funds so that we could make the commitment to support needed repairs to the Methodist Guest House in Jeremie. We prioritized that work knowing that future teams planning to travel to Haiti to help restore and rebuild churches, schools, and communities would need a safe place to stay. As Thanksgiving and Christmas approached, we were deeply appreciative of Bishop David Bard’s designation of the Bishop’s Advent Offering to go to the Hurricane Matthew response efforts of MAHTF. As those funds become available they are being used to match project funds for those teams traveling to rebuild and restore EMH facilities impacted by the Hurricane. Thank you to all those individuals and churches who gave in response to the cry for help from our sisters and brothers in Haiti. Please continue to pray for them, and in particular for those who lead and serve the people of Haiti called Methodist who seek daily to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

David F. Hills, Chair

MICHIGAN AREA INDIAN WORKERS’ CONFERENCE (IWC)

Michigan Indian Workers Conference Executive Committee (2016):
Chairperson: Fran Church-Pratt (Salem UMC)
Vice Chairperson: Judy Johnson (Greensky Hill UMC)
Secretary/Treasurer: Valerie Maidens (Northport UMC)
Grand Traverse District Superintendent: Anita Hahn
Detroit Conference: Jerry DeVine, Director of Connectional Ministries
West Michigan Conference: Benton Heisler, Director of Connectional Ministries

2016 Meeting Dates:
April 8-9 @ Salem Indian UMC
October 7-8 @ Greensky Hill Indian UMC
**IWC Church Delegates:**
Steven Antoine – Kewadin
Charlene John – Northport
Marion Jarman – Bradley
Judy Johnson – Greensky Hill
Fran Church Pratt – Salem

**Native American Church Pastors:**
Terry Wildman – Northport
Jonathan Mays – Greensky Hill
Todd Williamson – Bradley and Salem
Sandra VandenBrink – Kewadin

**Church Reports (2016):**

**Greensky Hill Indian UMC – Judy Johnson / Pastor Jonathan Mays.**
Worship services at 9 am and 5 pm each Sunday. Pastor Jonathan does morning service and evening services are shared by Jonathan Mays (1st Sunday), Sam McClellan (2nd Sunday), George Pamp (3rd Sunday), Lay Servant (4th Sunday) and Thomas John (5th Sunday). Bob Dominic continues to assist with pastoral care along with Pastor Jonathan. Sunday attendance average 30-40 for each service. Sunday School continues during the morning service. We are in need of a teacher for ages 5 to 12.

We’ve had a busy 2016. Activities included the Men’s Club Variety Show with over 120 people in attendance; and a Craft and Flea Market with good participation of vendors and customers. Sold raffle tickets for a dinner and movie package; pemmican and dried fruit baskets, Methodist emblem bolo ties and a lovely quill basket made by Yvonne Walker. We also made 10 beautiful hand drums for use in our church worship and other activities. We held our July Heritage Youth Camp with 22 children, ages 7-13, in attendance. We were also able to take 15 children, ages 5-8 and 13-15, to a gathering at Barnes Park for worship and hiking. Then made a trip to Mt Pleasant to visit the Soaring Eagle museum and waterpark. Financial assistance for these youth activities came from the Indian Workers Conference, Greensky Hill and private donations. Annual Fall Harvest Dinner (started in 1969; only missed 2 seasons) on September 24th this year. Served over 300 meals. Added a Game Night – ages 5-8 – average 20 participants. Women’s Drum Group remains very active. Annual Summer Camp Meeting – August 5-7.

We are in process of major church restoration. In 1964, State of Michigan named church a state historical site. Submitted a grant to the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians through Hayes Township, who will serve as the fiduciary on this restoration project, for 2% funding and $53,000 grant was received in February. Includes additional donations ($4400) received from a community foundation and national historical agency. Still need to raise another $25,000 to complete the restoration.

DNA has been taken from old trees in hope of growing the original trees. We had 21 baptisms; 33 new members and one marriage; and two funerals. Some of the baptisms were full immersion in Lake Charlevoix. We held a funeral service for long time community resident and church member Percy (Chief) Anderson who walked on June 21st.

**Kewadin Indian UMC – Steven Antoine / Pastor Sandy VandenBrink.**
Sunday worship service at 11 am. Average 15-20 faithful worshippers each Sunday. New outdoor sign has brought in some of the summer residents. Current membership at 47 members. There are 7 houses/Native families in The Grove and 22 (approximate) Native families in the community. Weddings and funerals bring the community out in large numbers. Easter Sunday (March 27th) and Mother’s Day (May 8th) were celebrated with dinners after worship service. Held funeral service for time community resident and church member Percy (Chief) Anderson who walked on June 21st.

Church dining hall used for AA meetings each week. Church and cemetery property maintained by church members. Exploring the possibility of historic designation for the church building and cemetery. Also looking into community outreach opportunities to include language and small group classes.

This past June, a group of 15 youths and 3 leaders from Chillicothe, IL, camped and provided 10 days of service to our church. They painted, re-roofed the tabernacle, erected signs, and other fix-it projects. In exchange, church membership provided them a cultural education and opportunities to learn about Native Americans in northern Michigan.

Casey Church was our guest speaker in June. Casey is a member of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi of Michigan and wife Lora, a member of the Navajo Nation. Casey and Lora formed and pastored a contextual ministry in Grand Rapids from 1996 to 2000 called All Tribes Gathering which was a ministry to
urban Native Americans. In July 2000, the Church family relocated to Albuquerque, NM, where they started a house church which became the Soaring Eagle Ministries, a ministry promoting awareness of the need for contextual ministries. Casey offers mentoring in contextual ministry as well as a quarterly contextual workshop and worship service in Albuquerque. Casey is now the Director of Wiconi International, Vancouver, WA, taking over after founder Richard Twiss walked on.

Projects: new sign in front of church and fellowship hall; building repairs to roof and dry wall in large fellowship hall; large fellowship hall plumbing problems need to be addressed; ceiling repairs in small fellowship hall to be done; roof on church building to be done.

Future Goals/Vision: Consider ways to engage families in worship and church activities; Lay Speaker/Lay Servant Training for KIM members; greater participation in district and conference events.

Monthly West Michigan Conference Ministry Shares and church expenses are paid to date.

**Northport Indian UMC – Charlene John / Pastor Terry Wildman.**

Weekly Sunday service at 11:00 am with pastor's coffee hour at 10:15 am. Average attendance 10-15. We now have the ability to project our songs on a screen. Mercy Health St Mary's campus (Grand Rapids), donated a refurbished laptop that we can use to make the song slides created with free downloaded-internet software. We purchased and installed an electronic screen. Thanks to Anita Hahn's district office, we have temporary use of a digital projector. Our worship songs and sermon texts are projected in large print on screen during our services. Everyone is enjoying the overhead projections and Pastor Terry loves being able to teach members new songs. It's a delight to have our young people help out with running the projector, as well. July 1st marks the one year anniversary with Terry Wildman as our pastor.

The upkeep of our property and buildings provide some the greatest challenges. Listing a few of these:

One of the ceiling fans burned out in the sanctuary, but with a donation from Sand Lake United Methodist Church, and the help of trustee Jack Squires and his son Sean, we replaced all three ceiling fans with new ones.

We have 10 trees on our campgrounds that died and need to be removed. Trustee Jack Squires, working with a local construction company, had 5 trees removed this past fall. The estimated cost was $2900. A $1450 donation was given by the mission team at Traverse City Central United Methodist Church. We held a yard and Indian taco sale on October 15th to help raise additional funds for the tree removal project.

Our church building was constructed in four different sections. The roof on some of those sections are in very bad shape. Although we may not need to have all replaced right away, we do need a few sections of the roof replaced soon.

Church member purchased and donated new commode and two faucets for the bathrooms. Trustee Jack Squires did the installations. Although we have the monies set aside to replace the kitchen sink and counter area, we are searching for a carpenter to build a new counter (with storage drawers) to fit the new sink. Hopefully it will be one who would donate his/her time or give a church discount for their carpentry work.

Easter Renewal March 10-13 with Rev. Casey Church. Easter Sunday worship included a meal and very well attended. The children were provided Easter candy bags and an Easter egg hunt.

Summer Camp/Revival Meeting (August 11-14): Our summer camp revival was a mixture of old and new. We had hymn sing time each evening led by Jack Squires. We had drum songs on a large pow-wow style drum and Terry and Darlene (RainSong) sang contemporary songs. Our guest speaker was Rita Bear Gray from Washington State. She is Canadian Cree and a wonderful speaker and storyteller. Many people came forward for prayer. Some were healed and some rededicated their lives to Jesus. We witnessed many tears of joy and great time of fellowship.

Spirit Journey Camp (August 15-19): Spirit Journey constructed an additional cabin, which now total 4 Spirit Journey cabins on our campgrounds. Spirit Journey youth camp was a great success with over 55 local youth. Many of our church members attended the Friday evening talent program. These children are very talented and full of humor and energy. It is obvious they are learning valuable life skills and spiritual lessons. Our church membership is very happy to provide the campgrounds and facilities for the youth camp. Our facilities are older and well used and doors and screens are in dire need of repair.

Peshawbetown Pow-wow (August 20-21): Most of our church members attended the event this year. Jack and Donna Squires sold crafts. Pastor Terry and Darlene danced during a couple of the inter-tribal songs. Pastor Terry has committed to wearing his regalia at next year’s event. The local pow-wow may provide a way to building relationship bridges between the church and local community. We are praying for wisdom. Pastor Terry has had some talks with some of the local men and planted seeds (ideas) for a
men's talking circle that would meet in one of the Tribal offices. There is interest but nothing has been scheduled. Prayers are desperately needed.

Sunday morning, October 2nd, we arrived to discover one of our oldest and largest trees had broken off at the trunk and just missed our dining hall by inches. Some local folks volunteered their time to cut and remove the dead tree. The wood was donated to community member in need of wood.

Fall Revival (November 10-12) with retired Pastor Thomas John as our guest speaker. Well attended and his message was inspiring. Fifteen Thanksgiving bags were given to those in need. Central United Methodist Church donated the food items. Church members filled the bags which were filled with items needed to prepare a Thanksgiving meal and a 12-14 lb. frozen turkey was added to each bag.

Sunday, December (18th) – Christmas Concert with Marty Miller. Well attended and served our Annual Christmas Dinner after the concert.

Pastor Terry set up our website: www.northportindianumc.org. Monthly West Michigan Conference Ministry Shares and church expenses are paid to date.

Bradley Indian UMC – Marion Jarman / Pastor Todd Williamson.
Sunday services are at 9:30. Todd Williamson has been serving as the Pastor (DSA) since January 1, 2016. Communion served first Sunday each month. Todd meets with other pastors in community at least one Monday each month. In 2016, Bradley four elders made their journey to be with our Lord. We have been mourning these losses as well as celebrating the life and example they were to us. Three young ones were baptized at Bradley this past year and Todd Williamson was baptized for a second time as well. The attendance on Sundays has remained pretty steady, and tithing is up. Todd plans to update the technology for Bradley and Salem; engage more with the youth through social media and bring the youth into the church; build a music ministry with Salem Singers. Casey Church was our guest speaker on Sunday, April 24th. Jak Camp Meeting held August 25-28. Recently both Bradley and Salem have been invited into discussions with the Gun Lake Tribe about long-term fiscal support for the churches being offered from the tribe. These discussions are going well and certainly will benefit our community. There are discussions about providing Sunday school learning opportunities at Bradley. Monthly West Michigan Conference Ministry Shares and church expenses are paid to date.

Salem Indian UMC – Fran Church-Pratt & Pastor Todd Williamson.
Sunday services are at 11:30. Again, Todd Williamson has been serving as pastor (DSA) since January 1, 2016. Attendance at Salem has remained about the same this year. We have had many health issues afflicting our congregation and we continue to pray for healing. We are excited to start up a Bible study very soon for Salem, which will be hosted by our Ad-board chair, Betty McBride. Salem, too, is in discussions with the Gun Lake Tribe regarding long-term fiscal support. Salem church has some facility concerns that need to be addressed and we are hopeful this funding opportunity may resolve some of these issues. It was recently announced that the Gun Lake Tribe will again donate all of the proceeds from its annual golf outing to Bradley and Salem. This amounted to around $11,000 each last summer. We are blessed to have this close relationship with the Gun Lake Tribe and we hope to do great work together for our community. Todd Williamson continues to develop his ministry and music skills. In 2017 he has committed to bringing the old Anishinabemowin hymns back to the churches. Casey Church has planned to hold a Native American Ministry workshop on February 11th (2017) at Hopkins United Methodist Church. There will be a $10 registration fee. Monthly West Michigan Conference Ministry Shares and church expenses are paid to date.

Native American Elders Program (Grand Rapids) – Pastor Sandra VandenBrink.
Meet every Tuesday and Thursday at Northlawn United Methodist Church. Share ministry with Michael Peters of 4 Fires Ministry. Average 40 participants each day. Nursing students from Calvin College and Grand Valley State University hold weekly clinics. Caseworker from DHS available once a week for resources. Regular visits by staff from Native American Community Service keeping elders informed of programs available to them. Transport elders who have transportation needs. Transport to other special events such as pow-wows and special services. Hold special celebrations for all holidays. Grandchildren are invited. Hold monthly bingo. Provide Feeding America Food truck during the months of June, July, August, and September. Conduct funerals and memorial services for members of the community (Pastor Sandy). Provide holiday gift baskets at Easter and Christmas. Receive clothing and food donations from area community. Continue to raise funds from the Native American tribes in Michigan. Sent out fundraising letter to every United Methodist Church in the West Michigan Conference (380 letters).

Fran Church-Pratt, IWC Chair / Valerie Maidens, IWC Secretary
2016 was a productive year for the Michigan Area Loan Funds in spite of pressures from the weak economy and few churches contemplating new buildings. New records were established in amounts invested and millions of dollars were loaned to churches. The Loan Fund operations continued steady and met the challenges of both investor and borrower relationships.

Dr. Wayne Barrettt, CFP®, serves as Resident Agent of the Fund. He serves as Chief Executive of the Fund and brings certification in financial planning and a Series 63 securities license from the State of Michigan. He directs the operations of the Fund from his Grand Rapids office.

Rev. Denny Buwalda serves as Loan Officer. Rev. Buwalda handles all loan inquiries as well as providing the linkage between the several parties involved in processing church loans.

Office operations are directed by Marian Coles from the Grand Rapids office. 2016 saw the retirement of our long-time staff accountant, Kay Yoder. Ms. Yoder served the Fund faithfully for 15 years and will be missed. Ann Buck, well-known to many from her years with the conference treasurer’s office, will assume Kay’s position full-time.

Our website, www.michiganarealoanfund.com, is being used by prospective investors and borrowers alike. You are invited to visit our site for updates on interest rates.

Investors were rewarded during 2016 with a rate of return that was attractive in comparison to many similar investment options. Investors earn 2.75% on their investment accounts. This fund offers investment opportunities for both congregations and individuals within the state of Michigan and a loan source for the 900 congregations of The United Methodist Church in Michigan. Mortgage loans are available with a variety of amortization schedules and a current rate of 4.74%. Promissory notes are also available for smaller funding needs at a rate of 5.24%.

The Fund is registered with the Securities Bureau of the State of Michigan and is managed by its Resident Agent. As of December 2016 the loan portfolio included 35 loans and mortgages with a total value of approximately $10,000,000. Investments burgeoned during 2016 and exceeded $14,000,000, highest level in the fund’s history.

A complete audit of the Fund is available upon request from the administrative office, PO Box 6247, Grand Rapids, MI 49516.

The future of the Fund looks strong in spite of weakened loan demand. The financial strength of the Fund should be secure as the net corpus of Fund assets continues to grow and allow the Fund to serve the needs of Michigan United Methodist congregations. The Board continues to look for ways to expand our fund base so we may be competitive in the broader loan market. Congregations as well as individual United Methodists are invited to invest in our Fund.

The Fund is grateful for the leadership of a fine volunteer Board of Trustees that guides the vision of our ministry.

Charles Veenstra, President
Wayne Barrett, Resident Agent

MICHIGAN AREA UNITED METHODIST CAMPING

“The mission of the Michigan Area United Methodist Camping Board of Directors is to extend, enhance and enable our congregations in the task of making disciples of Jesus Christ. Our focus is providing quality year-round programs with relevant camp and retreat facilities that offer and promote Christian faith for people of diverse backgrounds and ages.”

Celebration
We begin this report with a celebration of the 2,019 campers who attended summer church camp last summer and over 22,000 persons we served throughout the year. In addition, we granted 282 scholarships amounting to $36,375. “Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.” Thanks to the generosity of many, we were able to share the Gospel of Christ with those who would not have otherwise been able to attend camp.

We also ask you to join us in the celebration of the completion of a new dining hall addition at Wesley Woods Camp and a new climbing wall at Camp Kinawind.
We are thrilled to share that the Changing Lives campaign has received $254,577 in gifts, which will help us move forward in mission and ministry. Our words could never express the thanks we have for all who have given of their time and financial support of this campaign. YOU HAVE BEEN A BLESSING TO MANY!

History and Progress
Our respective annual conferences voted in 2015 to combine camp and retreat ministries into a separate, non-profit organization to create and implement a new camp and retreat ministry. Thus began a bold new mission to not just keep our camp and retreat ministry but to expand, empower and embolden a new camp and retreat ministry in partnership with United Methodist churches in making dynamic disciples of Jesus Christ throughout Michigan.

The process of melding together two camp ministries each with its own governance structures, policies, bookkeeping, and even different camper registrations systems has been a momentous challenge. The task of bonding nine camps into a unified non-profit entity is unique in United Methodist Camping. Substantial change has been required to accomplish this task, and change is hard.

Following annual conference sessions in 2015 we began the process of building a board of directors, discerning our mission, and developing a structure to accomplish our mission. Articles of incorporation, by-laws and legal documents were filed, and we were approved as a 501c non-profit under the name Michigan Area United Methodist Camping (MAUMC).

This past year has been filled with work building a strong financial footing upon which we can build a ministry that will enable us to nurture existing programs and create new opportunities for making disciples of Christ. A business administrator has been hired, and we have significantly improved our capacity to assess and control cash flow as well as make budget adjustments to bring balance to our fiscal condition. The board of directors has affirmed a two-year moratorium on the sale of any camp for the next two years, provided we are able to meet our financial responsibilities.

The board of directors has decided to establish “Campsite Friends,” volunteers who make themselves available to assist the campsite director with tasks related to marketing, programming, site maintenance, and developing supplemental funding for the camp.

Non-profit camps cannot support a fully funded budget on “user fees” alone. (User fees: income generated by the charges to campers and groups who utilize the campground.) In a fully funded budget “user fees” are expected to generate 70% to 80% of the annual income. The remaining 20-30% of income comes from additional or “supplemental funding.” The University of Indiana School of Philanthropy recognizes three sustainable types of “supplemental funding.”

- An Annual Fund
- Capital Campaigns
- Endowments

As annual conference budgets become increasingly constrained, it is vital to MAUMC and the annual conference that camping ministry develop “supplemental funding.”

![2015 Income Sources - 75% Conference Support, 25% User Fees](chart1)

![Future Income Sources - 75% Supplemental Income, 25% User Fees](chart2)
With this annual conference MAUMC is launching its annual fund entitled Camp Changes Lives. This will be an annual ongoing effort to provide "supplemental funding" through monetary gifts from individuals, churches and other entities inside and outside our churches.

This year we look forward to:

- Improvement in our marketing through an upgraded website and new printed and digital materials to better tell the life changing stories of our ministry. (If you have a story to share, please contact us at www.umcamping.org, we would love to hear from you.)
- Providing additional levels of support to our program leaders through training and networking.
- We will be identifying, prioritizing, and addressing the significant deferred maintenance that has accrued through years of inadequate income.
- Effectively partnering with local congregations in reaching more people with the "Good News" in a time of so much negativity.

These initiatives are contingent on our ability to generate "supplemental income" through the Camp Changes Lives Annual Fund.

**Staff Updates**

This year we celebrate the ministry of three valued campsite directors who have retired: Ken Brown (Wesley Woods Camp), Fred Elmore (Camp Kinawind) and Debra Steed (Lakeview Family Campground). They in no small way have changed the lives of countless guests and faithfully discharged their duties to make Disciples of Christ.

We are excited to welcome four new staff members, Eric Hoffman (Wesley Woods Site Director), Ryan Culby (Site Director for Lake Michigan Camp and Albright Camp), Sherry Stone (Summer Director at Camp Kinawind), and Tom McComb (Business Administrator for MAUMC).

The board of directors wishes to recognize the vital contributions of our site directors, Dan Stuglik (Crystal Springs), Sarah Ratz (Judson Collins), Ann Emerson (Lake Huron), Jon Lawrence (Myers Lake) and Pamela Stewart (Registrar and Administrative Assistant), who have endured with grace the challenges of change. The Board calls out with special appreciation the work of our Interim Executive Director, Reverend George Ayoub, who has worked tirelessly, patiently and most importantly faithfully with the Board of Directors to fulfill our mission, programmatic and fiduciary responsibilities to you, the members of our corporation.

**How You Can Help**

We need your help to:

1. Send campers and/or visit as a family.
2. Promote and participate in the Changing Lives Annual Fund.

Most importantly, we thank you, and we ask for your continued individual and corporate prayers for the ministry through this time of transition.

Paul Cogger, President
Michigan Area United Methodist Camping
Board of Directors

**MICHIGAN AREA UNITED METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

At the 2010 Annual Conference, the Historical Society made presentations to two churches that had reached 200 years – Detroit Central United Methodist Church and Dearborn:First United Methodist Church. That was the last time for several years that the Society contributed to the collective life of the Michigan Area.

In July of 2014 a North Central Jurisdiction Archives and History Convocation was held in Petoskey MI. I, Diana Miller, member of the General Commission on Archives and History, held a late evening meeting with most of the members of both Detroit and West Michigan Commissions on Archives and History. They were interested in reviving the Area Historical Society and agreed to have a joint meeting in November 2014 at the Area Ministry Center in Lansing to further discuss the process needed. And so the revival began.

The Area Historical Society has traditionally been a Board of Directors made up of members from both conferences, the chairs of the Commissions on Archives and History and the Archivists totally 12. Two clergy and two lay members were nominated by the Commissions and added to the Annual Conferences Nominating List to be part of the Historical Society number.
The Society had as their purpose the following:

“To compile, edit, publish, and distribute histories of Michigan United Methodism, its predecessor
denominations, and any other historical works that may later demand attention; to solicit, acquire, and
administer funds to accomplish such purposes and any other acts as may be deemed necessary to carry
out such purposes.”

Those who met in November 2014 decided they wanted to be more than just a publisher although they
had several successful books printed. I had been treasurer in 2010 and as such had kept the records
and reporting up to date so we were still an organization. So we moved ahead to discuss what we would
be. A by-laws committee was created and some officers were elected.

Meetings were held on April 23 and October 29 in 2015 and April 14, 2016. Bylaws were reviewed and
eventually passed. The original purpose was retained with the recent addition of “and promote, support,
and nurture the conference archives.” (Detroit Conference has a smaller Friends of the Archives that
supports the Adrian archives. They are joining the larger Historical Society.)

An additional paragraph was written to help us get closer to our goal of a society with members meeting
once or more a year for educational purposes:

“Other purposes may include organizing area-wide celebrations of historical events and convocations
which may involve participation beyond the board of directors; digitization and distribution of historical
materials; awarding certificates of recognition to local churches that are celebrating important milestones;
awarding distinguished service awards to individuals and groups within Michigan; recognizing and
promoting United Methodist historic sites in the state; helping conference, district, and local church
historians and archivists through workshops and information sharing; and such other activities as are
consistent with the by-laws of the Historical Society of The United Methodist Church.”

Also on April 14, both Commissions on Archives and History met to start discussions about becoming one
Commission soon.

On November 3, 2016 the Historical Society met again. This time officers were to be elected for the
quadrennium to go along with other area committees. There was a glitch due to wording in the bylaws
that had to be adjusted that postponed the vote to a vote by email.

As of January 1, 2017 amendments were voted on and the officers were elected.

The officers are Diana Spitnale Miller - President, Lois Omundsen - Vice President, Sharon Scott - Secretary,
and M. Kay Mowery - Treasurer.

A Historical Convocation is planned for Saturday, April 22, at Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant.
The speaker will be Dr. Chris Momany from Adrian College. A workshop will be held by the archivists –
Rebecca McNitt (Adrian College) and Justin Seidler (Albion College) on archiving records.

Recognition of churches by the years they have been in existence will happen again. Certificates will be
presented to those churches that are celebrating anniversaries beginning this year of 175 years and
higher. Then in following years we will recognize the anniversaries from 100 years and up in 25 year
increments – 100, 125, 150, 175, 200.

Persons from all over the area – historians of churches, those interested in history and preserving it,
clergy, lay – come and join the Society as other goals are worked on.

The Michigan Area United Methodist Church Historical Society is alive and well!

Diana Spitnale Miller, President

NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT TEAM

(a.k.a., NEW CHURCH ESTABLISHMENT AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE)

In 2016 the New Church Development teams (NCDT) in the West Michigan and Detroit conferences
began an intentional process to function as a Michigan Area team. Through prayer and discernment, the
NCDTs in both conferences crafted the following purpose statement:

The Michigan Area New Church Development Team is launched to create and multiply new faith
communities and disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world.

The NCDT collaborates with the Cabinet Representative, the Conference Director of New Church
Development, the Conference Staff, the Directors of Connectional Ministries, and both Conference
Leadership Teams to create new congregations; to promote, encourage and resource healthy congregations to multiply their impact. The goal of the NCDT is not only to create and nurture new faith communities that reflect the diverse ministry settings of the Michigan Area, but also to offer adequate training and support to sustain these ministries. By training church planters (and those ready to multiply to reach new people), the NCDT seeks to equip the Michigan Area to reach The United Methodist Church’s quadrennial goals of reaching one million new people by 2020.

In 2016, the NCDT offered leadership support and financial grants to establish the following new ethnic congregations: the Vietnamese United Methodist Fellowship of Detroit and Centro Familiar Cristiano United Methodist Church. We assisted two church adoptions: Bay City Grace adoption of the former Fremont Avenue United Methodist Church, and Sycamore Creek adoption of Potterville United Methodist Church. The NCDT also provided grants and coaching for several churches to launch multi-site campuses: Canton Friendship United Methodist Church: Shelby Township Campus, Birmingham First: Berkley Campus, and Marquette Hope: Connections Campus. The NCDT provided a number of smaller grants to assist churches in launching small-venue new faith communities, such as: The Connections Cooperative Parish launch of a worshipping community in the Dansville Community Center (the former Dansville United Methodist Church), Sycamore Creek launching “Church in a Pub” at Buddies Grill, and seed-money, training, support, and coaching for churches launching new worship services to meet new mission-fields.

In addition, the NCDT of both conferences sponsored the 2016 REACH Summit. Over 150 people attended the Reach Summit which offered multiple pathways to enhance clergy leadership, create new faith communities, small groups, and worship services. Reach Network Groups are what makes the Reach Summit unique. These Network Groups offer participants an intense year-long immersion in a specific pathway. Through the Reach Summit and Network Groups, we are equipping clergy and lay to create “new places for new faces.”

In 2017, the NCDT will offer grants to congregations launching new faith communities as well as begin offering micro grants to congregations who launch new small groups which reach out to new people and, while continuing to fund our existing new churches including: Redford/Aldersgate United Methodist Church Brightmoor Campus, DownRiver United Methodist Church, Bay City: Grace United Methodist Church, and the launch of a new church in Traverse City. The NCDT is committed to establishing new faith communities that reflect the diversity of the Michigan Area. The NCDT will continue to identify and train church planters and assist in establishing new churches, new faith communities, and new small groups.

Dirk Elliott, Director of New Church Development, Michigan Area
Matt Stoll, Interim West Michigan Conference Chair
Anthony R. Hood, Detroit Conference Chair

BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

Our Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) has been hard at work during the past year. In addition to caring for all of our usual responsibilities as defined in paragraph 635 of The Book of Discipline 2016, now we are also giving a great deal of attention to the formation of a new Michigan Area BOM in 2018. A task force with representation from both BOMs of the West Michigan Conference (WMC) and the Detroit Annual Conference (DAC) has been meeting monthly since July 2016 to oversee a smooth transition. Thank you to Dean Prentiss, Carolin Spragg, Barry Stearns, Annette Erbes, and our BOM Administrative Assistant Sus’ann Busley, for joining me on this task force and giving a significant amount of time to this process.

In October of 2016, four members of our WMC BOM, plus our administrative assistant, and nine members of the DAC BOM attended the BOM Quadrennial Training offered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry in Chicago. We sat together and shared the entire experience as one group. We enjoyed attending a variety of workshops and learning from other conferences, especially conferences which have gone through a merger process – such as the Great Plains Annual Conference.

We are beginning to align calendars, budgets, policies and procedures for our two boards, although this work will not be complete until 2018. During this period of transition, we are not filling vacancies on our boards – since we will need to downsize over the coming year to a board which is much smaller in size than the combined total of our two present boards. As we become smaller in number, I appreciate the willingness of our remaining BOM members to take on additional work, and further, I am grateful for those board members who have agreed to a brief extension of their terms during this in-between time.
It is our desire that the new BOM incorporate “best practices” learned from other annual conferences around the United Methodist connection. It is also our hope that this new BOM will function in a truly new way, rather than simply adopting existing practices from either the WMC or the DAC. This is challenging work. We have discovered there are many things that we currently do differently.

Yet, our boards have already begun sharing ideas, resources, and programs. For instance, in 2016 we began the process of offering an Area-wide Candidacy Summit twice each year for persons who are exploring ministry as a vocation and are ready to begin the candidacy process. This has been a joint project from day one and a wonderful example of how we can fulfill our responsibilities better by working in partnership. Special thanks to Scott Harmon (from the DAC) and Rob McPherson (from the WMC), as well as their dedicated teams, for getting this program launched.

Thirty-three people attended the first Candidacy Summit in August of 2016; thirteen are expected in January of 2017. These numbers are higher than we originally projected. We rejoice that so many persons are hearing God’s call and discerning carefully the direction of that call. Whether those who attend go on to serve as ordained deacons and elders or licensed local pastors, or they continue to serve faithfully as lay persons, we give thanks to God that so many individuals are eager to learn more about how their gifts can be put to use in serving Christ through the church. If a person from your local church expresses interest in attending one of these Candidacy Summits, please consider offering scholarship help to offset their expenses.

Another area of collaboration has been our Interview Weeks. It is the tradition of our WMC BOM to hold two Interview Weeks – one in November for full membership and one in March for provisional membership. The DAC BOM interviews all of their candidates (provisional and full members) during the same week in March. In the fall of 2016 and the spring of 2017 we started sharing our personnel – with DAC Board members crossing over to attend our WMC Interview Weeks, and vice versa. This has been tremendously valuable for building relationships and gaining a better understanding about how things are done by colleagues on the other side of the state. Thanks to Julie Greyerbiehl, registrar for full membership, and Kathy Kursch, registrar for provisional membership, for planning these Interview Weeks and organizing the large amount of materials submitted by our candidates.

The work of the board tends to be most visible through our recommendation of candidates for commissioning and ordination. This past year we affirmed nine new members in full connection and celebrated their ordination as elders. This was one of the largest ordination classes we have had in recent years. In addition, we received four provisional members (three elders and one deacon) who were commissioned.

Sharing a joint ordination service, with WMC and DAC candidates all on the stage together, was a definite highlight of our first area-wide annual conference which took place at Michigan State University last year. In 2017, we will be doing everything together at annual conference…clergy session, ordination, and our ministry celebration including the recognition of retirees. Being in a new space once again and having a new schedule with new names for certain events and new persons in some leadership roles, presents a certain amount of challenge for us. But we are preparing as best we can and looking forward to it! Annette Erbes is serving as our representative on the Annual Conference Program Committee and helping to coordinate all of the many, moving pieces. In planning for annual conference, as in all of our cross-conference endeavors, it is my pleasure to work closely with the DAC BOM chair, Laura Speiran.

One of the things we celebrated in 2016 was the assignment of Bishop David Bard to the Michigan Area. In addition to his warm, collegial spirit, Bishop Bard brings a wealth of experience from his many years of service on the Minnesota Board of Ordained Ministry. We are grateful that he has made time for conversations with us in his earliest months on the job and we look forward to our BOMs having a close working relationship with him in the years ahead.

In 2017, Bishop Bard has committed to organizing conversations across the Michigan Area about church unity and the inclusion of LGBT persons in the life of the church. Our BOM began this conversation with a special half-day meeting in September of 2016. We appreciate Jerry Toshalis serving as our facilitator to help us make sure the dialogue was holy and respectful.

With so much new on the horizon, it would be easy to overlook the many continuing responsibilities of our Board of Ordained Ministry. Yet, we are continuing faithfully with these ongoing tasks. One such matter which requires our attention is recruitment. If we are to have ministry candidates in the future, we must develop a “culture of call” throughout the entire conference, working with local churches, campus ministries, church camps, and other ministry settings which are all fertile fields for developing the pastors of tomorrow. During annual conference in June there will be some specific opportunities offered for persons who want to “Explore Calling”: a luncheon with members of the BOM; a table at the Mission Fair; and information which will be shared with all those who come forward when Bishop Bard extends a call during the ordination service. Mary Ivanov is the board member who oversees these recruitment efforts.
Our board provided scholarship assistance for fifteen college students to attend the “Imagine What’s NEXT” conference sponsored by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry in Atlanta, Georgia, in November of 2016. This conference was designed to encourage and support young leaders who dream of making a difference in the world. Moreover, participants were invited to consider a call to ordained ministry. Several of the attendees from Michigan have already begun candidacy or will begin soon.

It is important that we also have good communication with those students who are already in seminary. During the past year we have tried to do a better job of staying in touch with these persons. Thanks to Christina Wright for making contact with our seminarians and for keeping their information up-to-date for the Board. Teams of BOM members and cabinet members are making visits to some of our seminaries in order to form personal connections with students from Michigan and also to meet with students from other places who may be looking for a place to serve in the future.

In addition, we are sharing scholarship opportunities with our seminary students. Annually, we submit nominations for scholarships offered by the United Methodist Foundation of Michigan. Last year the UM Foundation awarded $50,000 in such scholarships to our WMC seminary students. We are grateful to the individuals and local churches who have provided these generous gifts and to the UM Foundation which has managed these funds so effectively over the years. Thanks, as well, to Greg Lawton for serving as the BOM coordinator for these scholarships.

Though the BOM is a credentialing body, we also have responsibility for nurturing and supporting clergy throughout their years of service in the church. During the provisional period, commissioned candidates meet in covenant groups with mentors assigned by the board. Further, BOM members visit these individuals in their particular ministry contexts. Thank you to Thom Davenport for stepping up to help our registrars by arranging all of the thirteen onsite visits needed for this year.

Our support committee, under the direction of Harris Hoekwater, offers continuing education grants, administers funds for counseling, and promotes opportunities for spiritual growth to assist our clergy at each stage of their journey. When changes in clergy status are requested, our Conference Relations Committee – chaired by Mark Erbes – acts on these requests. Such status changes might include: leave of absence, family leave, medical leave, transfer, retirement, honorable location or administrative location.

Those who are in ordained ministry share in a covenantal relationship. Persons with specific responsibilities for fostering and strengthening that covenant are: Dean Prentiss, chair of the Order of Elders; Greg Lawton, chair of the Order of Deacons; and Jeremy Wicks, chair of the John Wesley Association of Local Pastors and Associate Members. Each of these individuals serves on our board and together they facilitate shared ministry among all the clergy of our conference.

Other members of our BOM Executive Committee, in addition to those named above, include: Jodie Flessner, registrar for local pastors; Pat Brook, registrar for certification in specialized ministry; Carolin Spragg, secretary; Diane Gordon, treasurer; Laurie Dahlman, laity representative; and Bill Haggard, cabinet representative.

I cannot possibly express enough appreciation to our Administrative Assistant Sus’ann Busley, who handles so many responsibilities for our board in a seemingly effortless way. What a blessing to work alongside someone who is so capable and competent, as well as cheerful and caring in all that she does!

Finally, we want to thank all the congregations of the West Michigan Conference who sustain the ministries of our Board of Ordained Ministry by their faithful payment of Ministry Shares. Please pray for us as we continue our work with the clergy of the West Michigan Annual Conference.

Sherri Swanson, Chair

ORDER OF ELDERS
From October 4-6, 2016, members of the Board of Ordained Ministry of both the Detroit and West Michigan conferences travelled to Chicago to attend the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry Quadrennial Gathering. Mary McInnes and I, the new chairs of the Order of Elders for Detroit and West Michigan respectfully, were excited to learn what other conferences were doing. We came home from the Quadrennial Gathering inspired and energized, looking forward with great hope to the future of the Order of Elders in the new Michigan Conference.

The Order of Elders, like the Order of Deacons and the John Wesley Association, is a covenantal body. All ordained clergy become members of an order upon election to full membership and are to participate in the order. Our ordination as elders connects us. The calling of an elder is to word, sacrament, order, and service. The healthiest thing we can do is to support each other and grow together, strengthened by the bond of our covenant.
Mary and I met with Bishop Bard to work together on a common vision for the Order of Elders in the new Michigan Conference. We are thankful for Bishop Bard’s wisdom and leadership. As we begin a new conference, we believe it is important to build new relationships, to connect with one another in prayer, to pay attention to the needs of Elders, to further strengthen our connections with deacons and local pastors, and to provide meaningful space to grow. Our first step was a gathering of elders for a time with the bishop on May 8, 2017. We are looking forward to annual gatherings in different locations around the State of Michigan, to experience what our new conference has to offer. We encourage the participation of all elders, and welcome your hopes, dreams, and visions for the coming years.

Dean N. Prentiss, Chair

ORDER OF DEACONS
We have entered into a new covenant with our brother and sister deacons in the Detroit Conference, working together to become one order before the new conference begins. We celebrated this new connection in February, 2016 at St. Francis Retreat Center with an overnight retreat and then spending time with Bishop Kiesey and her cabinet. At annual conference, we had a meal together, supporting each other in our work, ministry and witness.

We continue to seek persons called to the ministries of word, service, justice and compassion as they discern their callings. It has been 20 years since the establishment of the Order of Deacons, but in many ways, we are just starting to claim our place in the panoply of leadership across the church. Through the ways we live out our passion and commitment, we hope to transform lives within and beyond the church.

Deacons offer their faithful service to the church in the name of Christ, who calls everyone to lives of justice and compassion.

Gregory W. Lawton, Chair

DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL – Durham, North Carolina – divinity.duke.edu/
In the academic year 2016–2017, we have been delighted to welcome our new dean of Duke Divinity School, Elaine A. Heath. Dean Heath also serves as professor of missional and pastoral theology, and her research interests focus on evangelism and spirituality, evangelism and gender, new monasticism, and emergence in church and theological education. Prior to coming to Duke, she was the McCreless Professor of Evangelism at Southern Methodist University’s Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, Texas. Dean Heath is the co-founder of the Missional Wisdom Foundation, which provides opportunities for clergy and laity to learn how to live in intentional, missional communities in diverse social contexts, and she is an ordained elder in The United Methodist Church. She has published books for scholars, churches, and lay people; her most recent book is God Unbound: Wisdom from Galatians for the Anxious Church (Upper Room). She is widely in demand as a speaker and teacher for Annual Conferences, retreats, and leadership training.

Since arriving at Duke in July, Dean Heath has begun work on a new strategic plan for the Divinity School. By the end of 2016, the initial listening and feedback phase had been completed and a task force convened to help guide the process of strategic goal-setting. With Dean Heath’s leadership, Duke Divinity School remains mindful of our mission to train, prepare, and form men and women committed to God and enthusiastic about ministry. We endeavor to prepare leaders for a changing church and world who will have the spiritual formation, theological foundation, and institutional flexibility to serve God in established churches, intentional communities, or missional organizations, as the Holy Spirit guides them.

This year we welcomed students from a range of backgrounds who are called to serve God and the church. In 2016, our total enrollment was 641 students: 418 are enrolled in the M.Div. degree program; 52 in the M.T.S.; 8 in the Th.M.; 45 in the Th.D.; 71 in the D.Min.; 16 in the M.A.C.P.; 23 in the M.A.C.S.; and 8 who are special students. Thirty-seven percent of our students are United Methodist, with an additional 4 percent from other Wesleyan traditions, and 48 percent of our M.Div. students are United Methodist. Eleven percent of all students are Baptist, 8 percent are Anglican or Episcopalian, 3 percent are Roman
Catholic, 11 percent are Presbyterian or Reformed, with the rest from 24 other denominations or nondenominational churches.

On April 9, the Divinity School hosted the first annual Hispanic Preaching Festival to celebrate and explore Hispanic homiletics. The event drew 54 participants from 14 different Hispanic congregations across the region. Attendees included pastors, laypeople, and students. The festival featured sermons from local pastors, including Alma Ruiz M.Div.’13 and associate pastor of Fiesta Cristiana, which is affiliated with Apex UMC in Apex, N.C., and Raúl Colón, pastor of Centro Cristiano de Vida in Wake Forest, North Carolina. The festival was part of the Hispanic-Latino/a Preaching Initiative, a Spanish-language program that provides opportunities for Hispanic and Latino/a (H/L) pastors to receive homiletical training in a peer group format. Each year, 10 applicants serving as pastors in the H/L community are chosen to participate as preaching fellows. The peer group begins with a retreat and then meets monthly for 15 months to engage with homiletical, theological, and exegetical resources led by the program coordinator and other invited teachers.

The Clergy Health Initiative published a new report that illuminates how the demographics of elders and local pastors actively serving United Methodist congregations in North Carolina are shifting. In an effort to better understand and describe the multiple demands and rewards of clergy life, the Duke Clergy Health Initiative has conducted a longitudinal survey of North Carolina’s United Methodist clergy every two years since 2008. For the report on appointments, the Clergy Health Initiative paired survey findings with publicly available data from the North Carolina and Western North Carolina conferences. The findings illuminate shifts in the demographics of elders and local pastors actively serving congregations.

Our initiatives, centers, and programs are a vital resource for us in connecting the work of Duke Divinity School with other disciplines and constituents. The Center for Reconciliation celebrated its tenth anniversary this year, continuing its work of fostering reconciliation through the Summer Institute, the CFR Justice Fellows, and the Great Lakes Initiative in East Africa. The Office of Black Church Studies, in partnership with the Duke Initiatives in Theology and the Arts, Duke Performances, Duke Dance, and the Duke Department of African and African-American Studies, presented a symposium on African-American Theology and the Arts, featuring the renowned dance company Ailey II. The Theology, Medicine, and Culture initiative hosted the event “Practice & Presence: Gathering for Christians in Healthcare,” for healthcare professionals who want to deepen or reimagine the relationship of faith in vocation in community with likeminded practitioners. Faith & Leadership, the online magazine published by LEADD, continues to reach over 300,000 readers and provide a resource for theological reflection and “traditioned innovation” for all in ministry. Their continued excellent work was recognized again this year with awards from the Associated Church Press “Best of the Christian Press” contest.

In partnership with the Western North Carolina and North Carolina Conferences, the Thriving Rural Communities initiative sponsored the 2016 Convocation on the Rural Church, “Apprenticeship with Jesus,” to discuss issues important for transforming rural churches and communities. The Divinity School held a two-day conference titled “Tamar’s Ashes: Pastoral Ministry Amidst Sexual Abuse and Domestic Violence” for the school’s students as part of the Mentoring for Ministry program. Duke Divinity School remains committed to supporting local churches and local pastors, particularly in under-resourced communities, and providing pastoral training for our students to allow them to minister to people and in places that are often marginalized or forgotten.

We are delighted to announce the hiring of a new assistant professor of homiletics, Jerusha Neal. She is currently serving as a missionary and lecturer in practical theology at the Davuilevu Theological College of the Methodist Church of Fiji and Rotuma in the South Pacific. Her particular interests are formational theological education, teaching preaching in cross-cultural settings, and affirming women in their pastoral call. A native of the U.S. Midwest, Neal has served as co-pastor of the Santee United Methodist Church in Santee, Calif., and been the director of Christian education at the First Presbyterian Church of Fullerton, California.

We remain deeply grateful for the relationships among the United Methodist Church, this Annual Conference, and Duke Divinity School. We look forward to working with you 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.

Elaine A. Heath, Dean
Supporting the Local Church in Addressing Economic Challenges and Engaging Young Adults

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary received two Lilly Endowment awards this fall. A $750,000 grant will support clergy education in theologically informed financial and business practices. We believe that strong leadership in the financial health of a congregation is critical to its vitality. The grant is part of Lilly Endowment’s National Initiative to Address Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leaders. To help clergy meet these economic challenges, Garrett-Evangelical has created a multi-dimensional program, “Leading Vibrant Congregations: A Collaboration of Faith and Finance.” To read more about the program, visit: [www.garrett.edu/FaithAndFinance](http://www.garrett.edu/FaithAndFinance).

The $1.5 million grant will assist congregations in launching or mentoring new ministries that will attract young adults – a population that congregations today are struggling to reach. The grant is part of Lilly Endowment’s newly announced Young Adult Initiative 2016. With this grant, Garrett-Evangelical becomes one of 12 innovation hubs around the country helping churches create informed and meaningful ministries for millennials. Read more about “Holy Yearnings, Holy Listening, Holy Partnerships: A Peer-to-Peer Young Adult Ministry Initiative” at [www.garrett.edu/YoungAdultInitiative](http://www.garrett.edu/YoungAdultInitiative).

Public Theology

This year, Garrett-Evangelical opened the Children’s Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom Schools® program in partnership with the Evanston community. The CDF Freedom School’s program is a six-week, high-quality, literacy-rich program free to underserved children proven to curb summer learning loss and help close achievement gaps. Last summer, we had thirty-five children in 4th, 5th, and 6th grade who participated. These scholars were from Evanston’s Fifth Ward, a ward of primarily black and brown people and the only ward in Evanston without its own elementary school. The program was a resounding success. Parents saw their children fall in love with reading and excited to go to the school each day. And, we were excited to learn in January, the Garrett-Evanston CDF Freedom Schools Program was approved for summer 2017.

We are driven to increase enrollment of Hispanic and Latina/o students. Dr. Débora Junker, Assistant Dean of Students and Director of the Hispanic Center, has revived the work of the Center including new volunteer activities and “lunch and learn” discussions. In 2016, the Center installed the Cátedra Paulo Freire, which promotes educational events, research activities, and the enrichment of dialogue among students, faculty, religious leaders, and community members. The Cátedra is a resource for Latino/a communities encouraging their engagement and interaction with the realities and contexts of the Latino/a population in the U.S., and at the same time enhances relationships with the Garrett-Evangelical community.

Connectional Lifelong Learning

At Garrett-Evangelical, we understand every person has a unique learning path. Education and training needs vary based on the journeys of the career and vocation in which you may find yourself. Considerations for physical location, ability to travel, learning preferences, time, and budget are important when undertaking learning, whether for degree purposes or for lifelong learning purposes. That’s why we designed “Connectional Learning” to meet you where you are and to connect you with the education you need when you need it.
Connectional Learning is our language for building an extended learning community that connects: personal learning interests with accessible non-degree educational resources; professional development needs for knowledge and skills with continuing education units; and diversity of learners to a variety of delivery formats (on and off-campus; online; hybrid). Check our Connectional Learning site often for the latest regional offerings, online courses, webinars, and faculty blogs: www.garrett.edu/ConnectionalLearning

Faculty Scholarship
In light of all that is happening in the world today and our commitment to put faith into action for the wellbeing of all persons and creation, we have redefined the focus, requirements, and targeted outcomes of our Master of Divinity degree. The new MDiv curriculum will begin fall 2017. The faculty has designed a number of new courses for this curriculum that prepare leaders for ministry in contemporary cultural and social realities, including attention to race, gender, class, and sexuality, as well as the personal and vocational development of the student.

We are also pleased to share the following faculty publications that may be of interest to you:

- **Nancy E. Bedford**, Georgia Harkness Professor of Applied Theology, *Galatians: A Theological Commentary on the Bible*
- **Wonhee Anne Joh**, Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, *Critical Theology against US Militarism in Asia*
- **James L. Papandrea**, Associate Professor of Church History, *Handed Down: The Catholic Faith of Early Christians; Seven Revolutions: How Christianity Changed the World and Can Change It Again; The Earliest Christologies: Five Images of Christ in Postapostolic Age*
- **Stephen G. Ray, Jr.**, Neal F. and Ila A. Fisher Professor of Systematic Theology, *Awake to the Moment: An Introduction to Theology*
- **Jack L. Seymour**, Professor Emeritus of Religious Education, *Teaching Biblical Faith*
- **Mark R. Teasdalen**, E. Stanley Jones Associate Professor of Evangelism, *Evangelism for Non-Evangelists*
- **Brent P. Waters**, Jerre and Mary Joy Stead Professor of Christian Social Ethics: *Just Capitalism; Christian Moral Theology in the Emerging Technoculture*

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

Lallene J. Rector, President

METHODOIST THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL IN OHIO – Delaware, Ohio – www.mtso.edu
Thank you for this opportunity to bring you an update from MTSO. Here are a few highlights from a busy year.

**Recognition as a “bright spot” in theological education**
Auburn Seminary recognized MTSO among a small number of seminaries in its September report, “Bright Spots in Theological Education: Hopeful Stories in a Time of Crisis and Change.” Auburn is a leadership development institute seeking to equip leaders of faith and moral courage to inspire positive change in the world. The report details the “leap of faith” that began with MTSO’s founding of Seminary Hill Farm and extends to an array of commitments to ecology and social justice.
Major Luce Foundation grant
The Henry Luce Foundation awarded MTSO a three-year, $425,000 grant in December to support the establishment of the Seminary Environmental Leadership Initiative. The grant is shared by MTSO, the Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development, and the Green Seminary Initiative, a project of Drew Theological School and GreenFaith. A growing number of seminary leaders recognize the moral imperative to play a role in the care of God’s creation, but they face significant challenges in addressing environmental issues on their own. The Seminary Environmental Leadership Initiative aims to establish best practices and offer resources for seminaries that wish to engage in environmental issues academically and institutionally.

Faculty appointments
MTSO welcomed two new faculty members in January. Elaine Nogueira-Godsey serves as assistant professor of theology, ecology and race. She comes to MTSO from the University of Johannesburg in South Africa, where she was a post-doctoral research fellow. Francesca Nuzzolese is associate professor of pastoral care and counseling. Most recently she was associate professor of pastoral care and spiritual formation at Palmer Theological Seminary and Eastern University in Philadelphia.

New course at National Underground Railroad Freedom Center
MTSO offered a special graduate course, “Race, Religion and Nation: From Black Power to Black Lives Matter,” at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in January. The class offered a historical exploration of the Black Lives Matter movement and its precursors, including Black Power activism, hip hop music and culture, and the presidency of Barack Obama. It was offered through MTSO’s cooperative relationship with the Freedom Center.

Danny Russell, Director of Communications

UNIVERSITY OF THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY – Dayton, Ohio – www.united.edu

Where Dreams Take Flight
United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, was founded in 1871 by Milton Wright, a bishop in The Church of the United Brethren in Christ and father of aviation pioneers Wilbur and Orville Wright. The Wright brothers had a passionate dream of developing the first successful “flying machine.” They experienced great difficulties, hardships and setbacks in achieving their dream. Through their determination and commitment, however, their dream eventually was fulfilled, and they were the first human beings to achieve sustained flight.

God often plants a vision or dream in someone’s heart to become a full-time servant of Jesus Christ. In St. Peter’s sermon on Pentecost, Peter quotes the prophet Joel who said, “God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams” (Acts 2:17). When God pours out the Spirit on someone and calls them into ministry, United seeks to partner with that person in helping them to grow spiritually and intellectually in achieving their God-given call and dream.

In the fall of 2016, 418 students enrolled at United to answer God’s call and vision for their lives.¹ Our prayer is that God will use United to prepare these students to become faithful, fruitful and effective pastors and church leaders who make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. According to a recent survey, 86% of our graduates are either currently serving in local congregations or are retired from serving in local congregations.² United alumni/ae are making an impact.

On January 1, 2017, United celebrated the beginning of a new partnership in ministry with Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO). United has become an extension site for the Course of Study School of Ohio located at MTSO, providing a convenient hybrid program for part-time pastors pursuing a local pastor’s license. Through United’s Course of Study, pastors experience a Friday-Saturday weekend on campus and finish coursework online over the weeks that follow. Courses are offered four times per year.
2017 WEST MICHIGAN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

If you feel God calling you to serve in any form of Christian ministry, we encourage you to go online to united.edu to discover the option that fits your ministry and calling. May God bless you as you respond to God’s dream for your life to serve in either the ordained, commissioned or lay ministry.

1 Fall 2016 headcount of masters’ and doctoral students enrolled in courses.
2 According to the 2014 United alumni/ae survey.

Kent Millard, President

BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS

Greetings! The Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits (CBOPHB) is organized under the authority of the Book of Discipline (2016 BOD ¶ 639) as the conference auxiliary to the General Board with the responsibility to provide for the pensioning of clergy, and other conference employees. The annual conference has also given authority to the CBOPHB to administer the conference health care plans.

We are pleased to report that the changes in the denominational Clergy Retirement Plan (CRSP) and the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) have been successfully adopted by the CBOPHB for implementation in 2017.

The following changes approved by the 2016 General conference and adopted by the Annual Conference effective 2017:

Changes in CPP Eligibility

✓ CPP participation requires that clergy compensation is at least 25% of the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC).
✓ West Michigan has elected to continue CPP coverage for Participants who go on Medical Leave or Sabbatical Leave the reason being these appointment status keep the clergy in Active status.
✓ Half-time clergy will not be eligible to participate in CPP. However, the Conference elected to secure coverage under the UMLife and Long Term Disability Plan.

Wespath (formerly known as the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits) has communicated directly to individual clergy concerned.

Changes to CRSP Defined Benefit (CRSP DB)

▪ Beginning January 1, 2014, the multiplier has been reduced to 1.00% from 1.25%. This change only applies to service on or after January 1, 2014. Benefits already earned are not affected.
▪ Surviving spouse benefit – Married and unmarried participants currently receive the same initial benefit amount (assuming all other factors are the same). Beginning January 1, 2014, the initial dollar amount of the benefit paid to a married participant will be reduced to offset the value of spousal benefits. This change only applies to service on or after January 1, 2014. Benefits already earned are not affected.
▪ Disabled adult child as secondary contingent annuitant – Beginning January 1, 2014, CRSP allows participants to designate a disabled adult child as a secondary contingent annuitant, so the disabled child can receive a reduced benefit after both the participant and spouse die. As with spousal coverage, the participant’s initial benefits will be reduced to pay for this extra benefit.

West Michigan CRSP and UMPIP Billing Procedures effective 2014

1. Half-time to Full-time Clergy appointment: The church will be billed the usual 12% for CRSP (9% for DB and 3% for DC). The 3% will be billed instead of the 2% on the assumption that our clergy will avail themselves of the maximum 1% matching by the church. In the unlikely event that a particular clergy does not qualify for the church’s matching contribution, the 1% or the amount paid by the church will be reimbursed to the church by the conference.

2. Less than Half-time appointment:
   a. Clergy with less than half-time appointment are not eligible to participate in CRSP, but their participation in the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) shall be encouraged and supported, by churches matching their personal savings in UMPIP up to 1% of the clergy’s plan compensation.
b. So that, clergy in this category can make personal savings in the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP), the local church should have a plan adoption agreement with the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB) directly, and the clergy must complete the UMPIP Participant Contributions Agreement form. Participant contributions will be billed to the church by GBOPHB, while the matching amount for clergy in less than half-time appointment will be billed to the conference by GBOPHB.

c. The conference will bill churches with less than half-time clergy appointment the amount of 1% of the clergy’s plan compensation. In the unlikely event that a particular clergy does not make any savings in UMPIP and fails to qualify for the church’s matching contribution, the amount paid by the church to the conference will be reimbursed to the church.

Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP)
The Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP) provides additional benefits for active and retired pastors in the form of group life and long-term disability insurance. When the clergy participant is not able to perform ministerial duties due to disabling medical reasons for at least six months, application for CPP benefits may be submitted for review by the Joint Committee on Medical Leave. CPP Benefits takes effect upon approval by the GBOPHB. The 2016 General Conference approved a number of changes that the conference will implement in 2017. (See above under the section titled Changes in CPP Eligibility.)

CPP Benefits

- Benefits are payable upon the death of an active or retired participant, his or her spouse or surviving spouse, and his or her children under the age of 19. Benefits also may be payable for a child over the age of 19 if the child was disabled prior to age 19, or if the child was receiving a surviving child educational benefit.
- Supplemental benefits for surviving spouses may be available upon the death of an active participant.
- Educational benefits for surviving children may be available upon the death of an active or retired participant.
- Comprehensive disability benefits include:
  - monthly benefit payments,
  - annual increases,
  - continued retirement contributions,
  - enhanced return to work program, and
  - assistance with application for Social Security disability benefits.
- The current CPP benefits summary is published annually and is available at the Conference Treasurer’s Office or on the conference web site.

Payments to Annuitants and Beneficiaries Report
There were 673 participants and dependents who received benefits and total payments to annuitants were $8,832,560 in 2016. A detailed report showing payments to individual beneficiaries is available upon request at the Conference Treasurer’s Office. These annuities consist of payments from MPP, Pre-82 or DBSM, CRSP and CPP Disability Benefits.

Ministers' Reserve Pension Fund (MRPF/Pre-82)
The MRPF was the Clergy Pension plan covering service years 1948 to 1981. The General Board of Pension reported that the Pre-82 Plan Valuation Final Results for 2016 issued in September 2015 showed our pre-82 Pension Fund is funded at 122%, therefore no contribution was required. The Pre-82 Plan account had a balance of $46,988,815 with a surplus of $8,420,816 based on the Past Service Rate of $741 and 85% surviving spouse benefit. For various reasons, it is possible that the funded status may be reduced and contributions required due to lower investment income than originally projected in this actuarial study. For example, actual participant demographics, investment returns, benefit rates, or other reasons may vary from assumptions.

HEALTH CARE PLANS

Health Care Funding
Our Health Care Reserve Fund at the end of 2016 was $18,184,399. (If needed a portion of this amount may be used to contribute to any unfunded liability in pension funds as the General Board will determine.) An actuarial study has been conducted by Watkins Ross, a certified actuary, every two years to take into account changes in the benefits coverage or plan design and increases in participants’ and churches’ contributions. This actuarial study is important to assure that the board is properly guided in its
commitment to provide a sustainable health care for our clergy and conference employees during their retirement years. The last actuarial report in June 2016 showed funding level at 66.2% with Unfunded Liability of $14,724,000 as of January 1, 2016.

Self-Funded Medical Benefits for Clergy on Active Status and Lay Conference Employees
The Active Health Care Plan provides medical, prescription drugs, dental and vision benefits for active pastors and their dependents, as well as eligible retirees and spouses under age 65. The premium for active clergy is shared by the pastor and the local church. In our effort to continue to provide a high level of benefits at a time when industry and other conferences are cutting back, the board secured concurrence of the annual conference to implement a Self-Funded Medical Plan for clergy and lay in active service who are under age 65 effective September 1, 2009. Benefits remained unchanged with the exception of medical coverage for auto related injuries in order to protect the plan from potentially excessive claims. Each participant is provided a copy of the Benefits Guide for this Plan. It is also posted on the conference web site and a printed copy is available from the Treasurer’s Office upon request.

The implementation of the Self-Funded Plan has mitigated the cost increases to the Plan. The Plan pays claims up to a certain limit (i.e., $100,000 for an individual) and beyond the limit, insurance is secured to protect the Plan from excessive risk; additionally, insurance beyond the aggregate claims limit is also secured. There have been opportunities to reduce cost in a Self-Funded Plan due to lower administrative costs and avoidance of profit upcharge.

However, it is the nature of a self-funded plan to be subject to the ebb and flow of claims. The essential thing is that reimbursement and allowance for loss or reserve are provided. Unfortunately, in 2016, the Plan ran into large amounts of claims, as you will see in the financial report below. (Please note that reimbursement from reinsurance has not been received and not accounted for in this report.)

Financial Operating Results of the Health Care Benefits Programs for the year ended December 31, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue:</th>
<th>12/31/2016</th>
<th>Retiree (Medicare)</th>
<th>Active (pre-Medicare)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Premiums collected</td>
<td>$4,993,321</td>
<td>$422,059</td>
<td>$4,571,262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipts from Redirected CRSP DB</td>
<td>1,283,033</td>
<td>1,283,033</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>53,320</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$6,329,674</td>
<td>$1,705,092</td>
<td>$4,624,582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit Claims</td>
<td>($5,083,266)</td>
<td>($5,083,266)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicare Supplemental Insurance</td>
<td>(1,097,095)</td>
<td>(1,097,095)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Insurance (Active Plan)</td>
<td>(220,116)</td>
<td>(220,116)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vision Insurance (Active Plan)</td>
<td>(30,181)</td>
<td>(30,181)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-funded Stop-loss insurance</td>
<td>(229,973)</td>
<td>(229,973)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Expenses</td>
<td>(313,184)</td>
<td>(100,717)</td>
<td>(212,467)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>($6,973,815)</td>
<td>($1,197,812)</td>
<td>($5,776,003)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase/(Decrease) in Assets</td>
<td>(644,141)</td>
<td>507,280</td>
<td>(1,151,421)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance, beginning of year</td>
<td>355,257</td>
<td>325,528</td>
<td>29,729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance, end of year</td>
<td>($288,884)</td>
<td>$832,808</td>
<td>($921,692)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Medtipster Drug Benefit Program
The Medtipster Drug Benefit Program provides free eligible generic drugs to participants. It was introduced to the Active Plan in 2011 and to Postretirement Health Care Plan in 2012. The Medtipster Drug Program has been very successful in helping our participants and the Plans have realized significant annual cost savings in prescription drug expenditures over the past years.

Postretirement Medical and Prescription Drug Benefits
Retired clergy and lay who are eligible under Medicare (age 65 and older) and those on Medicare qualified disability status are placed in the Retiree Plan. The Retiree Health Plan provides coverage for medical and prescription drugs. Medicare has primary coverage under Parts A and B (physician and hospitalization). Under our Retiree Plan supplemental coverage for Medicare Parts A, B and D
(prescription drugs) has been provided through the United American Insurance Company. However, starting January 1, 2017, the prescription drugs coverage will be provided through Express Scripts upon divestment of this line of business by United American Insurance Company.

Starting January 1, 2013, the following changes had taken effect. The 2013 modifications in the age and service requirements to the conference’s Post-retirement Medical and Prescription Drug Benefit programs are illustrated in the following table:

**HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM COST SHARING FOR RETIREMENT COVERAGE**

Eligibility: Age 60 with 25 years of service, age 62 with 20 years of service or age 63 with 15 years of service.

---

Consolidated Schedule of Post-retirement Premium/Funding Contribution Percentage Payment Levels for Retired Participants and their Eligible Dependents under the Early Retirement and Normal Retirement coverage Programs of the West Michigan Conference Of The United Methodist Church Effective January 1, 2013

**Participant’s Age Level at Retirement Date**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years of Credited Service at Retirement</th>
<th>Age 60 (Minimum 25 years)</th>
<th>Age 61 (Minimum 20 years)</th>
<th>Age 62 (Minimum 15 years)</th>
<th>Age 63 (Minimum 15 years)</th>
<th>Age 64 (Minimum 15 years)</th>
<th>Age 65 &amp; Over (Minimum 15 years)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Below 15 years</td>
<td>Not Eligible</td>
<td>Not Eligible</td>
<td>Not Eligible</td>
<td>Not Eligible</td>
<td>Not Eligible</td>
<td>Not Eligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 years</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 years</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 years</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 years</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 years</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 years</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 years</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 years</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 years</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 years</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 years</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 years</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 years</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 years</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 years</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 years</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 30 years</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Footnotes:**

1. Early Retirement Coverage is provided under the WMC Self-funded Medical and Prescription Drug Benefit Plan.
2. Normal Retirement Coverage is provided under the WMC Post-retirement Supplemental Medical Benefit Plan and/or the WMC Post-retirement Prescription Drug Benefit Plan.
- A maximum monthly premium support of $300.00 per month for each retired participant and/or eligible spouse (i.e. $3,600 per year) will be established to limit the funding payments by the churches and the conference to provide the post-retirement medical and prescription drug benefit coverage for both current and future retired participants and their covered spouses under the Normal Retirement Coverage (i.e. after age 65). This maximum annual support is effective January 1, 2013 and for future plan years.

- The premium funding payments by the churches and the conference for the Post-retirement Dental and Vision Care Benefit Programs will be eliminated for both current and future retired participants and their eligible dependents beginning in January 2013.

- For future retirements only, working spouses of retired participants under the conference’s post-retirement medical benefit plans (i.e. both the early and normal retirement coverage), who qualify for post-retirement medical and prescription drug benefit coverage through their employer, will not be eligible for the post-retirement medical and prescription drug coverage maintained by the conference. This exclusion provision for working spouses only applies to future retirements (i.e. early and normal retirements) effective after January 1, 2013; and,

- Certain benefit coverage provisions of the post-retirement medical and prescription drug benefit programs will be subject to revision as needed for future plan years.

**Medical Benevolence**

The board has established a medical benevolence fund to assist both active and retired health care participants who are in financial distress brought about by medical needs up to a maximum of $5,000 in a calendar year. Application form is available upon request from the conference treasurer’s office.

**Comprehensive Benefits Funding Plan**

A Comprehensive Funding Plan is a new requirement that describes how to pay for benefit obligations, including those obligations that are dependent on the conference continuing its current benefit programs. This plan balances benefit design with benefit funding – realistically aligning design expectations with funding patterns. As a result, the conference is better able to plan for the payment of all benefit obligations. After review and approval by the General Board of Pension and Health, the conference Funding Plan will be published in the conference journal, volume 2.

**Acknowledgement**

We gratefully acknowledge the leadership and dedication of the board members: David Dekker, Kevin Dick, Deborah Fennell, David Hills, Al Minert, Ken Norton, Jennifer Loding, Kelly Potes, Eric Simmons, Walter Urick and Vondie Woodbury. Representatives from the Cabinet and the General Board were Dwayne Bagley and Ross Lundstrum, respectively. We also recognize the support of the Conference Treasurer’s office staff, John Kosten, benefits coordinator, our consultants Michael Anthes and Ronald Stoll, and Professional Benefits Services (dba Varipro), our third-party administrator for the health care plans.

Finally, we acknowledge with deep appreciation the more than twenty years of service to the conference of Pros Tumonong as our Treasurer and Benefits Officer. Join us in wishing him and his wife Merrita God’s rich blessings as he retired on December 31, 2016. Also, join us in welcoming Rev. Don Emmert who will serve as Benefits Officer for both Detroit and West Michigan conferences.

As always, we appreciate our congregations who have been faithful in providing the benefits of their pastors and lay employees. For their generosity and for the opportunity to serve those who serve, we thank God.

Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits
Louis Grettenberger, Chair
Pros Tumonong, Treasurer and Benefits Officer (thru 12/31/16)

**CONFERENCE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

During 2016, the Conference Personnel Committee worked together with the Director of Connectional Ministries (DCM), Rev. Benton Heisler, the Detroit Conference CLT Personnel Committee, and the DCM of the Detroit Conference, Rev. Jerome Devine, to update and align conference personnel policies. To begin our work together the committees created a covenant to guide our work together. The committees have written a new policy for the new Michigan Conference and sent it to the conference chancellors for review and the Design Team for approval. In addition, the committee is developing a personnel transition plan to cover the policies necessary for staffing the new conference and caring for the current conference staff through this transition. A new employee handbook will also be developed by the committee.
Working assumptions have also been drafted and a tentative timeline for implementation. While we understand that this is a time of uncertainty and apprehension for the conference employees, we hope to minimize staff concerns. Among our goals is the intention to ensure the staffing of the new conference policies comply with best HR practices and applicable laws. We propose providing current employees with enough information that clarity and an understanding of the process are maximized and confusion and disruption are minimized. To date, as a committee, we have held one meeting with conference employees about the transition.

The Conference Personnel Committee and I want to thank our committed staff and committee for the work they do to support our conference vision, mission, ministry, and transition.

Ellen K. Zienert, Chair

PRISON MINISTRY AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CONCERNS

As a conference committee we represent local churches and serve as a resource for those engaged in or interested in becoming engaged in prison ministry, which we define as ministry to those on the way to being incarcerated, those who are incarcerated, those who have returned home from being incarcerated, and their families. We are prepared to share our knowledge and experience and to assist any local church interested in any kind of prison ministry.

This often means working with other prison ministries. In several counties, we have members who partner with Forgotten Man Ministries, which serves approximately 35 counties in Michigan. A successful effort this past year was collecting books for the Calvin Prison Initiative’s library in the Handlon Correctional Facility. Many boxes of books were collected and helped CPI to reach its goal of 4,000 books. Thank you to all who donated books in this effort.

The collection of books has gone beyond CPI. New Directions Ministry collects books on an ongoing basis for county jails and state prisons. Fifteen boxes of books were donated from one pastor’s library to New Directions at a moment when they had run out of books. So keep the books coming!

The families of the incarcerated suffer from the incarceration of their loved ones, especially the children. This committee supports Angel Tree, a program of Prison Fellowship which provides help for prisoners to give Christmas presents to their children, thereby helping them maintain a connection. Many of our churches across the state are Angel Tree churches. Our efforts from east to west, north to south across Michigan helped Angel Tree to be able to serve all the eligible children in Michigan this year.

One of our programs is Camp New Day, a one week camp for the children of incarcerated parents held at Camp Albright. We had 41 campers in 2016, 31 in the 9-14 age group and 10 in the 14-18 age group.

In 2016 we began work on creating a resource guide for all UM churches in the Michigan Area to be able to connect with all of the prison ministry resources in Michigan.

Victor D. Asbury, Jr., Chair

COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE

The work of the Commission on Religion and Race is to create a Church, which at all levels reflects the values and diversity of God. We hope to build the capacity of The United Methodist Church to become contextually relevant and reach more people, younger people and more diverse people as we make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We do this through work in three core areas.

Institutional Equity
We will critically examine expressions of ethnic, racial and cultural injustice in local and global contexts: setting goals for overcoming them, intentionally measuring progress, and resourcing culturally competent leaders to promote and sustain systemic equity.

Intercultural Competency
We will partner with leaders in the denomination to develop inter-culturally competent leaders who are engaged in ministry that promotes and honors intentional diversity and equity.

Vital Congregations
We will work with the churches in the conference to create churches which reflect the diversity of the community in which they are located. We hope that churches will initiate holy conversations about race, cultural diversity and systemic equity. We will share the results of these conversations in the hope that they will grow a movement that honors all of God’s creation.
The General Commission on Religion and Race has developed a series of videos to promote Vital Conversations on Race, Culture and Justice. Our West Michigan CORR has been promoting pilot programs to hold these discussions in local churches.

We would pray that local churches would seek us out for ideas on how to start these conversations.

Michael Johnson, Chair

TRUSTEES, WEST MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

The Board of Trustees of the West Michigan Conference is incorporated in the state of Michigan and is organized and functions under the mandate of the 2012 Book of Discipline, ¶2512.

We are pleased to report and celebrate with you a brief review of activities in 2016:

1. The Board of Trustees diligently cared for conference property and equipment with acquisition value of $6.8 million and $2.5 million net after depreciation. The board holds the deeds to all conference real property including all the five camp sites (Albright, Crystal Springs, Lakeview, Lake Michigan and Wesley Woods) that are operated by the Board of Christian Camping. Other conference real property directly managed by the board includes two parsonages (Grand Rapids and Traverse City), the Conference Center in Grand Rapids, and the bishop’s residence in DeWitt Township which is jointly owned with the Detroit Conference.

2. To assist churches that have closed and have been approved to sell their real property, the Board of Trustees designated a conference-wide realtor to service churches.

3. The board received title and has provided maintenance and insurance to the property of a number of closed churches (Example: Salem, Lansing: Christ, Lansing Korean on Jolly Road).

4. The board sold and liquidated the assets of Lansing Korean on Lake Lansing Road with net proceeds of $419,671.

5. The land contract on the former Plainfield UMC was consummated ahead of schedule and the property was transferred after full payment of $349,650.

6. The Board of Trustees assisted Tom Clement of the Bishop’s Residence Committee in making the home ready for Bishop David Bard. $10,000 were drawn from the area capital fund for this project which included repainting of some rooms and kitchen refurbishment.

7. During the ongoing transition to the new Michigan Conference, the board has been actively involved in the study and analysis related to the providing additional space for conference staff; developing policy regarding the use of proceeds from the sale of churches and the disposition of conference property, if any.

Acknowledgement

I take this opportunity to acknowledge with deep appreciation the service of current members who serve faithfully in carrying out the functions of the Board: David Bloss (vice president), Lyle Ball (secretary), Pros Tumonong (Treasurer), Michael Belt, David Apol, James LeBaron, Cliff Radtke, John Scott, Deborah Skinner, Carolin Spragg, Kennetha Bigham-Tsai (Cabinet representative), and Benton Heisler (Director of Connectional Ministries).

Finally, we acknowledge with deep appreciation Pros Tumonong who served for more than twenty years as Conference Treasurer and Director of Administrative Services. Please join us in wishing him and his wife, Merrita, God’s rich blessings upon his retirement on 12/31/16.

We also ask you to join us in welcoming David Dobbs who assumed the same position on January 1, 2017.

William Gehman, President
Pros Tumonong, Treasurer (thru 12/31/16)
UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION OF MICHIGAN

The United Methodist Foundation of Michigan is privileged to serve so many congregations and United Methodist organizations throughout the Michigan Area. The Foundation has continued to partner with an ever-growing number of churches. Together with these local churches, we seek to assist and to inspire congregations in fulfilling their ministry. The Foundation offers a variety of programs and services to help your church get the most from available financial resources. From professional, socially responsible fund management, to stewardship education, development of effective capital campaigns, planned giving seminars and more, we are experts with years of experience helping churches just like yours. In fact, the Foundation is the preferred provider of value-aligned investment and financial stewardship services to the vast majority of United Methodist congregations across Michigan. All our ministry with local churches, except investment service, is provided without charge.

We are one of approximately forty-three conference-related foundations. Together, we share a major focus on reducing clergy indebtedness and increasing pastors’ personal financial acumen. One of the means to achieving this later goal is partnering with like-minded organizations. We continue to seek partnerships which will make a major impact on the Church, its clergy and constituents. We partner with Wespath Benefits and Investments to provide grants to younger clergy attending revitup! for a Lifetime in Ministry. We also provide grants to pastors attending the Clergy Benefits Academy.

The Foundation has been a long-time provider of seminary scholarships. We are expanding these scholarship opportunities because of a partnership with Lilly Endowment, Inc., Wespath Benefits and Investments, and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church (GBHEM). The purpose of this new scholarship is to minimize the dependency of seminarians on student loans and to create greater personal financial literacy among the recipients.

Finally, we awarded the inaugural Wayne C. Barrett Steward Leader Awards to the following churches:

- Mendon United Methodist Church
- St. Paul United Methodist Church, Rochester
- Swartz Creek United Methodist Church
- Sycamore Creek United Methodist Church

We are making a difference! We are impacting local church leaders, congregations, pastors, lay persons, and those called to pastoral ministry. We, as the United Methodist Foundation of Michigan, are blessed to be in the nimble position of being able to partner with these and other ministries as together we seek to fulfill the mission of “making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

David S. Bell, President and Executive Director

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

WEST MICHIGAN CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
TREASURER’S REPORT
December 31, 2016

CONFERENCE PLEDGE TO MISSION 2016 $154,814.00

MISSION GIVING – 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pledge to Mission</td>
<td>$137,580.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Mission Recognition</td>
<td>6,565.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift to Mission</td>
<td>3,377.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift in Memory</td>
<td>5,526.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Thank Offering</td>
<td>11,738.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL MISSION GIVING</strong></td>
<td>$164,786.92</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

MISSION GIVING PLUS – 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Call to Prayer and Self-Denial</td>
<td>$5,409.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UMW Special Funds</td>
<td>3,891.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Missions – UMCH Operations</td>
<td>2,712.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UMCOR</td>
<td>4,655.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL MISSION GIVING PLUS</strong></td>
<td>$16,669.38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL 2016 REMITTANCE TO UNITED METHODIST WOMEN, INC. $181,456.30

ADDITIONAL AMOUNT COLLECTED FOR UMCH MAINTENANCE $46,765.32

ADMINISTRATIVE and MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT* $66,430.22

*Amount retained by Conference for Conference/District Expenses

Julia Paradine-Rice, UMW Treasurer